

**CHANGEWELLPROJECT**  
PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

**CDSS** CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

# Monthly Office Hours for Program Leaders

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 ● 10:00 AM

# Welcome!



## Introductions

- Your Name
- Your County or Tribal Community
- CDSS Program
- Favorite fall activity!

# Today's Session Overview

## CalWORKs HSP

- ✓ Funding Allocations & Reach
- ✓ Eligible Populations & Program Components
- ✓ Bridging Services and System Intersections for Improved Impact and Outcomes
- ✓ Increase flexibility to achieve defined outcomes
- ✓ Questions for CDSS or Change Well on CalWORKs HSP

## Emerging Trends & Practices in Medium Term Rental Subsidies

- ✓ RRH – How it is being used pre-pandemic and now
  - ✓ Target client
  - ✓ Length of subsidy
- ✓ Bridging housing resources for a more extensive rehousing system
- ✓ Case study
- ✓ Step into Action

## Questions

- ✓ For Doug, CDSS or Change Well





# CaWORKs Housing Support Program

COLLABORATIVE

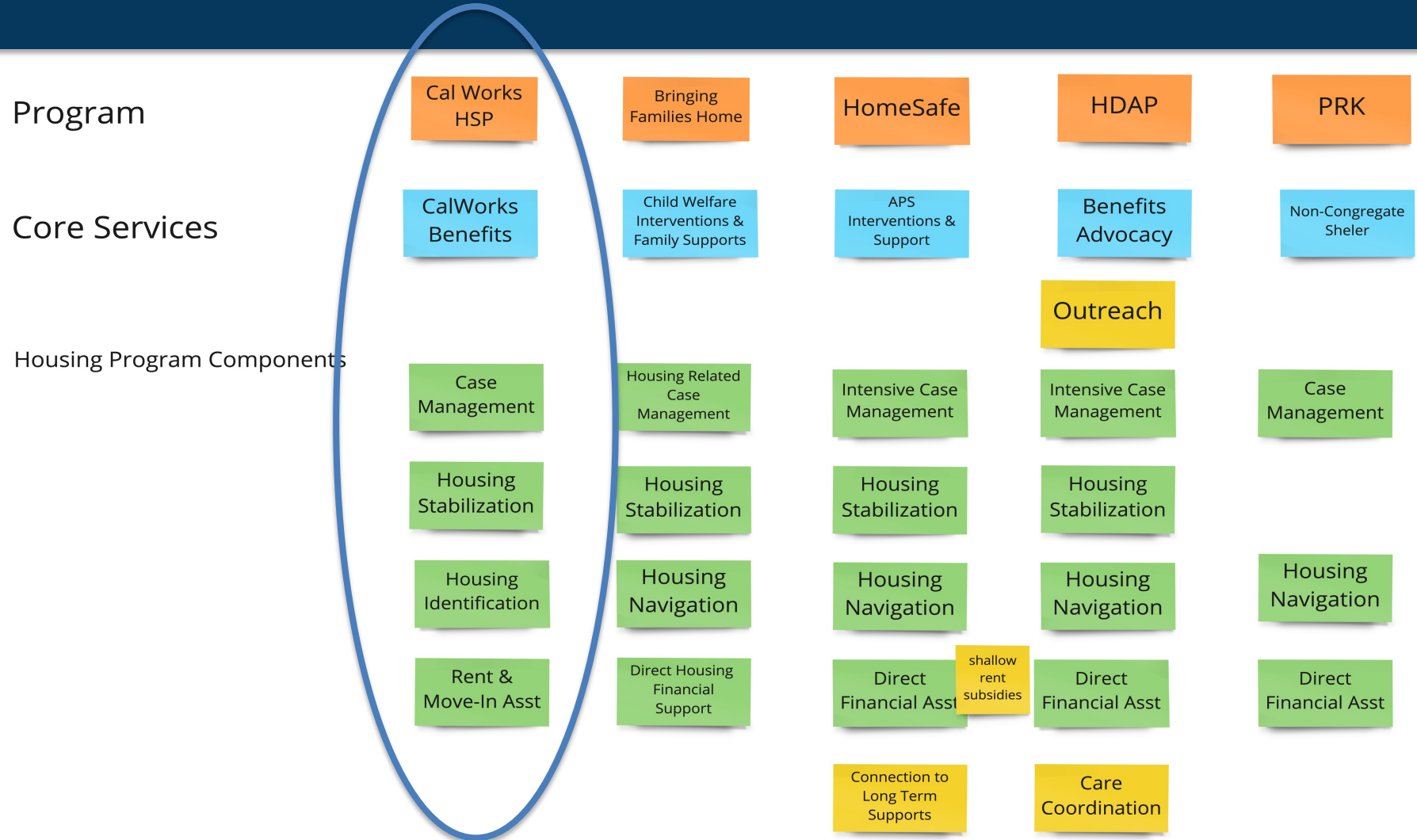


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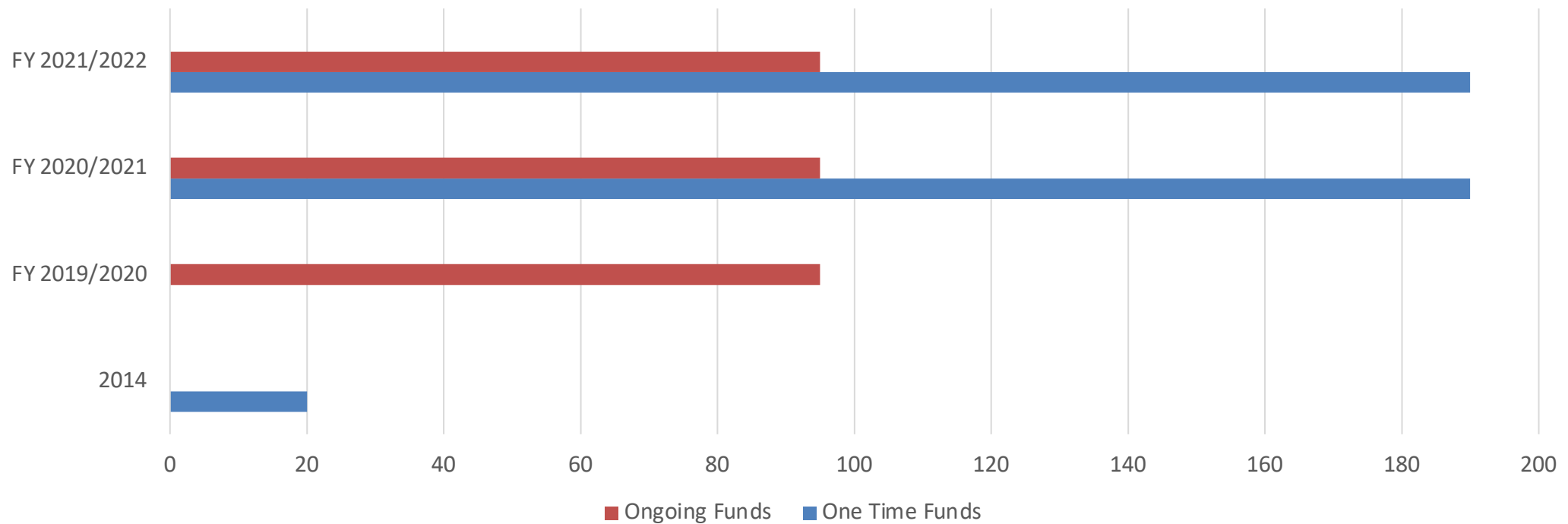
# Essential Program Components



# FUNDING

In Fiscal Year (FY) 21/22, SB 129 appropriated \$285 million for CalWORKs HSP, including the annual, ongoing appropriation of \$95M as well as a one-time appropriation of \$190M.

CalWORKs Housing Stability Program Funding



# CalWORKs HSP Eligibility: Who are we serving?



HSP eligibility is broadly defined by WIC Section 11330.5 and includes CalWORKs recipients who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.

**Is a CalWORKs family/recipient**

**AND**

**Are experiencing homelessness as defined by HUD (24 CDF section 91.5, "Homeless" Sections (1)-(4))**

**OR**

**Are at risk of homelessness (expanded)**



# At Risk of Homelessness

- Includes the HUD definition of "at risk of homelessness."
- But also includes CalWORKs families/recipients who:
  - Are experiencing housing instability, including recipients who have not yet received an eviction notice, and for whom housing instability would be a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being;
  - Have no subsequent permanent residence secured; and
  - Lack resources or support networks needed to stabilize their unique housing situation and secure subsequent permanent housing.

# Bridging programs to Create a Stronger System of Care



- CalWORKs HSP should/can be used in tandem with other CalWORKs resources to leverage and maximize services available to families. These are also key programs for identifying HSP-eligible families, and systemic co-enrollment is encouraged when it meets the local prioritization and services plans.
- Bringing Families Home
- HDAP
- CalWORKs Home Visiting Program
- CoC Program Resources
- CES



# Questions?





# Rehousing Lessons Learned

# Rapid Rehousing Basics

- Designed to provide short-medium supportive services rental assistance and other financial supports to help individuals or families quickly move back into permanent housing
- Operates within an equity driven, housing first framework that offers client choice in the type of housing and services they want to pursue
- Is highly flexible and tailors individual financial assistance and supportive services to the unique needs of that household
- Does NOT use a one-size fits all approach
- Core Components
  - Housing Identification (find housing)
  - Keep Housing (tenancy supports)
  - Pay for Housing (financial assistance)

# Rehousing Evolution

| Before COVID-19 Public Health Emergency  | Evolution  |
|--|--|
| Households housed within 30 days of identification   | Longer housing search periods pushing length of time homeless up   |
| Typical 3-6 months of assistance to stabilize family households once housed                        | Longer term stabilization period pushing enrollment timeframes   |
| Housing owners willing to rent with program support for guaranteed income                          | Landlords far more hesitant to rent to high risk tenants, often citing eviction moratoriums                  |
| Most households exited to independent market rate housing  | More households than before are needing connection to deeper, longer term subsidy to sustain housing         |
| Vast majority of families experience homelessness due to sudden loss of income or major life event | Growing number of families being priced out of the market within the housing they live (jacked rents)        |
| Goal of family to pay about 30% of their income toward rent when program exit                      | Greater shares of income going to rent, stretching budgets   |
| Prioritization often toward low-medium vulnerability   | Much more focus on equity driven prioritization and serving higher vulnerability, including elders and youth |
| Childcare, job markets etc relatively stable   | Wide variability in job market, especially with inconsistent child care leading to employment issues         |



# Program Design Implications

- Budget for greater per household cost means may need to serve fewer households (but serve them adequately) than originally thought
- Ensure budgeting and program design accounts for changing client assistance needs (active, dynamic budgeting)
- Promote shared living strategies to open unit pool and affordability (multi-generational households becoming more common, individuals having roommates, homes for rent in rural communities etc.)
- Employ or focus on Housing Navigation supports to have dedicated supports for landlords and property owners. Consider community housing navigation efforts to improve efficiency in urban centers and reduce cross-program competition in rural areas

# Program Design Implications

- Scan local, state and Federal resources for landlord incentive or other risk mitigation funds
- Commit to housing first principles and expedite access to housing with flexible assistance opportunities while household builds income or pursues more permanent subsidy/service options
- Invest in mobile technology, especially in rural communities, to ensure local (community, home-based) services can continue
- Need to coordinate with local Permanent Supportive Housing and voucher systems to ensure bridge is possible for households who cannot sustain on their own – embed into CE larger system

# Example #1

The Smith family is residing in their car and assisted in obtaining a short term hotel voucher while further assessments take place.

The family has very little income after both guardians lost their jobs in the service industry. They hope to be working again soon and to be able to afford an apartments.

Within a week the family is deemed eligible for HSP .

They are enrolled in HSP. Case management and housing navigation support take place. Initial assessments assume the Smith's will need 4-6 months of assistance to get back to an income level that can sustain their housing.

Within four weeks a unit is located that meets their needs and the local HSP program negotiates a reasonable rent amount with the landlord.

HSP essentially fully subsidizes the rent while the family seeks employment and other income benefits with assistance from their case manager.

Both guardians become employed but their income is still not sufficient even for the modest apartment they are renting. After two months one parent loses their job due to their employer going out of business

HSP continues to provide significant rent subsidy and services while linking the family to the Section 8 program, which has a 14 month waiting list based on their family size.

HSP continues to work with the family to look for income maximization supports while also coordinating child care assistance and navigating the housing authority process.

While HSP initially assumed a relatively short engagement with the Smith's, it takes a full 19 months before the section 8 voucher is issued. During that time, HSP had to continue to adjust its program budget to accommodate the higher costs associated with the Smith's and other similar families enrolled

Ultimately, the family uses the voucher in the unit obtained via HSP support and they begin paying 30% of their income toward rent, allowing for a sustainable housing solution.

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