



GRANTS MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM
VS2021-22-24

Date: May 16, 2022

To: **Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing (YE) Program Subrecipients**

From: Cal OES Grants Management, Victim Services Branch

Subject: YE21 Grant Subawards

Since 2017, many housing programs funded through the state of California have implemented the Housing First Model (as defined in Welfare and Institutions [W&I] Code Section 8255) to address the prevalence of homelessness in California. The Housing First Model is an approach to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.

W&I Code Section 8255 has always provided an exemption to Housing First for programs that fund emergency shelters. Therefore, YE Program Subrecipients have never been required to incorporate the core components of Housing First.

However, in fiscal year 2021-22, W&I Code Section 8255 was amended and the language to exempt "...programs that fund emergency shelters" was removed. Therefore, Cal OES's Legal Team has determined that the YE Program must adopt guidelines and regulations to incorporate the core components of Housing First. Furthermore, YE Program Subrecipients must emphasize client choice through collaborative decision making when implementing the required programmatic components of the YE Program.

Please contact your Program Specialist should you have questions. Thank you for the work you do to help youth break the cycle of homelessness.