Homekey+ Program
Equity Statement Guidance

The Homekey+ Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Section 300 (viii) requires that Homekey+ applications include a statement that addresses how the proposed Project will address disparities in groups overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in its jurisdiction and region.

NOFA Section 300 (viii.) reads:

"Applications shall provide a statement how the Project will address equity that must answer the following question: What specific actions will the Applicant take to ensure equitable access to housing and services for groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness in its jurisdiction and region? Examples of what applicants should consider include race, ethnicity, age (e.g. youth, elderly), disability status, LGBTQ+ status, etc. The response shall reference the latest Continuum of Care (CoC) Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) demographics data to explain."

Please use this document as guidance to prepare and submit a statement that fulfills this threshold requirement with your Homekey+ application.

The Equity statement must include:

Project Name:
Project Address:
Eligible Applicant:

The document should also include how the Applicant will address equity and ensure equitable access to housing for groups that are overrepresented in homelessness, in program outcomes at each stage of the Homekey+ Project design and development. Include which project features have been tailored to local needs and cite the latest Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Point in Time demographic data or any other relevant data source to explain. It should clearly identify what obstacles can and cannot be addressed through the Project. Please identify where the Project approach follows evidence-based research and integration of best practices.

The following guiding questions are suggested to prompt the development of the required Equity Statement:

- How does the Project methodically analyze the community's racial and ethnic demographics, the demographics of those within the homeless response system, and the system outcomes based on race, gender, ethnicity, age, and other demographics?

- How does the Applicant address the systemic barriers, policies, programs, and decisions of the applicant (or CoC) that influence disparate outcomes?

- How does the Applicant address the policies, programs, and decisions of the service provider(s) that have led to race, gender, ethnicity, age or other disparate outcomes?

- In what ways does the Applicant consider how the voices of all members of the community, especially those often underrepresented, such as Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native and Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ groups, and those with lived experience of homelessness have/have not been centered in a meaningful and sustained way in systems design? How can these voices be centered?

- In what ways does the Applicant provide specific, detailed, and time-bound actions that they will take to address each of the systemic barriers to housing opportunity?

- How does the Applicant partner or plan to partner with organizations that are addressing equity in the housing and homelessness response system?

- How will the Applicant ensure that racial, gender, age, ethnic and other disparities are addressed with this funding?

Other Resources:

- The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) has identified equity resources to support communities in this work. Please see this link to their website.

- Targeted Universalism Framework is a concept used to determine how to effectively address barriers that impact homeless individuals and focuses on creating specific solutions as it relates to each demographic area. This model understands that each community has its own set of barriers that can't be addressed with the same tools.