

HOMEBASE SUMMARY OF LOCAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS: DISCHARGE AND TRANSITION PLANNING

HomeBase synthesized local needs and strategies articulated in local planning documents relevant to development of California's Ten-Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan. Local planning documents included in synthesis include 2005 or 2006 HUD Exhibit Ones, Ten Year Plans and State approved County MHSA Plans.

- No one should be discharged from programs, hospitals, prisons, or other systems to the streets
 - Every individual or family discharged from a public or private institution should have access to safe, accessible, affordable or supportive housing
 - Ensure that no youth become homeless when exiting state or local care, including the foster care system and institutional settings (treatment or corrections)
- Link community-based housing and services with state institutions, including hospitals, foster care and incarceration, so that people do not become homeless when discharged
 - Link prison services, medical and psychiatric discharge directly to community based housing and homeless services
- Develop at-risk of homelessness assessment tool for use by all state departments, agencies and their contractors (as appropriate)
 - Resource the system so that the assessments are done and linkages made to avoid homelessness
- Screen for homelessness/at-risk status during initial intakes into healthcare, criminal justice, and foster care
 - Initiate case management upon entry to avoid homelessness at exit
- Enhance discharge/transition planning efforts, to include residential stabilization programs to connect clients to permanent housing and services prior to discharge
 - Develop core outcome measures for pertinent state agencies/departments and their contractors, to include client post-placement permanent housing placement with and service linkages
- Require all mainstream health and human service agencies to incorporate the goal of preventing/ending homelessness in their agency level planning, policy and program development, and budgeting
 - Hold all departments accountable for their success in preventing and ending homelessness
- Work across agencies and departments to ensure that policies, programs and budgeting are consistent with ending homelessness, and that an inter-departmental perspective is provided to the Legislature on proposed changes
- Fund the housing, services, and treatment activity community agencies will need to provide housing, services and treatment to those exiting state institutions and systems of custodial care
- Promulgate institution specific operating procedures for transitioning people in custodial care to housing and community based services upon exit

- Define appropriate system-wide outcome measures for at-risk-of-homelessness clients leaving hospitals, mental health programs, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, the corrections system, and the foster care system
- Create eviction prevention and housing retention/transition linkages to landlord-tenant court
 - Fund holistic legal assistance with social service component to help resolve issues underlying threat of eviction
 - Divert unhoused people arrested for public inebriation and nuisance violations from criminal justice system; make these not chargeable offenses
 - Create diversion programs, using mental health courts and community courts so homeless people receive the help that they need, eliminating unnecessary criminal justice involvement
- Fund “Housing Support Centers” and housing retention activity
 - Expand financial assistance such as back rent, move-in costs, security deposits, utility payments