

# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR COMING HOME: HOW CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES CAN CREATE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS LEAVING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

December 9, 2021

## WEBINAR SERIES OVERVIEW

### Background and Scope

 An overview of the report, webinar series, and registration links.

In February 2021 the Council on State Governments (CSG) Justice Center published [Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails](#), a report that identifies barriers in California to accessing and maintaining housing for people with behavioral health needs leaving incarceration, as well as proposed solutions.

The webinar series **Building Blocks for Coming Home: How Communities Can Create Housing Opportunities For People With Complex Needs Leaving the Justice System** - hosted by the CSG Justice Center and Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) with support from the California Health Care Foundation - focuses on how key stakeholders from across the justice, behavioral health, housing, and other systems can *implement these proposed solutions* and help people successfully transition out of the justice system and into the community by connecting them with housing options that meet their needs.

Over-arching strategies to address common challenges in California presented in the webinar series will i (1) cross-system collaboration, (2) assessing for homelessness, (3) connecting people to housing, (4) developing new housing, and (5) sustaining rental assistance and supportive services. During the series, participants will also hear from state leaders moving this work forward and California communities undertaking key cross-system collaboration efforts.

The **worksheets below** can help guide discussions to identify opportunities to collaborate, barriers to overcome, and strengths to build upon. Participants will have the opportunity to review and discuss these questions during each webinar, get feedback from peers, and problem solve with speakers. These worksheets can be used between sessions to help plan, assess, and collaborate locally.

### Webinar Series Dates and Registration Links

Thursday, 12/9/2021	<a href="#">Building Partnerships Between Housing and Criminal Justice Systems in California</a>
Thursday, 1/27/2022	<a href="#">Defining, Screening, and Assessing for Homelessness Risk</a>
Thursday, 2/24/2022	<a href="#">Common Practices for Connecting to and Using Housing as a Strategy for Diversion &amp; Reentry</a>
Thursday, 3/31/2022	<a href="#">Developing New Housing</a>
Thursday, 4/28/2022	<a href="#">Leveraging Rental Assistance and Supportive Service Funding for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Jails and Prisons</a>

# 1. Building Partnerships Between Housing and Criminal Justice Systems

**i** Describe who will lead/support this effort, what their responsibilities will be, and a structure for ongoing collaboration.

## Session Description

This webinar introduced participants to strategies for building partnerships between criminal justice agencies and housing providers. After an overview of the CA Housing report, participants learned about fundamental best practices in building connections with housing and services, and heard from state leaders moving this work forward and communities undertaking cross-system work.

## Learning Objectives

(1) Understand fundamental housing outcomes and models for this population, (2) Learn key strategies for collaboration with housing partners, (3) Learn how one community has leveraged cross-system partnerships to increase housing opportunity

Who are the key housing partners in your area?	What housing resources do they control that can help address these barriers?
Ex. Local Public Housing Authority	
Ex. Continuum of Care	
Ex. County Department of Behavioral Health	

What opportunities exist to align resources and priorities locally between the housing, justice, behavioral health, and others?	
What connections can be made to existing local committees, policies, and initiatives?	

What are the greatest local housing barriers for people with justice involvement?	How can we start to address them?
Ex. Lack of available/affordable units?	
Ex. Stigma/provider policies?	

What strategies will you use going forward to engage your housing partners and meet your shared mission?	Responsible Parties	Proposed Date
Ex. Obtain buy-in from agency X to...	Ex. Local Public Housing Authority	
Ex. Draft joint funding application		
Etc.		