

State of California 2025-2029 Federal Consolidated Plan (Con Plan)

Spotlight on a Robust Community Engagement Effort

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The Approach

- ▶ Achieve geographic reach
- ▶ Pursue community representation
- ▶ Leverage existing data and efforts
- ▶ Intentionally seek out local voices
- ▶ Hear in depth narratives
- ▶ Build relationships



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Resources



- ▶ \$250,000 Contract with a consultant firm: Michael Baker, International
 - Provided Facilitator Training for our team
 - Provided interpreter
 - Compiled and analyzed collected community engagement data
 - Drafted Public Participation, Needs Assessment, Market Analysis
- ▶ Federal Reporting Staff and Division Staff
 - 4 staff members, including a graduate student intern, dedicated about 25-50% of hours from June - October
 - Occasional help from about 15 other staff members
 - Piggybacked on other engagement efforts (5 staff members who were available to facilitate)

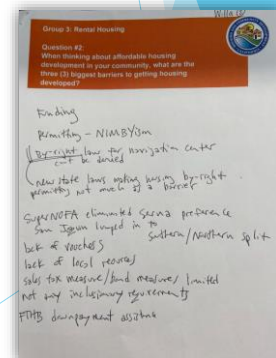
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Summary of Community Engagement Efforts

- ▶ Six in-person community engagement workshops (Arcata, Sacramento, Visalia, Niland)
- ▶ Four focus groups (Garberville, Eastern Sierras, Fresno, Visalia)
- ▶ Targeted engagement to Tribal Organizations, Continuums of Care, CDBG Grantees, Housing Developers
- ▶ Targeted Interviews with community leaders and small businesses
- ▶ Ongoing consultation with more than 35 partners including state agencies, non-profit housing developers, technical assistance providers and advocacy organizations)
- ▶ Public Survey (228 responses)
- ▶ Grantee Survey (172 responses)



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Achieve Geographic Reach

- ★ Public Workshops
- ★ Conference Presentations
- Focus Groups



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State-wide Efforts

- ▶ Grantee Surveys
- ▶ Public Survey – from 174 Zip Codes
- ▶ Continuum of Care Virtual Meeting
- ▶ CDBG Grantee Feedback Session
- ▶ Tribal Housing Funding Conference



The California Department of Housing and Community Development invites you to participate in the 2025-2029 Consolidated Planning for the State of California

What is a Consolidated Plan?

The State of California receives federal funds to invest in affordable housing, work to end homelessness, and meet infrastructure, economic development and social services needs in Tribal communities, cities, and counties. The Consolidated Plan is the roadmap that guides how these funds will be spent for the next five years.

Ways you can participate!

To hear from communities across California, HCD is conducting a survey. Please tell us about the housing and community challenges that impact you:

Online Survey

PUBLIC SURVEY:

If you are a member of the general public, take this survey!



GRANTEE SURVEY:

If you are a local govt, developer, nonprofit, city or county, or other entity who has or wishes to receive funding from HCD, take this survey!



Questions? Please contact:

ConsolidatedPlan@hcd.ca.gov

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Pursue Community Representation

- ▶ Workshops advertised in English and Spanish. Interpretation offered at all public-facing events.
- ▶ Small group facilitated sessions to make providing feedback less intimidating
- ▶ Pro-actively sought feedback from community residents in spaces where they felt comfortable.



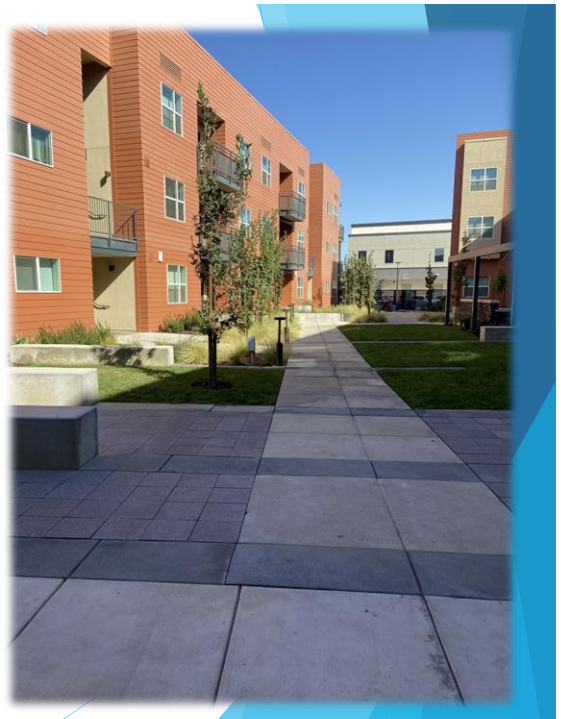
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Leverage Existing Data and Efforts

- ▶ Used information previously gathered at other events to inform priorities
- ▶ Went to meetings and conferences where folks were already gathered
- ▶ Coordinated with other staff to have multiple events in one. Attracted participation and teamed up on staffing efforts.



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Intentionally seek out unheard voices



¿En qué tipo de vivienda vive usted (o sus vecinos)?
¿Qué es lo más difícil para usted o sus vecinos a la hora de buscar vivienda? (ejemplos: costo, disponibilidad, calidad, seguridad)

What kind of housing do you (or your neighbors) live in?
What is the hardest thing for you or your neighbors when looking for housing? (examples: cost, availability, quality, safety)

Finalmente, en tus sueños más locos, ¿cómo sería tu comunidad? ¿Qué necesitan usted y sus vecinos para prosperar?

Finally – in your wildest dreams, what would your community look like? What do you and your neighbors need to thrive?

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Hear in-depth narratives



7. Do you have the basic infrastructure you need (safe water to drink, safe roads to drive on, safe places to walk and play, streetlights, safe childcare, etc.) What are the conditions of this infrastructure? What infrastructure is missing in your community?

Merced County – there are no street signs on her street, road is unpaved and there is no street lighting

Tooleville – they do not have clean drinking water, water is contaminated. County provides 6 gallons of drinking water/per home. They have to buy more out of their own pocket because 6 gallons is not enough for their family. They are served by water from two wells that are old and break often. Even though the water is contaminated, they still have to pay for it.

In Tooleville, residents wish there was a stop sign and lights in the area to get to Spruce Street is a two lane road with heavy industrial/farming traffic, fast driving very fast.



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Build relationships

- ▶ Leveraged the relationships we had out in the community to facilitate meaningful dialogue



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Needs Assessment - Examples of how we wove in the Community Engagement Data

- ▶ 27% of public survey respondents reported not feeling comfortable asking property managers to repair or replace items in poor condition, with 15% of respondents stating they had poor or very poor plumbing and bathroom fixtures.
- ▶ Feedback from engagement sessions was that many correctional facilities are located in rural areas. When inmates are released, they are at risk of entering homelessness in these areas where they have no familial or other public resources.
- ▶ Homelessness experts in rural areas said that women experience homelessness as a result of domestic violence because of lack of resources for mental health and to address domestic violence issues.
 - 43% of Consolidated Plan public survey respondents reported an increased need for domestic violence/abuse services
 - 16% cited a complete lack of available domestic violence/abuse services despite an existing community need.
 - 75 percent of current grantees reported a need for existing domestic violence/abuse services to be improved
 - Zero respondents said "we don't have this and we don't need this," regarding domestic violence/abuse services.

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Market Analysis - Examples of how we wove in the Community Engagement data

- ▶ Community members engaged indicate that income limitations, high housing prices, high cost-of-living, restrictions on housing program assistance, and an inability for applicants to meet housing program qualification requirements are significant barriers to affordable housing.
- ▶ Community partners interviewed for this plan noted that housing is easier to develop where land is less expensive and regulations are more permissive, but that these areas also have fewer economic opportunities. As a result, new housing is often distant from existing jobs and public transit networks. Inland, disadvantaged areas, that tend to see most of the new housing development, are home to populations that need more affordable housing, not the market-rate units which continue to pop up in their communities.
- ▶ Eighty-two percent of public survey respondents ranked affordable rental housing as extremely important to them and to their community
- ▶ 39 percent reported that no affordable housing is available to them or their family.
- ▶ Zero grantees surveyed believe that demand for affordable housing has decreased over the past 12 months.

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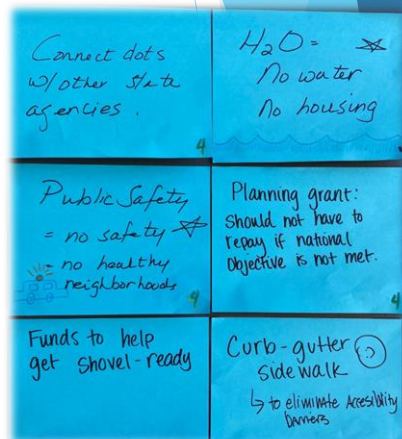
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Priorities Identified by Public Participation

Based on feedback from the public and community partners, Needs Assessment, and Market Analysis, the Con Plan identifies the following six priority needs:

1. Increase Supply and Preservation of Affordable Housing
2. Improve Access to Affordable Housing
3. Address the Homelessness Crisis
4. Invest in Community and Public Infrastructure and Facilities
5. Provide Community-Based Public Services
6. Increase Economic Development Opportunities



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Lessons Learned

- Start early to make enough time to synthesize and analyze the rich data received!
- Focus groups are a really valuable way to get community input
- Build on existing relationships and seek new ones
- Circle back with the folks who gave their time and input so they know their knowledge is valued



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Thank you!



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