

# Encampment Resolution Funding Program Round 5 (ERF 5) NOFA Overview

April 2026





# Introductions and Welcome

## HCD

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# Agenda

## 1. NOFA Walkthrough

- Program Purpose & Priorities
- Application Timeline
- Available Funds & Eligible Applicants
- Eligibility Requirements
- BREAK [5 min]
- Eligible Uses
- Application Structure
- Application Review and Scoring
- Reporting

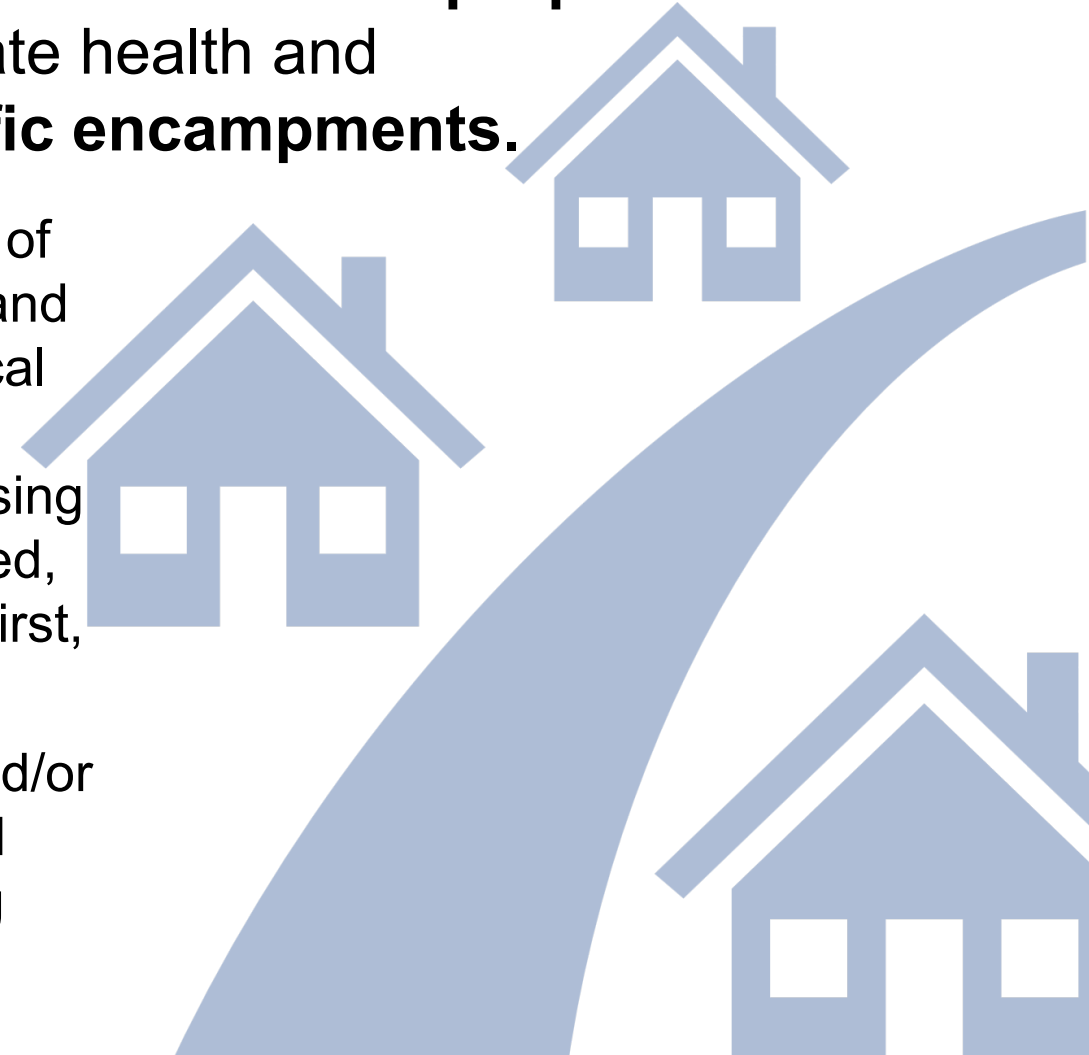
## 2. Q&A



# Program Purpose

The ERF program will fund **actionable, person-centered local proposals** that provide stable housing and address the immediate health and safety needs of the individuals residing in **specific encampments**.

- Proposals must seek to resolve targeted experiences of unsheltered homelessness by addressing the safety and wellness of people within encampments, resolve critical encampment concerns, and transition individuals into interim shelter with clear pathways to permanent housing or directly into permanent housing, using data-informed, non-punitive, low-barrier, person-centered, Housing First, and coordinated approaches.
- Proposals may bolster existing, successful models and/or support new approaches that provide safe stable, and ultimately permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness in encampments.





# Program Priorities

Applications that demonstrate cross-system collaboration, including collaborations with state and federal entities, and innovative efforts to resolve encampment issues, while focusing on protecting the health and well-being of the individuals living in those encampments.

Applications that represent the diversity of communities across the state, including, but not limited to, rural, urban, and suburban communities.

Up to 50 percent of the available funds will be prioritized for ERF projects that address encampments on State Right of Way (SROW).

\*\*Local jurisdictions have priority to apply for ERF Round 5 to address encampments on the SROW over CoC applicants.





# Application Timeline

Table, ERF 5 R Events	Responsible Party	Date(s)
NOFA and Application Release	HCD	03/27/2026
Application Window #1	Applicant	03/27/26 - 06/30/26
Review of Window #1 Applications	HCD	07/01/26 - 08/31/26
Window #1 Awards	HCD	September 2026
Application Window #2 (dependent on availability of funds)	Applicant	09/01/26 - 10/31/26
Review of Window #2 Applications (dependent on availability of funds)	HCD	11/01/26 - 01/08/27
Window #2 Awards	HCD	January 2027
Deadline to <b>Expend 50%</b> and <b>Obligate 100%</b> of Award	Grantee	Within 2 years from date of award
Deadline to <b>Expend 100%</b> of Award	Grantee	Within 4 years from date of award



# Application Windows


Application Stage	2026									2027
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Application Window 1										
HCD Review of Window 1 Apps										
Application Window 2										
HCD Review of Window 2 Apps										

Window 1  
Awards  
Anticipated

Window 2  
Awards  
Anticipated



# Eligible Population to Serve




ERF Round 5 funds may only be used for proposals that **connect people experiencing unsheltered homelessness** to either:

- (1) interim shelter with clear pathways to permanent housing **or**
- (2) directly to permanent housing.



# Prioritizing Encampment Sites to Address



Location where multiple individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness have established a place of residence

Ongoing presence and conditions of the site result in sustained or significant impacts to health, safety, public access, or infrastructure.

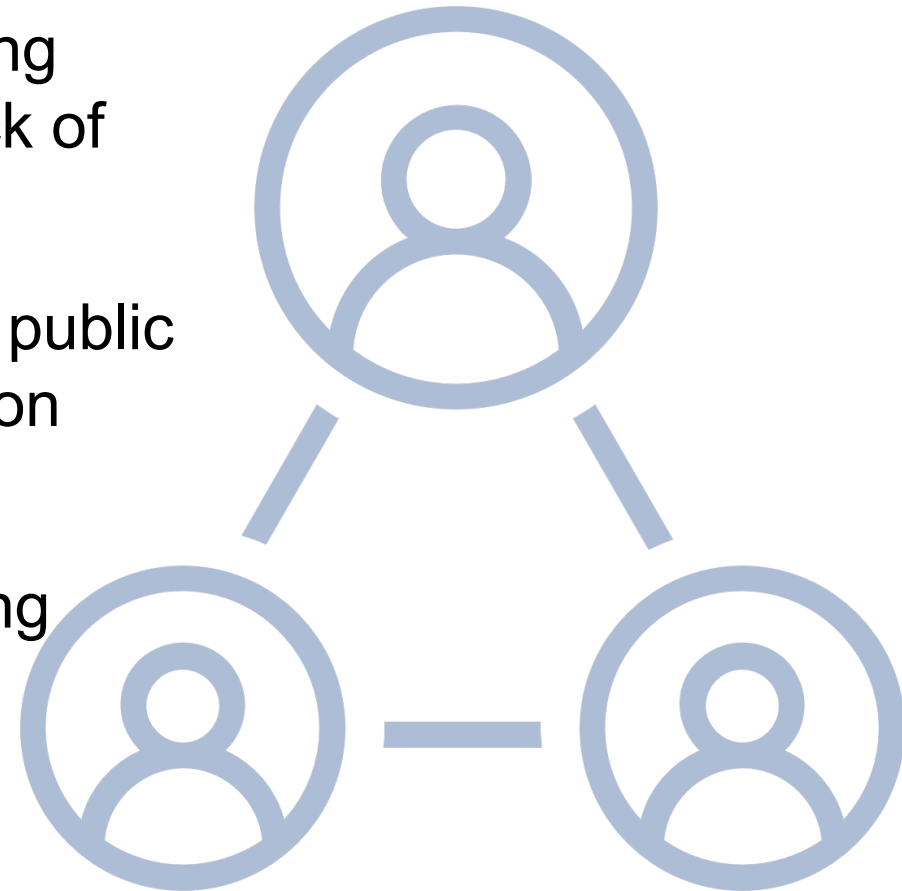
Encampments may exist on public or private land and are typically characterized by the presence of personal belongings, makeshift or semi-permanent structures, and repeated or prolonged habitation.



# Prioritizing Encampment Sites to Address

The defining criteria of an encampment are not based on the number of occupants, but on the degree of *impact* on:

- The individuals residing in the encampment, including exposure to environmental hazards, violence, or lack of access to services and housing;
- The surrounding community, including limitations to public access, increased health and safety risks, or strain on public systems; and
- Critical infrastructure and natural resources, including blocked rights of way, degraded environmental conditions, or damage to public property.





# Prioritizing Encampment Sites to Address

ERF Round 5 is not intended to fund a community-wide encampment resolution program.

Applicants may propose:

- A single encampment, or
- An encampment zone (multiple encampments) if all apply:
  - One shared justification
  - Similar demographics/service needs
  - Same service providers and service package

Separate application required for sites that do not meet all criteria.

## **NEW in ERF Round 5:**

Applicants will be required to provide a Geographic Information System (GIS) Map Layer or similar type of geographic mapping file.





# Relationship to Previous or Exiting Resolution Efforts

ERF Round 5 is not intended to augment a prior ERF award, which was provided a certain dollar amount to accomplish the activities and outcomes described in the awarded proposal.

ERF Round 5 proposals may:

- Leverage or re-use a successful model to address additional encampments and/or accomplish additional (new) outcomes.
- Leverage or build upon existing, local efforts to address encampments.

HCD expects ERF proposals to demonstrate leveraged and/or braided resources to accomplish the proposal's activities and outcomes, including strategies for sustaining housing outcomes beyond the grant term.

ERF is a relatively flexible source of funding that can support a variety of activities across engagement, services, and housing. When proposing activities, outcomes, and uses of ERF funds, it is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate a compelling model and make the case for how each use or proposal component is necessary and will contribute to the proposal's success.



# State and Local Collaboration

Applicants must describe how they intend to collaborate with state and local partners to mitigate risk and address safety concerns while ensuring a pathway for individuals living in encampments to move into safe and stable housing.

CoC applicants must obtain letter(s) of support from the city and/or county where the prioritized encampment is located. The letter(s) of support must:

- Detail the roles and responsibilities of each participating jurisdiction.
- Include a commitment from the jurisdictions to coordinate on any potential abatement activities.



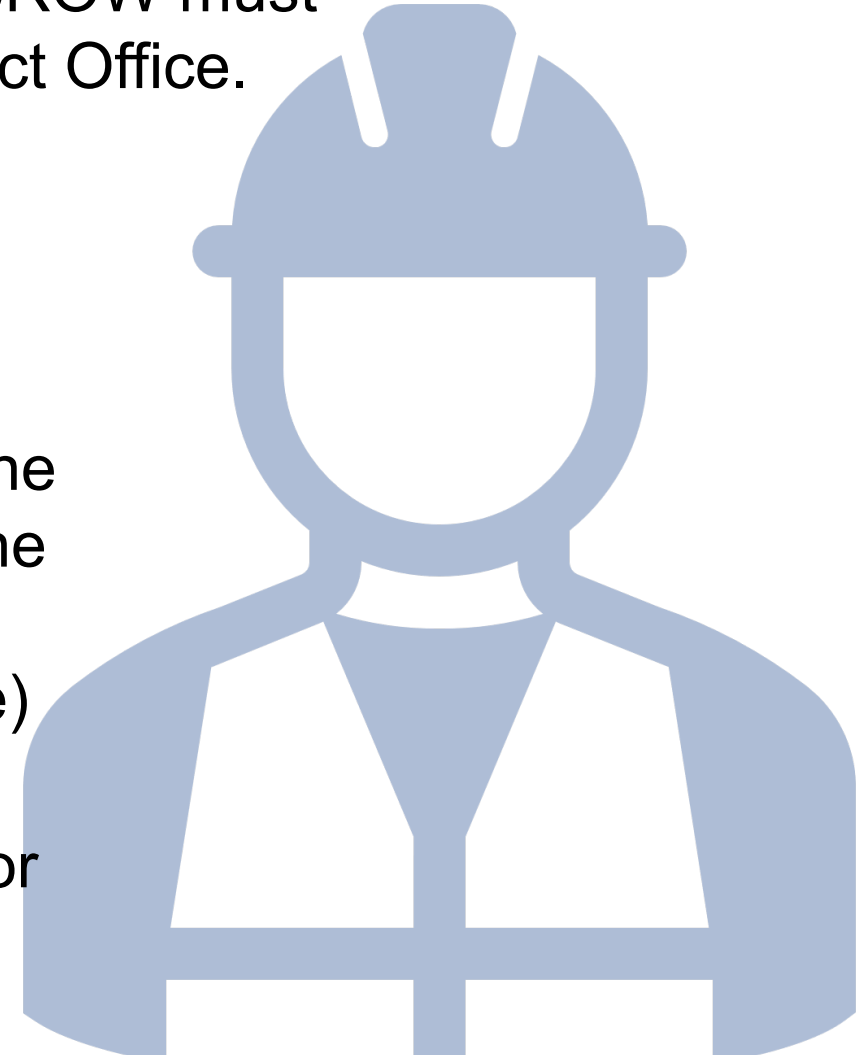


# State and Local Collaboration - Caltrans

Applications proposing to address encampments on a SROW must include a letter of support from their local Caltrans District Office.

The letter must:

- Include a commitment from Caltrans in support of the ERF proposal.
- Include acknowledgement that Caltrans will only take action on that encampment site in collaboration with the grantee, with at least two weeks' notice to HCD and the ERF grantee, unless critical circumstances exist (imminent threat to life, health, safety, or infrastructure) and must be immediately addressed.
- Be signed by the local Caltrans Deputy District Director of Maintenance or their designee.





# Compliance with State Encampment Guidance



## Jurisdictions must demonstrate compliance with Cal ICH encampment guidance

Fully Compliant	Not Fully Compliant
Acceptable documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Policies/ordinances</li><li>– SOPs or staff training</li><li>– Provider contract language</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Must provide timeline to adopt/update policy within 3 months</li><li>– <b>Failure to comply may lead to rescission of award</b></li></ul>

## CoC Applicants must obtain letter(s) of support and demonstrate that the city and/or county where the prioritized encampment is located is compliant with Cal ICH guidance.

Fully Compliant	Not Fully Compliant
Acceptable documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Policies/ordinances</li><li>– SOPs or staff training</li><li>– Provider contract language</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Letter(s) of support must commit to compliance within 3 months</li><li>– <b>Failure to comply may lead to rescission of award</b></li></ul>



# Compliance with AB 130 – Annual Reporting on Homeless Shelter Inspections

Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025 (AB 130), sections 33-36 added HSC sections 17974-17974.6 related to homeless shelter inspection and reporting requirements.

For the purposes of ERF Round 5, grantees and their subcontractors that operate or fund homeless shelters must comply with all inspection, reporting, and corrective action requirements as detailed in HCD's [Information Bulletin 2025-02](#). In accordance with HSC section 17974.5, each city and county must report annually by April 1 to HCD.

- Cities/counties must confirm submission of an annual report to HCD as required by HSC section 17974.5.
- CoC Applicant must confirm the Jurisdictions (cities and/or county) responsible for all applicable interim housing proposed to be funded by this proposal performed an annual inspection and submitted an annual report to HCD as required by HSC section 17974.5.

**Applications from jurisdictions that have not submitted a report will be disqualified.**

For more questions on this policy, review HCD's published FAQ Document [Homeless Shelter Inspection/Reporting Requirements for Local Jurisdictions FAQs](#)





# Compliance with AB 130 – Annual Reporting on Homeless Shelter Inspections

Grantees must restrict ERF Round 5 funding for operations to shelters with unresolved violations as detailed in HSC section 17974.4; however, grantees may still permit the use of state funding if being used to address violations.

HCD may restrict state funding for operations to shelters with unresolved violations.

The AB 130 Homeless Shelter Inspection Report submission portal and dashboard are available on HCD's website:

[Homeless Shelter Inspection Reporting Requirements | California Department of Housing and Community Development](#)



**Applications from jurisdictions that have not submitted a report will be disqualified.**

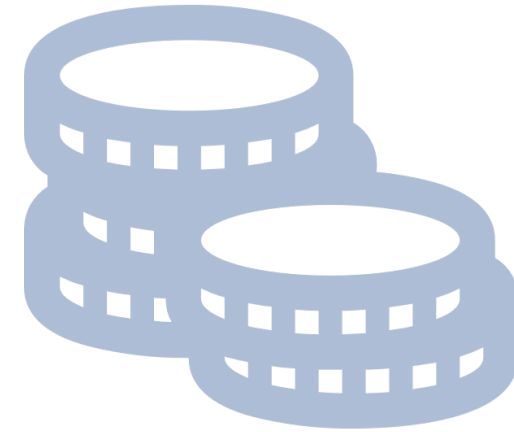


# Eligible Uses

ERF funds must be spent in alignment with program requirements and the approved proposal.

This includes alignment with :

<b>Program requirements</b>	<b>A Grantee's Approved Proposal</b>
Program objective	Model and Outcomes
Eligible Population	Population Identified
Housing First	Model and Activities
Within the Grant Term	Timeline





# Eligible Use Categories

Eligible Use Category	Eligible Uses
<b>Permanent Housing</b>	Delivery of Permanent Housing
	Rapid Rehousing
	Operating Subsidies/Supportive Services – Permanent
<b>Prevention and Diversion</b>	Prevention and Shelter Diversion
<b>Interim Housing</b>	Interim Housing, including Motel/Hotel Vouchers
	Operating Subsidies/Supportive Services - Interim
	Improvements to Existing Emergency Shelters
<b>Non-Housing</b>	Street Outreach
	Services Coordination
<b>Administrative Costs</b>	Systems Support
	Administrative Costs



# Application Structure

The ERF Round 5 application is a questionnaire style survey and has four Sections

## 1. Administrative Information

- Captures key information to facilitate communication between applicants and HCD and verify applicant eligibility

## 2. Proposal Overview

- Outlines foundational elements of the application; encampment being prioritized, people served, compliance with state requirements, outcomes and timeline, and alignment with the program's policy objectives.

## 3. Implementation

- Demonstrates how the applicant will enact the proposal to accomplish the proposed outcomes; service and housing plans, budget and resource plan, and staffing plan for the proposal.

## 4. Certification

- Attest that the information provided is accurate and submit



# Application Review

## Administrative Review

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness of NOFA specifications, including checking that the application was submitted on behalf of an eligible applicant and to ensure deduplication with any previous ERF award. Applications that pass the Administrative Review will proceed to the scoring review.

## Scoring Review

- Section IV.B.2 outlines the application scoring thresholds
- applications must meet the minimum scoring threshold in **every** section
- Awards will be made to the highest scoring applications until all funds are awarded.

Applications that failed to meet any section of the application will not be eligible for award, but those applicants will be invited by HCD to reapply in future rounds.





# Quarterly and Annual/Final Reports

The grantee shall submit **quarterly reports**. Quarterly reports require cumulative updates on award obligations and expenditures, encampment status, and number of people served and housed.

Grantees are also required to submit **annual reports**, including detailed uses of the program funds, and program successes and challenges. Grantees must submit a **final report** in lieu of the last annual report.

Annual and final reports are due every April 1 reporting on cumulative activity throughout the prior calendar year.





# HMIS/HDIS Reporting and Other Information Requests

ERF Round 5 grantees and their subcontractors must report client data into their local Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), and that data must be shared quarterly with the statewide **Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS)**.

- Grantees must ensure proper recording of activities associated with these program funds.
- HCD will provide project setup instructions to grantees, and will host a kick-off to provide technical assistance on setting up ERF projects in HMIS/HDIS.
- HCD will also provide quarterly HMIS/HDIS compliance reports to all ERF grantees, reflecting the HDIS reporting compliance status and all projects found in HDIS.

Grantees may also receive ad hoc requests for information from HCD or its contractors in support of program monitoring, research, and evaluation.



# Application Amendments

Once an application is submitted and approved, grantees may not deviate from their approved application or budget.

If necessary, grantees may submit a Budget Change Request to amend the budget plan, any program activities, and/or the geographic area being served from the approved application. Budget Change Requests must be approved by HCD before it may be implemented.

- After a Budget Change Request is approved, HCD will notify the grantee and post an updated approved application on the ERF website.

If enforcement action is taken or the encampment is otherwise disbursed, the grantee must notify HCD immediately.



# Q & A

## Live

**HCD Encampment Resolution Funding Program Website:**

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/funding/erf>

**Questions:**

[HPDHomelessnessGrants@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:HPDHomelessnessGrants@hcd.ca.gov) with subject line:

“ERF 5R Application”