California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Tomiquia Moss, CHHA Secretary, Co-Chair | Kim Johnson, CalHHS Secretary, Co-Chair

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California's interagency council on homelessness

A standing place for state agencies to solve problems together

Cal ICH convenes state leaders, turns evidence into policy and helps local partners prevent and end homelessness.

COUNCIL **Decisions across government**
Agency leaders and legislative appointees align priorities and advise state decision makers.

DEPARTMENT **Staff capacity between meetings**
Policy, research, data and local engagement turn Council direction into continuing work.

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How California's ICH evolved

2017 — **SB 1380 created the Council**

Original charge: oversee implementation of Housing First and reduce homelessness.

2021 — **AB 1220 renamed and restructured it**

The state expanded its emphasis on leadership and coordination across agencies.

2026 — **A new agency and standalone department**

California Homelessness and Housing Agency launched July 1. Cal ICH became a department under new Agency.

The structure evolved as the state's homelessness work grew more complex.

The statutory foundation

The law gives the Council a continuing role beyond convening.

POLICY — **State policies and guidance**

The Council was created to oversee implementation of state policies and guidance.

LEADERSHIP — **Cross agency recommendations**

The Council can recommend policies and procedures to the Governor and Legislature.

ALIGNMENT — **Funding and state action**

Members work to streamline funding and coordinate priorities across departments.

Core references: SB 1380 (2016), AB 1220 (2021), Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 8255–8257.

Governance: one Council, several forms of expertise

The Executive Council has 21 voting members.

2	**Agency secretary co chairs** California Homelessness and Housing Agency and California Health and Human Services Agency.
17	**State agency and department leaders** Programs spanning housing, health, human services, justice, emergency response and more.
2	**Legislative community appointees** Members appointed by the Senate and Assembly.

An Advisory Committee and a Lived Experience Advisory Board inform Council decisions and implementation.

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The work between Council meetings

DATA	**Homeless Data Integration System** Bring local homeless services data together for statewide analysis and program decisions.
POLICY	**Action Plan and guidance** Set shared goals, interpret policy and offer practical tools to state and local partners.
PARTNERS	**Local, Tribal and lived experience engagement** Use community expertise to shape priorities and share effective practice.
SUPPORT	**Research and technical assistance** Study gaps, communicate findings and help agencies and communities act on them.

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Where Cal ICH is now

A department in a new statewide housing and homelessness agency

PLAN	**Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness** The Council's shared direction for statewide work and collaboration.
SYSTEM	**Data and interagency coordination** HDIS, research and member agency partnerships help identify gaps and track progress.
FIELD	**Support for local and Tribal partners** Guidance, engagement and examples connect state policy with implementation.

California's continuing challenge: connecting authority, funding and outcomes across many systems.

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What other states can take from California's experience

1	**Give the council a clear legal purpose** A mandate helps coordination survive staff and administration changes.
2	**Pair executive leadership with dedicated staff** Agency principals set direction. Staff sustain analysis, follow through and local relationships.
3	**Build data and lived experience into the design** Evidence identifies system gaps. People with lived experience test whether solutions work.
4	**Define who can act on recommendations** Name the connection between council decisions, department work and each member agency's authority.

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