
HOUSING FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA SUMMARY

Background

Assembly Bill (AB) 74, approved on October 14, 2017, requires the **Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)** to establish the Housing for a Healthy California (HCC) Program on or before January 1, 2019. Funding for the program is made available through Senate Bill (SB) 850.

Purpose

The HCC Program is intended to address the high costs incurred by health systems for homeless persons while living on the streets.

Target Population

This program is intended to promote housing for persons who meet all of the following requirements:

- Is chronically homeless or is homeless and a high-cost health user upon initial eligibility;
- Is a Medi-Cal beneficiary;
- Is eligible for Supplemental Security Income;
- Is eligible to receive services under a program providing services promoting housing stability, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Whole Person Care pilot program;
 - Health Home Program; or
 - A locally controlled services program funding or providing services in supportive housing.
- Is likely to improve his or her health conditions with supportive housing.

Eligible Applicants

Counties are the eligible applicants for these funds.

Funds Available

According to SB 850, 50% of the funds collected from SB 2 (on and after January 1, 2018 and before December 30, 2018), must be spent on the HCC Program. The first year breakdown of funds includes \$57.5 million for the program.

Eligible Uses

Counties shall use grants awarded from the HCC Program for all of the following:

- Acquisition funding, new construction, or reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Project based operating assistance, which may include:
 - Long-term rental assistance for period of up to five years, subject to renewal grants.
 - A capitalized operating reserve for at least 15 years to pay for operating costs of an apartment or apartments receiving capital funding to provide supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness.
- A county's administrative costs, as determined by the department, of at least 5 percent of the total grant award.

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Requirements

- HCC Program funds must be used to implement a solution to homelessness for people living on the streets that ties rental subsidies to health care service funds.
- In order to be eligible, counties must:
 - Identify a source of funding for providing intensive services promoting housing stability. Funding for these services may include, but is not limited to:
 - County general funds;
 - Whole Person Care pilot programs;
 - The Health Home Program;
 - Other County controlled funding.
 - Agree to contribute funding for projects assisted through federal Housing Trust Fund grants. This assistance may include preferences of set-asides for federally funded, locally administered rental subsidies.
 - Designate a process for administering grant funds through agencies administering housing programs.
 - Agree to collect and report data to HCD as described in the “Reporting” section below.

Timeframes

Date	Action
December 2018	HCD expects to release program guidelines.
Spring 2019	HCD will release the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Reporting

- HCD shall work with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to match program participant data to Medi-Cal data to identify outcomes among participants.
- County shall at annual and midyear intervals report:
 - Data specified by HCD necessary to measure the costs and outcomes of the program;
 - Number of participants and the type of interventions offered;
 - Number of participants living in supportive housing or other permanent housing; and
 - To the extent feasible, data on the impact of the program of participants’ use of corrections systems and law enforcement resources.