



# AT HOME in the County of Fresno

To support and continue the meaningful progress and extensive efforts the **County of Fresno** has already taken to help persons who are unhoused or are housing insecure, the County is pleased to support the CSAC's statewide approach to address homelessness.

Supporting this plan and its tenets will **supplement all of the current actions and plans of the County** to address homelessness by providing a structured framework for regional and statewide collective work in reducing the far-reaching effects of homelessness.

## A CCOUNTABILITY

### Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government

- **County of Fresno** and its cities have worked collaboratively to identify regional priorities in addressing homelessness.
  - Board adopted **2022 Homelessness Priorities**
  - Board supported **Multi-Agency Response to Community Homelessness (MARCH)**
- **County of Fresno** is the administrative agency over the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care and is made up of over a hundred different non-profit organizations and government agencies in the Fresno and Madera region with the sole purpose of providing a comprehensive, coordinated homeless housing and services delivery system.
- **County of Fresno** has dedicated millions of dollars in annual ongoing funding to maintain the **Multi-Agency Access Point Program** to assist with access/linkages to services (mental health, substance use, housing, social services, primary care, utilities, food, etc.).

## T RANSPARENCY

### Integrate and expand data to improve program effectiveness

- **County of Fresno** allocated \$5 million of ARPA money towards the development of an integrated data management system which will improve program effectiveness through various sectors and disciplines including supportive programs that address homelessness.
- Fresno Madera Continuum of Care, which is administered by the **County of Fresno**, enters extensive homelessness data into the HMIS which is a regional integrated data system.

## H OUSING

### Increase and maintain housing units across the spectrum

- **County of Fresno**, through its **Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program**, provides zero interest rate loans to low- and moderate-income owner-occupied households to make repairs to preserve existing housing stock.
- **County of Fresno**, through its **Homebuyer Assistance Program**, provides a deferred zero interest rate down-payment assistance loan to low- and moderate- income households to assist in purchasing a modestly-valued home.
- **County of Fresno**, through its **Affordable Housing Development Program**, provides loans to developers of affordable multi-family housing to acquire and rehabilitate or construct multi-family developments; assisted units must be rented to low-income households at affordable rates.
- **County of Fresno**, provides development loans to developers like Habitat for Humanity and Self-Help Enterprises to support the construction of affordable single-family homes for homeownership; beneficiaries must meet income limits and sales price must be under federally-determined limits.
- **County of Fresno**, through its **Department of Behavioral Health**, has built 302 (and growing) permanent supportive housing units, which provides housing with on site services.

## **O** UTREACH

### **Develop sustainable outreach systems and increase workforce to support these systems**

- **County of Fresno** has invested over a million dollars in ARPA money for contracted outreach teams to provide housing support services, client transportation services, clothing, food and hygiene services, education, health and mental health assessments, and linkage capabilities to enable this impacted population to live in their communities and avoid homelessness, hospitalization, and/or jail detention.
- **County of Fresno** also regularly participates in regional, state and nationwide best practices training on homelessness response including for first responding Sheriff deputies.
  - Training has included the following topics: homeless encampment response best practices, crisis intervention for first responders, mental health first aid, and de-escalation training.

## **M** ITIGATION

### **Strengthen safety net programs**

- **County of Fresno**, through its **Department of Behavioral Health**, has contracts with several agencies for programs and services that provide screening, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder.
  - These contracts are worth several millions of dollars and are made up of several funding sources to optimize access and availability of services.
- **County of Fresno**, through its **Department of Social Services**, has contracts with several agencies for homeless supportive services programs to ensure eligible individuals can be enrolled and receive the services they need in a timely manner.
  - These contracts are worth millions of dollars and consist of several funding sources in order to provide safety nets for the programs and ensure adequate funding.

## **E** CONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### **Create employment and education pathways, as well as supports for basic needs**

- **County of Fresno** has a long-standing and strong partnership with the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB).
  - A main point in the vision statement for FRWDB is to "assist our unemployed and underemployed residents to achieve a higher quality of life by accessing careers in growth industry sectors."
  - In the 2023 Biennial Modification to the Program Year 2021 – 2024 Local Plan, the FRWDB identifies the **County of Fresno** Department of Social Services as a key partner in addressing employment barriers and in the work necessary to help those who are unemployed find and retain employment that will lead to financial self-reliance.



**ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, HOUSING, OUTREACH,  
MITIGATION & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

**A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

***Fresno County Board of Supervisors***

***June 6, 2023***

Presented by: Graham Knaus, CEO

California State Association of Counties



# Homelessness

- No real system to define who does what
- No accountability linked to State/Local authority, responsibilities, flexibility, and resources
- CSAC survey, program inventory, principles and policy recommendations

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused,  
**the California State Association of Counties offers:**



**A**CCOUNTABILITY, **T**RANSparency, **H**OUSING, **O**UTREACH,  
**M**ITIGATION & **E**CONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

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# Accountability



Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government

- One countywide plan
  - Clear and measurable outcomes
  - Funded through one fiscal agent
  - Counties and cities have unique authority and are ultimately responsible to constituents

# Accountability



Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities
  - Cities – site and support shelters, site permanent supportive housing, and encampment clean-up in incorporated areas
  - Counties – site and support shelters, site permanent supportive housing, and encampment clean-up in unincorporated areas; HHS programs countywide
  - Cities/Counties – encampment outreach determined locally

# Accountability



Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government

- Ongoing funding
  - Allocated to entities commensurate with responsibilities identified in countywide plan
  - Maximize local flexibility
  - Performance-based funding for achieving success
  - Minimum county amount

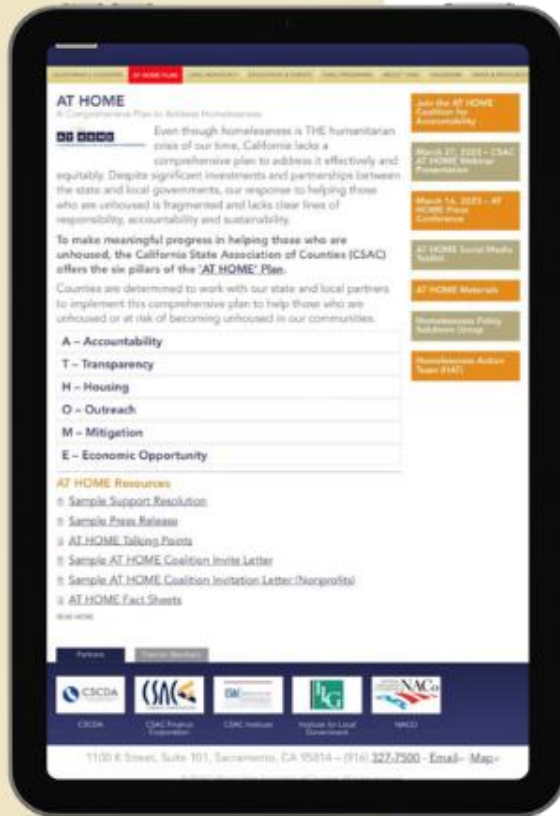
# AT HOME Coalition for Accountability



- The AT HOME Coalition for Accountability is urging the state to adopt the Accountability Pillar of CSAC's AT HOME Plan as quickly as possible.
- Scan the QR code to join the coalition



# Action Steps



- Work with Governor, Legislature, Federal partners, cities, and stakeholders
- Adopt language for Accountability pillar
- Build broad coalition
- Endorse AT HOME



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# Thank you! Questions?



Scan the QR code to access '**AT HOME**' resources, including sample resolution, fact sheets and a social media toolkit.



A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS