



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (3/25/22)

Upcoming Policy Hearing

WHEN: Monday, April 4, 2022

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 444

Tsunami Preparedness Week: Rare Volcanic-Induced Tsunami Adds Layer to Coastal Risks

[Cal OES News reports](#) on January 15, 2022, the National Weather Service [Pacific Tsunami Warning Center](#) issued a Tsunami Advisory for the entire California coast following the large volcanic eruption near Tonga.

As the State Operations Center actively coordinated response efforts and collaborated with state and local partners on potential impacts, beaches immediately closed and coastal residents were encouraged to move to higher ground.

Although rare, tsunamis are among the most devastating disasters in the world. Being prepared before, during and after a disaster is vital in the recovery process and the resiliency of communities.

March 21-25 is Tsunami Preparedness Week in California. Whether you live along the coast or are visiting, it's important to know the hazards and how to keep you and your family safe.

Be counted among people and organizations worldwide by registering your 2022 tsunami preparedness activities and “know your zone” by visiting this [link](#). There are numerous events, exercises, educational forums and more happening throughout the state. You can find out about all the various activities by visiting [Tsunami events](#).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [National Tsunami Warning Center](#) offers complete information, including the current status of tsunami warnings, advisories and watches, and [frequently asked questions](#). Additional information and resources about Tsunami Preparedness Week are available [here](#). To read more on tools you can use to be prepared in the face of a tsunami, [visit the full article](#).

Experts Share Advice for Tsunami Awareness Week

[KSBY reports](#) this week is Tsunami Awareness Week, and emergency response crews are helping make sure local residents are prepared in the rare event one strikes the Central Coast.

"Although it may not be a disaster that occurs as often as wildfires or even earthquakes here in California, it's something that could impact our coastal cities," said Alyson Hanner, California Office of Emergency Services Public Information Officer.

Cal OES recommends having a go-bag with anything you might need in case of an evacuation and to make sure you know a safe evacuation route.

Authorities will issue either a watch or a warning if the Central Coast is in danger.

A watch means a tsunami is possible. A warning means an event has already happened that may have generated a tsunami and it may be time to evacuate.

If you happen to be at the beach while a tsunami watch or advisory is issued try to get to higher ground as soon as possible.

"Plan evacuation routes ahead of time. Just start thinking about it, because when the time comes it's probably too late," said Eric Endersby, the City of Morro Bay's Harbor Director.

The Central Coast experienced a very small tsunami just a few months ago in January of 2022 after an underwater volcanic eruption near the island of Tonga, thousands of miles away.

"We had pretty extreme water changes and tidal flow. We probably had the water go up and down about 5 or 6 feet," said Endersby.

An important takeaway from the event is the timing of the largest surge.

"It seemed to arrive on time, but the first surges were not the largest. It seemed to have kind of ramped up throughout the day and then ramped back down," said Endersby.

If there is a tsunami advisory or warning the most destructive waves may not arrive until later in the day or possibly the next day.

US Tsunami Warning System Needs an Urgent Overhaul, Experts Say

[Mercury News reports](#) earlier this year an underwater volcano erupted in Tonga, triggering a [widespread tsunami](#). While advisories were issued, there was confusion at the time because the event wasn't triggered by an earthquake, which tsunami forecasting models don't take into account.

And last week a 7.4 magnitude [earthquake in Japan](#) sparked tsunami alerts across the country. The Japanese tsunami system worked very well, issuing alerts within minutes of the earthquake.

But how would have the US Tsunami Warning System handled a similar situation?

According to [a recent report](#), experts are skeptical that the United States would have been able to issue alerts at similar speeds.

The report, written by an advisory panel of tsunami experts, says the US warning system is in dire need of an overhaul, struggling with outdated technology, delayed forecasts and disjointed communication.

It warns the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Advisory Board (NOAA SAB) that there is an "urgent need for action" as it is only a matter of time until another tsunami poses a threat to the coastal US.

“The problems we observed and commented on result in a great deal of confusion among local officials, the public, and the media when a tsunami occurs,” Rocky Lopes, co-chair of the Tsunami Science & Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP), and a co-author of the report, told CNN.

Tsunamis are extremely large waves that occur as a result of a sharp displacement in the ocean. They are most commonly caused by earthquakes but can also be triggered by volcanic eruptions and landslides. These towering waves can cause widespread damage to coastal communities and, most importantly, result in high death tolls.

Areas along the Pacific Ocean such as California, Alaska and Hawaii are particularly at risk of tsunamis. That’s because earthquakes and volcanic activity are heightened around the Pacific Ocean basin, nicknamed the “Ring of Fire.”

“It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of residents and employees as well as millions of visitors are within tsunami-prone areas along the coastal regions of the U.S. each year,” Dr. Nate Wood, supervisory research geographer for the United States Geological Survey, said in the report.

Given Tonga’s recent volcanic eruption, and the ensuing tsunami waves that reached the West Coast of the United States, urgent updates are needed to protect a growing US coastal population, according to the advisory panel.

To read further details into the potential issues our warning system could have in the event of a tsunami of this magnitude, [visit the full article](#).

Last Year’s Fire Season in California Set Record for Cost, Dixie Fire Most Expensive in U.S. History

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) the cost of putting out wildfires in California soared to record heights last year, new data shows, with the federal government’s share of the bill topping \$1 billion — nearly triple the previous year.

While last summer and fall marked a big fire season for the U.S. Forest Service, requiring huge investment in personnel, airplanes and firefighter support, what stood out between last year and other years, including the even bigger 2020 season, was the use of contract firefighters.

Because of widespread staffing shortages at the Forest Service, the agency relied more heavily on higher-paid local and private fire agencies to beat back last year’s blazes, which included the devastating Caldor and Dixie fires.

“The big reason you see the big difference is we had less staffing,” said Brian Rhodes, a senior administrator for the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., and formerly deputy director of fire and aviation management in California.

From Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, the U.S. Forest Service spent \$999 million on fire suppression in its Pacific Southwest Region, which consists almost entirely of California, according to records requested by The Chronicle. Suppression costs a year earlier were \$340 million. The expenses are on top of baseline operating costs for the agency’s fire program.

The U.S. Department of Interior, meanwhile, which houses the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, spent \$113 million on fire suppression in California last fiscal year.

Forest Service officials said they couldn't provide a breakdown of how the money was spent, including what was paid for contract work and how many contracts were initiated, because the accounting was still being done. But with contractors paying more for labor than what the Forest Service pays, sometimes more than double, there is little doubt that the outsourcing played a role in last year's substantial cost hike.

Entry-level firefighters at the Forest Service in 2021 made as little as \$13.45 an hour base pay, or less than \$30,000 a year, compared with upward of \$50,000 a year made by entry-level personnel at city and county fire departments, which are among the contractors.

Other reasons for the record spending last year include inflation, which drove up the price of everything from food to fuel, officials say. Also, there were bookkeeping conventions used by the Forest Service: Part of the 2021 costs provided by the agency were rollover expenses from the 2020 August Complex fires, which straddled the fiscal year.

The agency's fire expenditures in California made up more than a quarter of the total \$3.7 billion spent by the Forest Service last year on fire suppression nationwide.

Preliminary estimates suggest that the 963,000-acre Dixie Fire in the northern Sierra Nevada, the largest single blaze in the state's modern history, alone cost more than \$600 million to fight, making it the most expensive wildfire in U.S. history, in terms of suppression. The bill was split with other fire agencies, including the state's Cal Fire.

Cal Fire, meanwhile, is projecting that its emergency firefighting expenses for the fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2021, through June of this year — different from the Forest Service — will be \$1.18 billion. That's down from an estimated \$1.76 billion spent the previous year.

Still, the combined costs of the state and federal agencies represent an unprecedented outlay for fire suppression in California.

COVID-19 in California: Find Testing and Vaccine Info, Case and Hospitalization Rates

[MSN provides](#) information on the latest COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in California, where to get a COVID test, vaccine rates and booster shots, information on the omicron variant and the latest headlines – all in one place. [Click here](#) to view the up-to-date information.

How Might California Respond to Potential BA.2 COVID Spike and is a Fourth Shot Coming?

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) just when coronavirus cases have subsided and safety measures have been lifted, COVID-19 infection rates are shooting back up across the globe. But it's not clear what this means for California.

The BA.2 omicron subvariant, or the “stealth omicron,” is driving cases up throughout Europe and Asia. In South Korea, the number of cases and deaths have been reaching new highs each week, with the death toll increasing by almost 600 from the weeks before on March 14th. Hong Kong, mainland China and New Zealand are seeing spikes in reported infections too.

The subvariant has been in California since late January and was previously detected in other parts of the United States, including New Mexico, Texas, and Washington. And as proportion of BA.2 variant cases is steadily climbing in the California region, according to the Centers for Disease Control, health officials are anticipating another spike in cases.

According to KGO-TV, the ABC affiliate in San Francisco, University of California San Francisco epidemiologists Dr. George Rutherford and Dr. Monica Gandhi said they believe a surge will come to the California region either in the next month or two, or in a few weeks.

In an interview with NPR, White House Chief Medical Advisor Anthony Fauci said it's possible that the U.S. may see a surge since over the last year, what happened in the U.K., eventually occurred in the U.S. weeks later.

“So I would not be surprised if in the next few weeks we see either a plateauing ... of cases or even (the curve) rebounds and slightly goes up,” Fauci told the station. “That is entirely conceivable. And we’re just going to have to follow it carefully.”

Dr. Stuart Cohen, chief of infectious diseases at UC Davis Health, said he can't predict whether there will be a surge but he thinks there will probably be a slight uptick in cases.

Cohen said that while it is important to be cautious in thinking the pandemic is completely over, he doesn't think the subvariant “should cause people to lose sleep.”

He said although Europe is seeing a spike in cases, hospitalizations have stayed steady.

In the U.K., there has been an upturn in the number of COVID-19 patients in the hospital, whereas hospitalizations in Italy, Spain and Belgium have remained flat, according to Our World in Data.

“The disease seems to be sort of similar to what we saw with the original omicron,” Cohen said, “which in high risk, unvaccinated individuals can still cause some major problems.”

And while it could be an issue for some individuals who are fully vaccinated and boosted, Cohen said he's not expecting to see hundreds of people in the hospital, as seen during the peak of omicron in January.

The California Department of Public Health said it will be monitoring and evaluating data, and will make safety recommendations accordingly. Masks are still strongly recommended in the state and required in high transmission settings like public transportation.

Sacramento County's health department said it will also be keeping an eye on infection rates. “Public Health continues to monitor cases, strongly recommends vaccination as it is the best protection against COVID and though there is no mask mandate in place Public Health still recommends masking in crowded public places,” the department said in a statement to The Bee.

Although mandates have since been rolled back statewide and locally, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a long-term plan last month to help guide California residents through the uncertain future of COVID.

To read more on Governor Newsom's plan and on this new subvariant, [visit the full article](#).

California Moves to Lift Vaccine, Test Verification at Sizable Indoor Events

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California will lift a rule next month requiring attendees to show proof they've been vaccinated for COVID-19 or recently tested negative for the coronavirus as a condition of entry for significantly sized indoor events, such as concerts, conventions and sporting contests, health officials said.

That requirement, which will instead transition to a strong recommendation on April 1, had applied to all indoor happenings with more than 1,000 people — which the state refers to as “indoor mega events.”

Operators will still be urged to screen guests as “indoor mega events continue to involve several factors that increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19,” according to updated guidance [announced Friday](#) by the California Department of Public Health. But the shift acknowledges the progress California has made in turning the tide of the Omicron wave.

Friday's announcement continues a momentous few weeks in which California has shed virtually all mandatory measures imposed in hopes of tamping down transmission of the coronavirus.

California lifted its universal mask mandate for indoor public places about a month ago. Starting this week, students and teachers were given the option to take their masks off in class, as well. At Los Angeles Unified, where masks were still being worn, officials announced Friday the practice would become optional on Wednesday.

Though still strongly recommended indoors while in public, masking is now only mandatory in a handful of places statewide: healthcare settings, nursing homes, homeless shelters, jails, prisons and emergency shelters. A [federal order](#) requiring masks to be worn on public transportation, including planes and buses, also remains in effect through at least April 18.

The state's rules provide a sort of benchmark that individual counties have to meet. However, nothing stops local health authorities from imposing stricter rules if they feel it is warranted — so it's possible some could keep vaccine/test verification in place.

That may be unlikely, however. Even places like the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles County have widely eased their once-expansive masking and vaccine-verification requirements as pandemic conditions have improved.

Over the last week, California has reported an average of a bit more than 3,400 new coronavirus cases per day — down 41% from two weeks ago and a mere fraction of the record infection counts reported during the worst days of the Omicron surge, [according to data](#) compiled by The Times.

Once-crowded hospitals also have gotten some much-needed relief in recent weeks.

As of Thursday, 2,057 coronavirus-positive patients were hospitalized statewide. That's the lowest since July, and less than one-seventh the Omicron-era peak.

As California Switches to Endemic Plan, Cal/OSHA Still Cautious

[Agri-Pulse reports](#) farm and business groups are pushing for a more flexible approach in California's workplace safety rules for COVID-19. Yet Cal/OSHA's governing board, the state's regulator for these issues, has been reluctant to shelve its emergency standard.

In a recent hearing, policy advocates noted how the pandemic is evolving into an endemic phase, like the seasonal flu, and the Newsom administration has been shifting from emergency response to long-term management through its SMARTER Plan unveiled last month.

California Farm Bureau Labor Affairs Director Bryan Little told the board its current emergency standard cannot achieve the same degree of flexibility. He argued that employers and individuals are capable of taking their own safety precautions based on their comfortable risk levels.

Michael Miller, who directs government relations for the California Association of Winegrape Growers, argued that the emergency standard was out of date almost as soon as the board adopted it. He said the governor has issued multiple executive orders to “clean up the problems” the standard generated and will need to do so at least once more this year.

Labor groups, however, viewed those orders as weakening the protections and worried that rolling back the mask mandate will lead to a surge in cases at produce and meat packing plants and leave farmworkers vulnerable in employer-supplied housing and transportation.

Lung Ultrasound Findings in COVID-19: A Descriptive Retrospective Study

[Cureus released a study](#) to evaluate whether POCUS (Point-of-care ultrasound) findings in ED were correlated with vital signs or laboratory abnormalities typically seen among patients with COVID-19.

Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is an indispensable tool in emergency medicine. With the emergence of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a need for improved diagnostic capabilities and prognostic indicators for patients who are symptomatic for COVID-19 has become apparent. POCUS has been demonstrated to be a useful diagnostic and prognostic tool in the emergency department (ED) in assessing other lung complications. Still, limited data regarding its utility in assessing COVID-19 are available.

[Click here](#) to view the full study and its findings.

Cal OES Distributes 200,000 COVID-19 Testing Kits to California’s Most Vulnerable Communities

[The Sierra Sun Times reports](#) working to continually protect Californians most at risk to COVID-19, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has distributed 200,000 COVID-19 at home testing kits to vulnerable community members across our state.

Cal OES sent COVID-19 test kits to over 300 of California’s Community Based Organizations, to be distributed to the most vulnerable and high-risk Californians.

This effort strives to ensure that all individuals have an option for at-home testing that can be used and interpreted without assistance, and will set the course towards accessible testing in the weeks and months to come

“We want to ensure Californians who are at the highest risk for COVID-19 are able to get the test they need, that their families need, and that their care providers need to operate in a healthy, safe and secure environment.” said Vance Taylor, Cal OES Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs.

This initiative is part of a wider effort by Cal OES to ensure that individuals with access and functional needs, regardless of where they live or the level of community transmission of the virus, have equitable access to COVID-19 testing, masks, and other critical mitigation strategies.

To find COVID-19 testing locations, receive free test kits and more [Click Here](#).

Valley Blood Centers in Urgent Need of Donations, State Supply Reaches an ‘Extreme Low’

[Fox 26 News reports](#) according to CCBC, a rise in trauma cases throughout the Central Valley has set the supply at an extreme low. Type O blood is especially needed as centers are left with only a one-day supply of that particular blood type, says CCBC.

“When we are unable to keep up with collections of blood, specifically of the blood type O, we risk patients not being properly cared for,” said Director of Marketing & Donor Recruitment for Central California Blood Center, Arax Martirosian. “We cannot allow our supply to get this low, especially with the possibility of more emergency needs on the horizon. We ask that you please consider donating blood today.”

According to CCBC, the organization cares for 30 hospitals throughout Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, and Kings County, with 5-6,000 pints of donated blood collected each month.

If you’d like to make an online appointment and donate, [click here](#).

Drones Get Blood to Patients Faster – and Reduce Waste

[The University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine reports](#) in Rwanda, using drones instead of ambulances to deliver emergency blood products has resulted in blood arriving for transfusions 79 minutes faster on average. It also reduced the number of wasted blood units by two-thirds.

That’s according to a new study from researchers at UBC’s School of Population and Public Health, who collaborated with colleagues in Rwanda to analyze outcomes from more than 12,000 deliveries over two years. The findings were recently published in [The Lancet Global Health](#).

“Every second counts in an emergency. With the help of these drones, we’re seeing that deliveries of blood products to remote clinics are much quicker. Many facilities are now receiving blood products in a fraction of the time,” said PhD candidate [Marie Paul Nisingizwe](#), the study’s first author.

Prompt blood delivery can be lifesaving for people who need transfusions for emergencies such as postpartum hemorrhage, severe malaria, or traumatic injuries. However, only a few facilities in Rwanda are able to collect and store blood, posing a serious risk for people who don’t live near distribution centers.

In 2016, Rwanda became the first African country to integrate drone deliveries into its healthcare system. The project is a partnership between the Government of Rwanda and California-based robotics company Zipline Inc.

Currently, the program is focused mainly on blood deliveries. However, the project has started to expand the deliveries of vaccines and essential medicines for the treatment of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, malaria, and tuberculosis.

While most studies to this point have focused on feasibility, the new paper from Nisingizwe and her team is one of the first to measure actual outcomes. Next, the researchers want to determine whether drone delivery improves health outcomes and is ultimately cost-effective, and explore its potential for transporting other perishable health products and medicines.

Drone delivery is being explored as a potential healthcare solution in other countries, including in British Columbia, where a [UBC-led study](#) is exploring the feasibility of using drones to transport medical supplies between Stellat'en First Nation and the Village of Fraser Lake.

These Teens Created a Website Matching Ukrainian Refugees with Hosts Offering Shelter

[CNN reports](#) two Harvard University students have created a website connecting thousands of Ukrainian refugees with hosts around the world offering them a safe haven.

The idea was born when Avi Schiffmann attended a pro-Ukraine demonstration while visiting San Diego, where he came face to face with hundreds of Ukrainian Americans sharing distressing stories and pleading for help.

"I remember thinking, 'I know how to design websites with big platforms,' so how could I not do anything to help?" Schiffmann, 19, told CNN. "They need assistance, immediately and on a really big scale, and I had to find a way to make that happen as soon as possible."

As of Friday, at least 847 civilians -- including 64 children -- have been killed in Ukraine since the Russian invasion began in late February, according to the latest update from the United Nations Human Rights Office.

More than three million people have since fled Ukraine, according to the International Organization for Migration. Thousands more head to the border every day. Meanwhile, millions of Ukrainians remain in a country where active conflict has cut off access to basic supplies and medicine.

[Schiffmann](#), who resides in Seattle while he takes a semester off school, reached out to fellow classmate and friend Marco Burstein to share his idea.

Although Burstein was in Massachusetts and entangled in the middle of a busy semester, the 18-year-old computer science major signed up for the effort.

For three days -- and only a few meals in between, according to Schiffmann -- the pair spent every waking moment designing, editing and perfecting a website dedicated to assisting refugees.

[Ukraine Take Shelter](#) launched on March 3. Within a week more than 4,000 people had created listings offering shelter to Ukrainian refugees.

To read more on the program these two students have designed, [visit the full article](#).

Biden Tells Governors to ‘Take Urgent Action’ to Protect Infrastructure from Russian Hackers

[Politico reports](#) President Joe Biden is asking U.S. governors to enhance their readiness to confront potential Russian cyberattacks by tightening oversight of their states’ critical infrastructure, putting their experts on high alert and developing incident response plans.

“Much of our nation’s critical infrastructure is privately owned and overseen at the state and local levels,” Biden wrote in previously unreported [letters to the nation’s governors and the mayor of Washington, D.C.](#), one of which POLITICO obtained. “I urge you to take urgent action to exercise the authority you and your team have to prepare your critical infrastructure to withstand a cyberattack.”

In his March 18 letter to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Biden wrote that “there are things that only you as governor can do to secure your state’s computer systems, your critical infrastructure, your citizens, and through those efforts, our nation.”

In the letters, Biden encouraged the governors and D.C.’s mayor to convene their top security officials and discuss the resilience of their critical infrastructure.

State leaders should work with their local public utility commissions to enforce “minimum cybersecurity standards” for the operators of vital infrastructure, Biden said. If state governments or independent regulators have the authority to require infrastructure companies to “take emergency cybersecurity measures,” he added, they should do so now “in light of the current conflict.”

Biden also urged state governments to follow cyber best practices he already required the federal government to implement in a May 2021 executive order. These include periodic exercises, prompt security patching, mandatory multifactor authentication, robust backups and widespread data encryption.

CISA offers free cybersecurity services and online guidance for state and local officials, Biden wrote, and the federal infrastructure law includes “\$350 billion in emergency funding ... that may be used on cybersecurity, including modernization of hardware and software,” along with \$1 billion in state and local cyber grants and \$3 billion in modernization and security funding for electric utilities.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire 2021;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Thursday, March 31, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$7,787,780
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **Alcohol Policing Partnership Program 2022;** *law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
 - Deadline: **Thursday, March 31, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$75k
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

- **Wildfire Resilience Block Grants;** *disadvantaged communities; education; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - Deadline: **Friday, April 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$10 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Adult Reentry Grant Program

[The Board of State and Community Corrections](#) has created the ARG Program to provide funding for community-based organizations to deliver reentry services for people formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program provides funding for community-based organizations to deliver reentry services for people formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The Budget Act of 2021 (Assembly Bill 128, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021) appropriated \$67,000,000 to award competitive grants for community-based organizations (CBOs) to support individuals formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The \$67,000,000 is to be allocated as follows:

- \$31,825,000 shall be available for rental assistance. Priority shall be given to individuals released to state parole.
- \$31,825,000 shall be available to support the warm handoff and reentry of offenders transitioning from state prison to communities. Priority shall be given to individuals released to state parole.

Successful proposals will be under contract from October 1, 2022 to April 30, 2026.

Eligibility is limited to CBOs located in the State of California that have been determined by the IRS to have 501(c)(3) status (i.e., nonprofit).

The target population identified in AB 128 are people, 18 and over, who have been formerly incarcerated in state prison with priority being given to those recently released and/or on state parole.

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255-8257.2 (Appendix C) requires a state agency that funds, implements, or administers a state program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, to adopt guidelines and regulations to include Housing First policies. As such, this will require applicants proposing projects that include housing or housing-related services to incorporate the core components of Housing First in their proposed program design.

The statutory language authorizing the Adult Reentry Grant Program does not specify the types of Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff and Reentry Services to be funded. Applicants should select programs that best fit the needs of the community.

The ESC has defined Rental Assistance activities to be those intended to help eligible people establish or maintain affordable, permanent housing.

The ESC has defined Warm Handoff and Reentry Service activities as those that place a priority on services that lead to permanent housing and the provision of critical-time intervention that meets the immediate needs of individuals upon their release from prison or placement by parole.

Examples of eligible rental related services include, but are not limited to: short-term emergency housing assistance, landlord incentives, permanent supportive housing, rent subsidies, transitional housing, stipends to friends and families who provide housing directly to a person who is eligible for ARG services, vouchers, move in costs, credit repair, coverage of back rent, or other activities as necessary.

Examples of eligible warm handoff and reentry services include, but are not limited to: reach-in services, case management services, housing navigation, transportation, food, emergency services, employment/vocational, social services, behavioral health care, mentors, transitional services, system navigation, 24-hour response, or short-term or emergency housing support (up to 90 days).

Eligibility is limited to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) located in the State of California that have been determined by the IRS to have 501(c)(3) status (i.e., nonprofit).

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, April 8, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$63.65 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Best Practice Initial Child Interview Video Training (VQ) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the VQ Program to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos.

Background Information: The initial minimal facts-finding field interview of the child sexual abuse victim is essential for law enforcement (LE) and Child Protective Services (CPS) for safety planning, potential prosecution, and for service referrals. It puts the abuse/sexual act in context, can provide timeframes necessary for medical evaluation and evidence collection, and identifies other parties/witnesses. Effective forensically-sound interviews are imperative to the overall success of the investigation.

Programmatic Description: The purpose of VQ Program is to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos: a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified video for law enforcement (LE); a video specific to Child Protective Service (CPS) personnel, and one for the broader category of first responder mandated reporters. These training videos are to be made available statewide.

Eligible applicants include business, individuals, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, April 22, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$200k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 1

[Cal ICH](#) will fund innovative applications that accelerate efforts by local jurisdictions and continuums of care to address and end family homelessness by making families' experiences of homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Applicants shall present an innovative proposal that includes a self-identified prioritized objective that complements, augments, or strengthens a community's efforts to address and end family homelessness.

Background: The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) was created in 2017 to oversee the implementation of Housing First policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. The Council's mission is to develop policies and to identify and coordinate resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local Jurisdiction – means a city, including a charter city, a county, including a charter county, or a city and county, including a charter city and county.
- Continuum of Care – as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Eligible Population to Serve: • FHC-1 funds may only be used for proposals serving family households with dependent minors that are experiencing homelessness. o Family households with dependent minors may include but is not limited to pregnant parents, parenting youth, households engaged in reunification and/or child welfare services. o Homeless is defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as that section read on May 1, 2018.

Available Funds for This Round: \$30 million will be distributed across a minimum of two rounds of funding. This RFA is for Round 1 of funds totaling \$15 million (FHC-1). Awards for FHC-1 will be determined through this competitive RFA process.

Subsequent Rounds of Funding: Grantees that are awarded Round 1 funds, remain in compliance with FHC-1 requirements and demonstrate reasonable, sufficient progress toward their self-identified, prioritized objective may apply for the second round of grant funding (FHC-2). Only FHC-1 grantees are eligible to compete for FHC-2.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Saturday, April 30, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).