AT HOME

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

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T RANSPARENCY

Integrate and expand data to improve program effectiveness

An accountable system to address homelessness requires transparency. Current data systems and data sharing are fragmented and do not support case management-type approaches for addressing homelessness. Improved data systems are important to improve effectiveness of countywide systems. Some counties have used temporary federal and state funds to support new data systems to better serve the unhoused population.

In addition, there is currently considerable inefficiency in delivering services to homeless individuals who are in and out of institutional settings. One new opportunity for improvement is the Data Exchange Framework (DxF) under the California Health and Human Service Agency, which requires certain health care entities, and encourages county health, public health, and social services, to participate in better data sharing across health and human services to serve the needs of the whole person.

Without meaningful data systems it will be challenging for the state and local governments to demonstrate transparency about progress and improve outcomes, especially given the myriad of entities that support local efforts to reduce homelessness.

TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE RECOMMENDED:

- Provide funding and technical assistance to support more robust data systems with case management and secure data sharing capabilities, including the infrastructure needed to integrate to the DxF.

- Standardize data collection and planning around institutional discharge.

- Pursue enhancements to existing health, social services, and state and local criminal justice data systems to provide more robust data on the immediate and long-term housing needs of individuals.

- Increase the number of users with Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) access in each local jurisdiction and support expanded users county-wide that can input into local Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).

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