

E CONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



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

To address homelessness over the long-term, there must be a goal and focus on employment, self-sufficiency, and the ability to cover basic needs for formerly homeless individuals. Specialized education and career supports are needed for formerly homeless, including justice-involved individuals, veterans, and former foster youth, to help support economic stability and opportunity.

Counties need additional support to build these programs. These efforts should be in collaboration with the key entities that provide services to and employ individuals. Finally, programs must recognize the unique challenges individuals face and provide supports for their needs and help them maintain employment.

TO DEVELOP AND SCALE THESE PROGRAMS, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

- Require local workforce development/investment boards to update plans to address this population in coordination with counties and cities.
- Work with California Community Colleges to develop programs that support those who are currently or formerly unsheltered.
- Support accessible programs for formerly homeless justice-involved individuals to receive training and overcome employment barriers.
- Provide resources for supported education and employment model programs.
- Encourage investment in statewide peer support services and certification to employ individuals who are formerly homeless to assist in outreach, recovery, treatment, and case management.
- Support efforts that strive to create economic opportunities for all populations, including urban, suburban, rural, and disadvantaged communities.
- Continue and expand efforts to assist more qualifying aged, blind, and disabled persons obtain SSI/SSP benefits and expand subsidized housing placements for these populations.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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