

Department of Social Services

Lori A. Medina, Director



Administers eligibility programs and manages service agreements that support local programs providing administration and direct services that address homelessness.

- **Primary source of administration funds** for the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers to perform functions as the local Continuum of Care coordinator.
- **Emergency and Transitional Service agreements** include: the warming shelter, two new navigation centers (SHARE and Casa de Noche Buena), domestic violence shelters (Salinas and Peninsula), youth shelter and Safe Place youth service program, drop-in centers in Chinatown (Dorothy's Place) and Monterey (Gathering for Women), transitional housing at Pueblo del Mar and Community Homeless Solutions and a safe parking program.
- **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing services** such as Housing Support, Family Stabilization and Housing and Disability Advocacy Programs.
- **Direct aid through eligibility programs** such as CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance.

Commitment to Key Principles of the Plan



Housing Focused

DSS is committed to contracting and overseeing service programs with a “housing-first” commitment and prioritizing permanent housing as the ultimate service goal. New changes to the HSP program now allow the program to support homeless prevention efforts as well.



Data Driven Planning & Decision Making

DSS is a committed stakeholder and member of multiple committees and councils dedicated to ending homelessness. DSS takes data quality seriously and supports HMIS utilization through contract mandates and through funding to the CoC.



Person-Centered and Equitable

DSS is dedicated to ensuring all services are low-barrier and have equitable access. Racial equity planning is underway as part of a required element for HHAP funding and service programs such as HSP and HDAP are committed to respecting individual choices and self-identified goals.

Housing Focused

Emergency Shelters, Navigation Centers, Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Programs

Shelters

- Casa de Noche Buena
- Natividad Shelter
- Safe Place (Youth Shelter)

Navigation Centers

- SHARE Center

Prevention Programs

- Emergency Rent & Assistance Program
- CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program

Rapid Rehousing Programs

- Project Roomkey (*3.0 in development*)
- Housing Support Program
- Housing Disability Advocacy Program
- Youth Rapid Rehousing (*in development*)





Data Driven Planning & Decision Making

Leadership, membership, partnership, and participation

CoC Leadership Council, Voting Member
Housing Pipeline Committee, Member
Safe Parking Ad-hoc Committee, Member
Salinas Downtown Community Board, Member
CHSP Board, Advisory Member
CWDA Homeless Services Committee, Member
5-Year Plan Development Committee, Member

DSS directly and indirectly supports HMIS data through Project Roomkey, Housing Support Program, and financial support for community licenses.

Person Centered & Equitable

Low barrier, equitable access with in-community support

Contracts have Housing First Requirements

- *Project Roomkey*
- *Housing Support Program*

Commitment to understanding racial disparities and implementing strategies to engaging disconnected populations

- *Racial Equity Study for HHAP funding*
- *HDAP Racial disproportionality commitment*

Community Outreach is community based and responsive while being respectful and trusted

- *CSUMB CHE Outreach*
- *Dorothy's Place*
- *Gathering for Women*



Commitment to Key Strategies of the Plan



Increase Participation

Leading by example, DSS continues to dedicate staff and resources to innovating committees working toward ending homelessness. DSS will continue to encourage participation from others to join these efforts and increase political will and community support.



Improve Performance

DSS is committed to continuing to add “Housing First” requirements to more programs and services. Utilizing outcomes based contracting and performance focused metrics to ensure services are focused on effectively supporting people to secure and sustain housing.



Expand Service-Oriented Response

DSS will continue to support local drop-in day centers and mobile outreach teams to expand services to reach the unsheltered homeless where they are at. DSS is also committed to prioritizing basic needs and resources to encampments and focus on expanding availability of temporary spaces such as shelter beds, motel rooms, and safe parking sites.