



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Child Welfare Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS)

Priority Access (PASS) Action Plans

Presented to the California Child Welfare Council
September 10, 2014

The Need for Priority Access

The Current Situation:

The child welfare system removes children because their parents cannot provide a safe, stable home. Often the parents are experiencing mental health or substance use issues, unemployment and economic hardship, domestic violence, and perhaps a host of other fundamental problems. To reunify with their children, these parents must address all of these issues within a short time frame (usually 12 months).

Most find themselves navigating multiple systems to get the services they need – social services, housing, employment, etc. To succeed they must establish eligibility, access services, complete programs successfully, find adequate housing for their family, get a job that pays for housing and child-related costs, and so forth. It is daunting.

If they fail, their children become wards of the state and too often grow up in a series of foster or group homes. The cost to the state can be astronomical, and outcomes for these children are typically not what they or society want to live with.

The state has a moral obligation and fiscal incentive to see these parents succeed in reunification.

The Vision

The PASS Project is working to create a future in which:

State and local government, services providers, and others throughout multiple systems work together to streamline access to services for parents in reunification.

Each of the systems recognizes that these families constitute some of their more difficult cases – they come in with complex needs, and to succeed must meet rigorous standards within a short time frame. Working together, they are providing the support net these families need.

As a result, parents in reunification are:

1. Readily identified as a special population within each system (social service, housing, employment, courts, corrections/probation).
2. Immediately fast-tracked through eligibility and into services.
3. Supported through case management to achieve success within the specified timeframe and become successful parents to their children.

The State of California has achieved the nation's highest reunification success rate and reduced costs dramatically not only in child welfare but across multiple systems.

Thousands of youth turn 18 each year and enter the world with the support of their family and a greatly increased change of succeeding as adults.

The PASS Approach

A two-tiered approach:

State leadership from multiple systems:

- **coordinating across systems**
- **addressing policy issues**
- **breaking down barriers**

Local leadership and service providers:

- **testing ideas**
- **implementing protocols for priority access**
- **improving data collection and information sharing**

The PASS Structure

PASS Leadership Team

**Behavioral
Health
Team**

**Housing
Team**

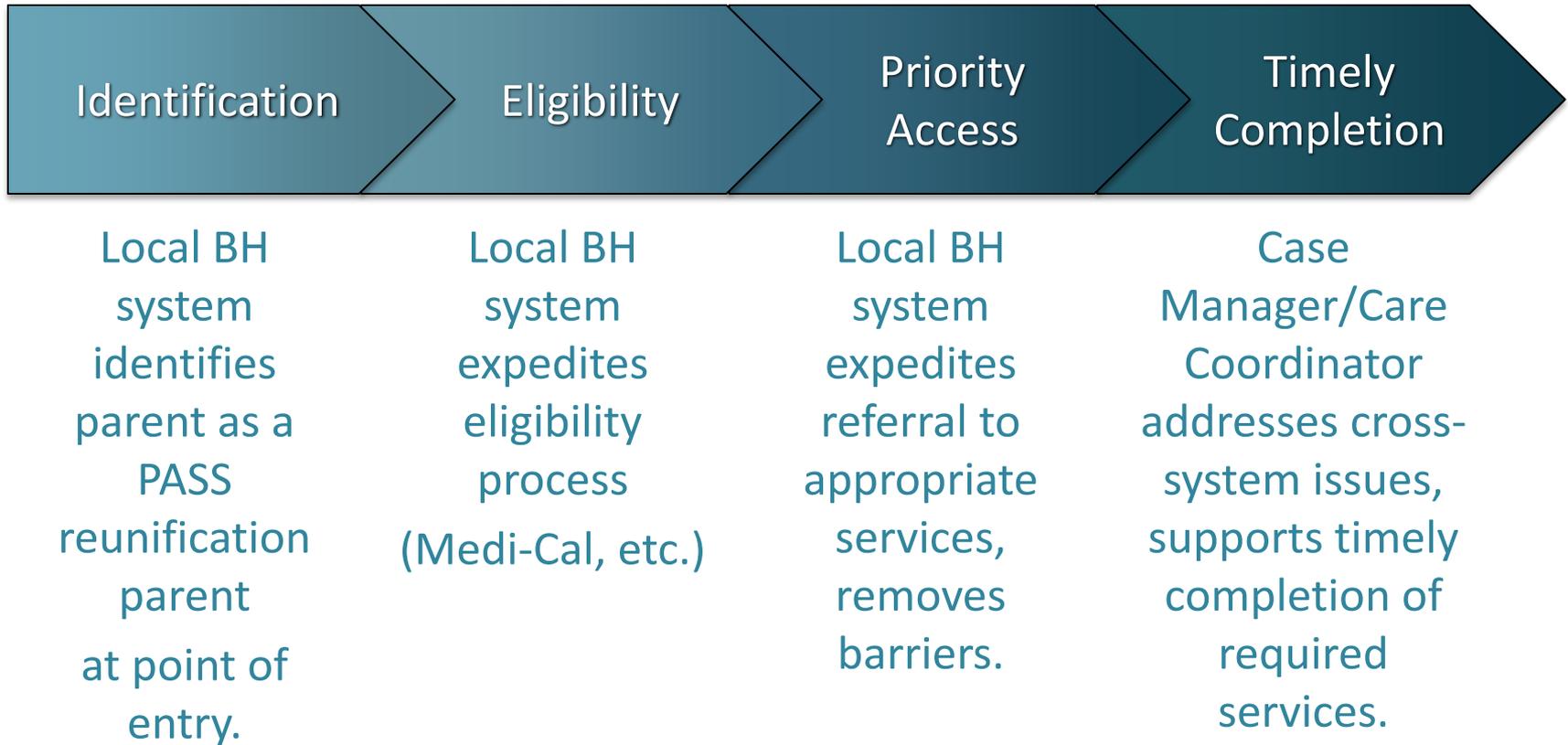
**Corrections
& Probation
Team**

**Workforce/
Employment
Team**

**Resource Teams:
State and County CWS; Judicial and Legislative Partners; etc.**

Action Plan: Behavioral Health

Priority Access Process Map



Action Plan: Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health (BH) Team's strategies:

Identification

1. Identify key entry points to BH system in counties.
2. Determine the mechanism for parent identification.
3. Develop protocol for identification, including tools/materials.
4. Disseminate to counties, provide technical support.

Eligibility

1. Develop "menu" of potential eligibility.
2. Develop protocol, tools/materials for rapid eligibility process.
3. Disseminate to counties, provide technical support.

Action Plan: Behavioral Health

Priority Access

1. Develop models for priority access.
 - Variables: mental health system, SUD system, different counties, differing circumstances of parents.
2. Select limited number of models to develop and disseminate.

Timely Completion

1. Define the coordination function in BH.
 - Existing: TDM's, Katie A ICC, Mental Health/SUD Team Leaders.
2. Establish BH care coordinator role and processes.
3. Coordinate with other services: housing, employment, etc.

Immediate next steps:

Work with local BH systems to develop the models, processes, etc. and test them in a variety of real world contexts.

Action Plan: Housing & Community Development



Department of Housing & Community Development

Provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians.

- Housing instability often brings families to the attention of child welfare and, in many cases, serves as a barrier to family reunification.
- HCD is one of many state agency financing entities
- Leadership role with respect to numerous housing & homeless assistance programs implemented by local government and/or non-profit organizations

State Agency Financing Sources



California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA)

Established in 1975, CalHFA was chartered as the State's affordable housing bank to make low interest rate loans through the sale of tax-exempt bonds.



Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

Provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians.



Tax Credit Allocation Committee, Treasurer's Office (TCAC)

Administers the federal and state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Programs created to encourage private investment in affordable rental housing.



Debt Limit Allocation Committee, Treasurer's Office (CDLAC)

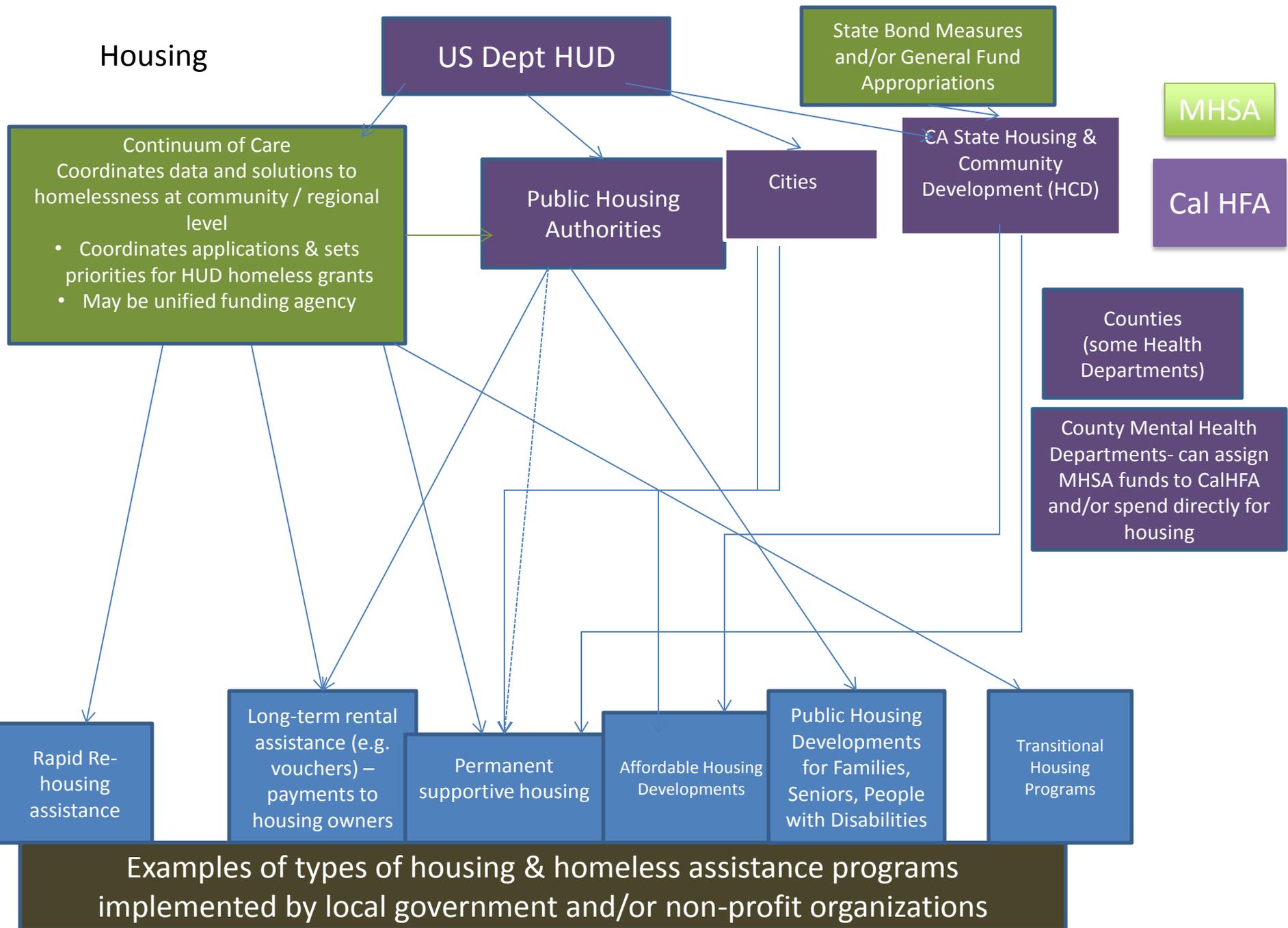
Sets and allocates California's annual tax-exempt debt ceiling using a population-based formula, and administers the tax-exempt bond program to issue the debt.



California Department of Veteran's Affairs (CalVet)

CalVet strives to ensure that its veterans and their families get the state and federal benefits and services they have earned through military service.

Housing



Examples of types of housing & homeless assistance programs implemented by local government and/or non-profit organizations

Action Plan: Housing & Community Development

Goal 1: Identify effective, evidence-based housing approaches for families in reunification.

PASS Housing Convening

October 6, 2014

- Integrated, cross sector conversation
- Education of housing providers & partners
- Identification of effective housing options for families in reunification



Action Plan: Housing & Community Development

Goal 2: Maximize funding allocation for effective, evidence based housing options for families in reunification.

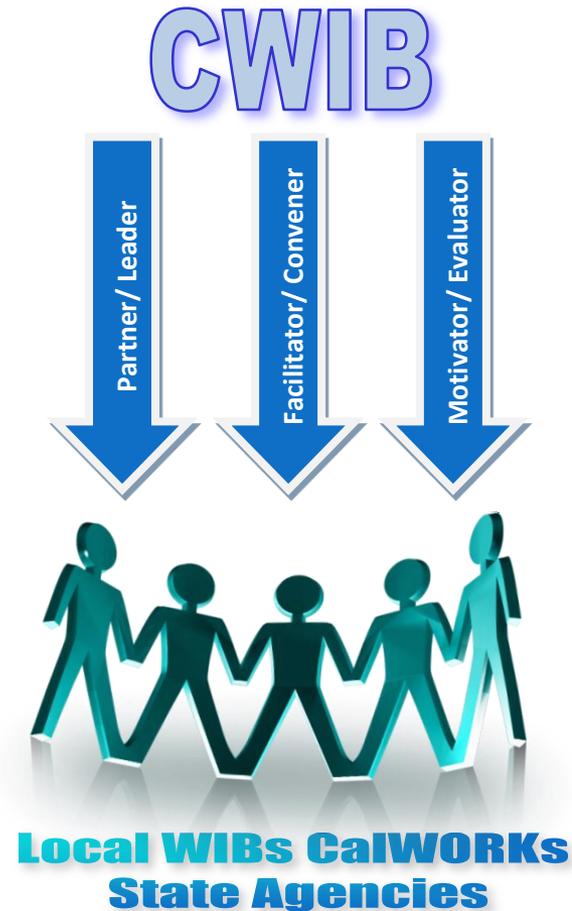


- **Identify** families in reunification who also need housing and/or homelessness assistance
- **Expand Availability** of effective housing and homelessness program options
- **Facilitate Priority Access** through cross-system education and outreach

Action Plan: Workforce/Employment

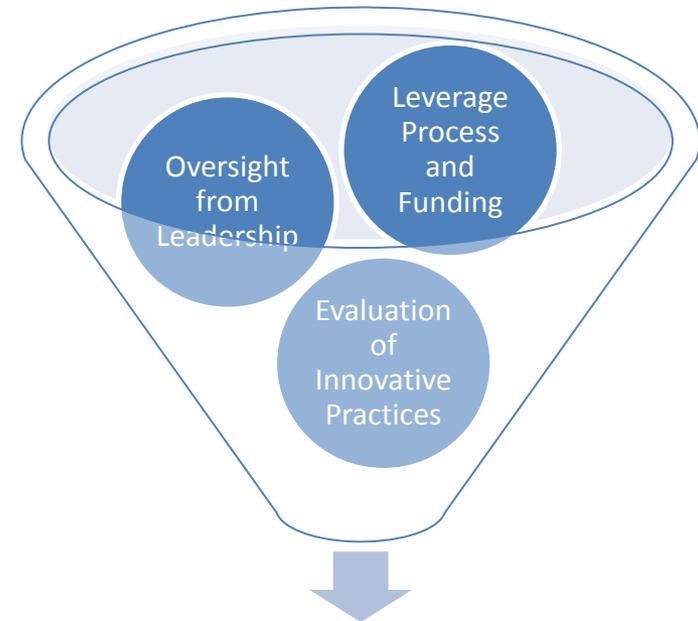
California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB)

- ❖ assists the Governor in setting and guiding policy in the area of workforce development.
- ❖ required by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.



Workforce Action Plan: Priority Access Accelerator Fund

- The Challenge: ***Few resources specifically dedicated*** to developing, prototyping, and piloting new strategies or “out of the box” ideas.
- Proposed Solution: Leverage current CWIB Accelerator process *to create and prototype innovative strategies that **accelerate access to multiple systems for Families in Reunification.***
- Accelerator Goals: **Identify replicable practices** at the county level to inform statewide policy and practice.



Replicable Models for Ensuring
Priority Access for Families in
Reunification Statewide

Workforce Action Plan: Path to Self-Sufficiency



Provide leadership to conduct a “client centered” approach to understand how parents interact with these systems, where they meet roadblocks, and how they access all services that help them ***move toward income stability and self-sufficiency.***

The Outcomes:

- Develop best practice ***materials and tools*** for service delivery providers
- Create systems for ***on-going cross communication*** among State and County agencies
- ***Inform*** the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act planning and implementation

Action Plan: Corrections and Probation

State Corrections

- State Administered
- High Level Offenders
- Service:
 - In-Prison Based (pre-release)
 - Community Based (post-release)
- Service delivery:
 - Evidence-Based Programming
 - Based on Assessed Need
 - Provided by Contracted Providers

County Probation

- County Administered
- Lower Level Offenders
- Service:
 - Community-based (post-release or in-lieu of sentencing)
- Service delivery:
 - Evidence-Based Programming
 - Referral by probation officer
 - Re-entry Hubs/Day Reporting Centers

Action Plan: Corrections and Probation

Goal 1: Increase awareness of PASS related to criminal justice.

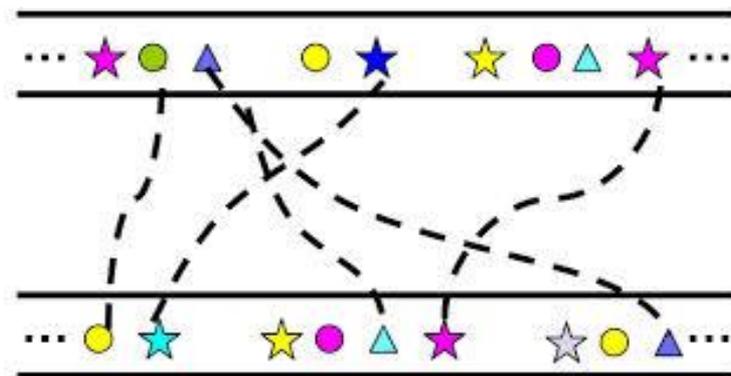


- Child reunification outreach flyer
- Joint signature memo to field
- Assess current probation practice in assisting offenders to reunify with a child in foster care

Action Plan: Corrections and Probation

Goal 2: Develop data linkages to provide offender priority access to available reunification services.

- Data Match
- Identify inmates or parolees with reunification order to services
- Memo/fact sheet on best practices in reunification specific to probation





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