



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Adam Bink, (716) 725-4569, abink@spitfirestrategies.com

In response to Governor Newsom's May Revise, Housing California Executive Director Lisa Hershey issued the following statement:

"Governor Gavin Newsom's *\$100 billion California Comeback Plan* aligns strongly with Housing California's belief that this is our moment to think, act, and do business differently—to re-imagine our California where everyone thrives. This May Revise spotlights our opportunity to lead with equity and invest deeply in transformational change that will result in generational benefits for our neighbors struggling the most while creating more climate resilient, thriving communities that benefit everyone.

"A \$75 billion surplus—an effect of the glaring and growing wealth gap in California and larger than the entire budget of every state but Florida, New York and Texas—is shocking. Not in its size, but in the fact that it comes from a state with a rate of homelessness that dwarfs that of every other state. In the world's fifth largest economy, California's leaders can and must do big things—starting with solving homelessness. We are pleased to see that the Governor's May Revise makes the down payment to begin this critical journey together, as laid out in the recently launched [Roadmap Home 2030](#). And we encourage lawmakers and the administration to continue to partner with us and embrace this audacious, yet evidence-based, equity-centered 10-year plan that will take us on a path towards achieving the California Dream of homes, health, and economic wellbeing in thriving, sustainable communities for all Californians.

"That path requires funding to match the scale of the need, like the historic housing and homelessness proposals Governor Newsom announced today—more than \$9 billion for affordable housing this year and \$12 billion for homelessness over two years. These investments include \$3.5 billion for Homekey, \$1.75 billion to move shovel-ready affordable housing developments forward, and a \$500 million expansion of state low-income housing tax credits, plus billions of dollars from the federal government to help both renters and landlords by covering all COVID-related unpaid rent.

"To solve homelessness and create affordable homes for all our neighbors struggling to make ends meet, California needs sustainable, annual funding. We agree with Governor Newsom that tackling homelessness requires a holistic approach, and we encourage him to embrace Assembly Bill 71 (L. Rivas), the 'Bring California Home Act.' AB 71 is the kind of solution at scale that the Roadmap Home envisions and that our state needs. It addresses all the goals the Governor put forward in the May Revise through a single streamlined program that can meet the diverse needs of families and all people experiencing homelessness.

"Lastly, as the Governor noted, funding must be dedicated to proven policy solutions that prioritize a *housing first* approach, like Homekey, permanently affordable housing, and rental assistance. Much like the housing in our state, Californians can no longer afford temporary solutions that patch over the suffering of our unhoused neighbors, the majority of whom are Black and brown Californians, without addressing root causes of housing insecurity and homelessness.

"Governor Newsom's unprecedented commitment to addressing what Californians repeatedly name as their #1 issue is unparalleled. With this commitment, homes, health, and economic wellbeing for all in thriving communities is within reach—and with a \$75 billion surplus plus \$25 billion in federal support, now is the time to reach for it. We look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature towards creating a budget that connects the dots, invests in transformational change, and achieves the California Dream for generations to come."