

Housing Access for Child Welfare-Involved (CW) Families: Opportunities for Action

2015

Strategy 1: Improve access to affordable housing for Child Welfare (CW) Families in State-administered housing programs	
Proposed Actions	Term
1. Explore targeting for CW families in Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) and MHP-Supportive Housing (MHP-SH) and other HCD-administered programs for new capital funding.	Medium
2. Explore with relevant State administering agencies potential to modify Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and Mortgage Revenue Bond program to prioritize CW families	Medium
3. Work with DSS to explore ability to modify CalWORKs Housing Support Program to include CW Families as eligible recipients.	Short
4. Incentivize serving CW Families in existing State-funded housing as existing units seek greater flexibility or additional support.	Short/Medium
5. Include CW families as target population in any new State funding or programs, including the anticipated National Housing Trust Fund and/or a new permanent or dedicated source.	Medium
6. Conduct review of State housing programs on an ongoing basis to see how able to serve CW families.	Ongoing
Strategy 2: Encourage and promote targeting of locally-controlled resources to improve access to housing for CW families	
Proposed Actions	Term
1. Encourage the prioritization of CW families as all California communities implement or improve the coordinated entry and assessment process for families that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.	Short
2. Develop and provide technical assistance materials that promote prioritization of CW families in a variety of locally-controlled housing resources including supportive housing developments, general affordable, and housing choice vouchers.	Medium
Strategy 3: Promote State and local collaboration and best practices across child welfare and housing systems.	
Proposed Actions	Term
1. Ensure housing sector is represented on Child Welfare Council.	Short
2. Provide technical assistance to other State Departments on appropriate program design, best practices and oversight of housing programs serving families in reunification	Ongoing
3. With State partners, promote local collaboration and best practices to improve housing outcomes for CW-involved families, including developing and promoting housing assessments, and promoting models for cross-disciplinary teamwork.	Medium
Strategy 4: Use data and research to understand housing needs and promote solutions for CW Families	
1. Support research efforts in the State to understand the magnitude of housing need among CW families and determine ways to calculate potential cost savings when housing is stable.	Medium
2. Inventory and share location of existing State-funded supportive housing.	Short



Short Term: 2015



Medium Term: 2016



Long Term: 2017



Ongoing