



HEALTH FUNDERS *for* HOUSING JUSTICE

Welcome to the quarterly digest of **Health Funders for Housing Justice**, a network of Funders Together to End Homelessness representing the intersection of healthcare and housing justice. With questions and suggestions for future editions, [email Michael Durham](#).



Health and Housing Spotlight



California
COMMUNITY
Foundation

When public funding sources prove insufficient in relation to the problem, it is sometimes a matter of leveraging other sources. This is the case for how California has utilized its 1115 waiver to innovate how Medi-Cal (California Medicaid) can serve people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. Through CalAIM, changes to Medicaid now permit organizations to bill Medicaid through contracts with managed care organizations for services historically outside the purview of health insurance. In particular, newly eligible (though optional) services for people without homes include sobering centers, medical respite/recuperative care, and housing deposits, among others.

To support homeless services nonprofits to prepare for the sea change of Medicaid billing, [California Community Foundation](#) convened a cohort of agencies to explore their readiness with peer learning and technical assistance. This process has elevated the education gap in both directions: non-healthcare nonprofits lack the infrastructure and familiarity to bill MCOs, and healthcare agencies, now able to bill for wraparound supports, lack knowledge of the homelessness sector, like coordinated entry.

Questions for Funders:

- What is the appropriate role of private philanthropy in leveraging newly available public dollars?
- How can California foundations continue to support nonprofits to adapt to CalAIM?
- As other states model their Medicaid waivers off California, from what shortcomings can they learn?



Imagination Corner

BEYOND DO NO HARM

13 Principles for Health Care Providers to Interrupt Criminalization

We invest billions into so-called public safety nets, but they often fall short of transformational change and can be the more expensive approach. Healthcare and homelessness systems are no different, focusing almost entirely on crisis response over preventive care. In this new quarterly newsletter, we'll uplift encouraging work from our field, including crisis response (because that's still needed), but in this section, we'll imagine something more.

One characteristic of a liberated world we might envision is that people at the sharpest intersections of oppression no longer face criminalization for their existence, especially people without homes, people who use drugs, Black people, sex workers, people with disabilities, and trans and nonbinary people. Enter the visionary work of [Interrupting Criminalization](#) (IC), founded by [PIC abolitionists](#) Mariame Kaba and Andrea Ritchie. IC promotes policy ideas that get to the root of our discontents, like violence and carcerality.

IC recently embarked on a project to disrupt carceral ethics in the healthcare industry, convening healthcare stakeholders to delineate 13 principles in Beyond Do No Harm. As funders working at the intersection of healthcare and housing, ultimately working on behalf of people experiencing homelessness, how might we embed these principles into our visions for housing justice?

→ [Read the 13 principles of Beyond Do No Harm.](#)



Recent Resources

September 26 Partner Webinar: [Promoting Holistic Care for Homeless Populations](#): A conversation exploring narratives around homelessness and health | Housing Narrative Lab

[Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing](#)

[Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in US Cities](#) | 2023 → This peer-reviewed research demonstrates the adverse health consequences of sweeping encampments.

[Learning Brief: Data-Sharing Between Homelessness and Health Systems](#) | September 2023 → Supported by member [CommonSpirit Health](#) and featuring fellow member [Kaiser Permanente](#), this brief from Community Solutions describes promising strategies for data-sharing agreements between continuums of care and health systems.

[Serving Our Vulnerable Populations: Los Angeles County Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care](#) | August 2023 → Funded by [Cedars-Sinai](#) and [California Community Foundation](#), this report is a first-of-its kind analysis of the landscape of ARFs and RCFEs and the most comprehensive study to date on the range of existing facilities in LA County, current vacancy rates, percentage of residents who have experienced homelessness, and a deep dive into the unique needs of residents, facility owners, and operators.

[Early Impact Evaluation of the Flexible Housing Pool of Chicago and Cook County](#) | January 2023 → Funded in part by Health Funders for Housing Justice member [Polk Bros Foundation](#), this reports on an evaluation of a Flexible Housing Pool implemented during the pandemic, which demonstrated profound benefits, including a 30% lower mortality rate.

[Building on CalAIM's Housing Supports: Strengthening Medi-Cal for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) | August 2023 → [California Health Care Foundation](#) funded this CSH report that describes how changes to Medi-Cal billable services have improved care for people without homes with recommendations for additional adaptations.

[Strengthening Homeless Outreach through Medically Focused Care](#) | June 2023 → National partner Community Solutions produced this learning brief to describe the role of medical outreach (aka street medicine) within continuums of care.

[Embracing Creative Tensions to Advance Health Equity](#) | June 2023 → Highlighting Health Funders for Housing Justice member Kaiser Permanente, this Health Affairs article employs a both/and principle to contradictions in healthcare advocacy, which offers key insight into how we pursue our collective work.



In the News

[Housing instability leads to health tradeoffs, UCLA study says](#)

Spectrum News | May 4, 2023

[Transforming the lives of people experiencing homelessness](#)

Kaiser Permanente | May 3, 2023

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