LHA's Statewide Strategic Framework Priorities

September 9, 2019

The Statewide Strategic Framework (SSF) includes as many as 35 distinct recommendations. (in four key areas: 1) improving system-wide data and planning, 2) enhancing statewide and local partnerships, 3) expanding funding to identify or create additional housing opportunities, 4) ensuring mainstream systems increase their focus on the housing needs of people with IDD) for expanding housing opportunities for people with IDD

LHA's SSF Committee has met several times with the goal of consolidating the many related recommendations into a manageable list of the most important areas for local and statewide advocacy. We are proposing the following four priority areas – two focused on process and data, two on expanding housing finance and programs– with the key outcome being additional housing opportunities for people with IDD.

Convene Stakeholders to Drive Systems Change and Cross-Sector Alignment for Supportive Housing Expansion

- Convene and energize stakeholders across the developmental services, affordable housing and homeless sectors around an inclusive, empowering supportive housing vision for people with IDD
- Advocate to align resources from California's development services, affordable housing and homeless sectors around proven, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)-compliant supportive housing strategies and models
- Secure resources for internal LHA capacity, professional advocacy and public relations
- Identify champions in the State Assembly and Senate Budget Committees to spearhead legislation

Collect and Share Housing Data to Drive Resource Allocation for Supportive Housing Expansion

- Advocate for the developmental services system to assess individual housing situations, needs and preferences, to forecast immediate and longer-term aggregate housing need, and to share aggregate housing needs data with developmental services system stakeholders and key stakeholders in the mainstream affordable housing and homeless sectors

Secure New Funding to Meet Affordable and Supportive Housing Needs of People with IDD

- Advocate for increased, sustainable Community Resource Development Program funding from the Dept. of Developmental Services, to be used for: (i) for set aside of units in Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments, and (ii) for non-LIHTC supportive housing models including but not limited to preservation and/or conversion of HCBS-compliant group homes, smaller multifamily projects, ADU's, etc.
- Analyze viable options for a permanent, dedicated funding source, including but not limited to potential funding related to the developmental center closure savings or land disposition revenue, other reallocated system funds, a bond measure, etc. to fund capital and operating costs for supportive housing for people with IDD.

Promote Individual and Local Housing Outcomes through Housing Access Services to Identify Housing Opportunities for People with IDD

- Sustainably fund Housing Access Services per CMS guidance, including (i) system-level work to forge cross-sector partnerships and ensure access to existing housing resources through the mainstream affordable housing and homeless sectors at the local level, and (ii) one-on-one Housing Access Services including landlord engagement, housing navigation and relocation assistance, rent administration, and ongoing tenancy support services through funding from the development service system's regional centers.
- Pilot a rent subsidy program, including both project-based operating subsidies and portable vouchers, to expand housing opportunities for people with IDD.