

About the California Department of Housing and Community Development

Our Mission: Provide leadership, policies, and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) works to achieve its mission by:

Increasing the Supply of Affordable Places to Live in California—By administering programs that provide grants and loans from both state and federal housing programs, HCD creates rental and homeownership opportunities for Californians from all walks of life, including veterans, seniors, young families starting out, people with disabilities, farmworkers, and individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and trying to get back on their feet.

Preserving Affordable Homes and Protecting Public Investment—Through asset management and compliance, HCD monitors affordable developments that use HCD funding to ensure they remain affordable for 35-55 years and comply with the requirements of each funding program. When they don't, HCD intervenes, always with the goal of preserving affordable homes.

Protecting Mobilehome and Manufactured Home Owners—Similar to the way California's Department of Motor Vehicles manages titling and registration for automobiles, HCD manages the titling and registration for mobilehomes. HCD also protects families and individuals who live in mobilehome parks by inspecting the parks in areas where the local government chooses not to, and enforcing regulations for those who build and sell manufactured homes.

Guarding Health and Safety of All Californians through Building Standards and Code Enforcement—HCD protects the health and safety of Californians by enforcing standards for housing construction and maintenance. HCD also proposes general building standards for construction to the California Building Standards Commission and trains local government inspectors who inspect for health and safety code violations. HCD creates specialized standards for CALGreen, the nation's first mandated green-building code and universal design, which ensures housing is accessible to all, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Ensuring California Plans for the Range of Housing That Meets Varied Needs of Californians—As a basic human need, housing is one of the most important parts of any community and the way we plan for housing has wide-reaching impacts on the environment, education, health, and the economy. HCD plays a critical role in the housing-planning process, which was designed to ensure that communities plan for housing that meets the needs of everyone in California's diverse communities. HCD works with each of the 539 regions to determine their housing needs, and reviews each city or county's housing plan (also known as the "housing element" — part of each city or county's "general plan") to determine whether or not their housing plan complies with state law.

Creating Effective Solutions to the Housing Crisis through Policy and Research—HCD develops policies that support housing and community development and conducts research and analysis of California's housing markets and needs. HCD produces California's statewide housing assessment, required by state law; California's consolidated plan, required for California to receive millions of federal dollars for housing and community development; and other special reports.