

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care for Homelessness

2019 Legislative Priorities

SB 471, & 2 budget bills: SB 474, HB 1554

Add \$15.7 million to the base budget to provide a stable and secure funding source for proven-effective homelessness programs. (\$14 M to DHS for homeless programs; \$200,000 to DOH for LEAD (neighbor islands); \$1.5 M to HPHA for Long Term Rental Assistance for Kupuna)

In 2018, the legislature appropriated \$30 million for Ohana Zones and an additional \$13.5 million for the proven-effective programs below. For 2019, Partners in Care is requesting that \$14.2 million be placed into the base-budget to provide funding stability for these necessary, core anti-homelessness programs.

Outreach – connects people experiencing homelessness with the resources they need to escape it.

Rapid Rehousing – helps individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing, rental stipends, assistance in finding housing, and case management services.

Housing First – provides housing and wrap around services to Hawai'i's chronically homeless population—people who typically consume high levels of costly emergency services—generating a net savings of \$28,000 per client per year.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) – grants police officers the discretion to redirect low-level offenders to case managers rather than arresting them, breaking the ineffective and expensive revolving cycle of arrest, incarceration, release, and back to addiction and the streets. (Department of Health (DOH) program)

Family Assessment Centers – quickly connect homeless families with critical resources (in its first year, the Kakaako FAC housed 91% or 54 of the homeless families it served within 81 days, with 100% of those families remaining housed).

Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI) – provides a one-time cash infusion for people on the cusp of homelessness, credited as playing a significant role in a 25% reduction in evictions on Oahu in 2017.

Appropriate \$1.5 million for a new pilot programs to fill a critical service gaps.

Long-Term Rental Assistance for Kupuna (\$1.5m) – provides rental assistance of up to \$1,000 per month, so kupuna on fixed-incomes who are unable to cope with increasing rents pay 50% of their income toward rent. **(Stand-Alone: SB 1031)**

HB 1312

Appropriate \$200 million each year of the biennium, for low-income housing, with \$75 million going toward Permanent Supportive Housing.

The 2018 legislature boldly appropriated \$200 million for low-income housing, which must become a new baseline if we are going to gain ground on the housing crisis.

Seventy-four percent of housing demand is for Hawai'i households making under \$75,000 a year. Investing \$200 million per year in the Rental Housing Revolving Fund will help build the housing Hawai'i's residents need.

It costs significantly less to provide people experiencing chronic homelessness with permanent housing and treatment than it does to treat them on the street. **By investing \$75 million a year for ten years, we can housing all 1,700 people experiencing chronic homelessness in Hawai'i while saving over \$2 billion in medical and other costs.**

SB 567; SB 1051; SB 1124; SB 1464; SB 1465

Improve the Assisted Community Treatment Act to better assist people with severe mental illness.

Some people experiencing psychosis are unable to make informed decisions regarding treatment, unresponsive to homelessness interventions, cycling in and out of hospitals and jails, and posing a threat to their own health. PIC supports changes that will make the 2013 Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) Act more effective by, for example, creating a team of experienced professionals to handle ACT cases.