

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regarding the Final State Budget, Housing California Executive Director Lisa Hershey issued the following statement:

Facing unprecedented challenges with a pandemic, historic unemployment, and a severe housing shortage, Californians struggling to keep a roof over their heads have looked to state leadership for bold solutions and immediate relief. Today, we applaud Governor Newsom and the Legislature for meeting this moment and delivering a final state budget that commits a remarkable \$12 billion to creating affordable homes and tackling homelessness, while also providing significant funding to help those struggling the most to stay housed.

Leveraging the current \$75 billion surplus, California matched its investment to the scale of the need by providing a multi-year investment in homelessness, including an unprecedented \$1 billion in annual permanent funding for local jurisdictions and continuums of care. By also augmenting the success of Homekey with an additional \$2.75 billion over the next two years and investing over \$4 billion to various programs at the Department of Social Services with the goal of ending family homelessness, California is poised to make transformative strides toward combating homelessness. These commitments reflect actions that homelessness advocates have been demanding for years.

Housing California is also pleased to see this budget address a top concern for Californians through a robust investment in affordable housing production and preservation, including:

- \$500 million Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) expansion
- \$1.75 billion for backlogged projects
- \$500 million for foreclosure intervention
- \$80 million for legal aid for tenants and homeowners to prevent eviction and foreclosure
- \$300 million for the preservation of existing affordable housing

These historic investments, combined with the extension of eviction protections through September, will get California on the path towards meeting the vision and goals of the <u>Roadmap Home 2030</u> -- to create affordable homes for all struggling Californians, keep renters from losing their homes, end homelessness, and close racial equity gaps in housing and homelessness.

We are grateful to the Bring CA Home coalition, led by Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-Arleta), our Residents United Network, and our multi-sector partners who have stood with us as strong allies and champions in our aim to end the cycle of homelessness and support thousands of our families, neighbors, and community members who have lost their homes and have needed a viable path to stable housing. Our thanks goes to the co-authors of AB 71, including Assemblymembers Chiu, Bloom, Carrillo, Gonzalez, Wicks, Kalra, and Lee and all of our legislative champions who are advancing policy solutions to ensure all Californians have a stable, affordable place to call home.

We look forward to working with the Governor's Office and the Legislature on implementing these essential programs in an equitable manner while ensuring accountability at all levels so we maximize the benefits of this historic investment and realize a better future for all community members throughout our state.