



June 22, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Homelessness Funding Accountability

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the AT HOME Coalition for Accountability, our organizations write to advocate for the adoption of budget trailer bill language (TBL) that enacts clear accountability, collaboration, and responsibilities for sustainable homelessness funding. Our diverse coalition made up of local governments, non-profit organizations, and business associations has come together to support achieving those goals through the adoption of the AT HOME plan, developed under the leadership of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). We are grateful for your leadership in supporting additional homelessness investments and an accountability framework in this year's state budget and want to highlight the relevant provisions of the AT HOME plan for your consideration as agreements are reached on the Budget Act and associated trailer bills.

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals in California. The AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) includes a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. The policy recommendations contained in the Accountability pillar form the core elements of a proposed comprehensive homelessness system with clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government. Our coalition is urging the adoption of these provisions as the Accountability framework for the budget trailer bill that is currently being negotiated.

CSAC has drafted language for the Accountability pillar and has shared with appropriate staff within the Administration and the Legislature. The core elements of the Accountability pillar include:

- Requiring local collaboration and submission of one countywide or regional homelessness plan.
- Requiring counties and cities to agree to a defined set of roles and responsibilities as a condition of receiving HHAP funding.
- Enacting strong accountability mechanisms including a corrective action plan.
- Providing ongoing HHAP funding to support the required plan.
- Establishing a three-year grant cycle to allow for multi-year outcomes and consistent funding levels.
- Funding the required plan through a fiscal agent that must be a county or city as they are accountable to constituents and have unique authority to site required infrastructure.
- Utilizing the required plan to determine allocations from the fiscal agent to subrecipients commensurate with their roles and responsibilities in the plan.
- Maintaining maximum local flexibility for use of HHAP funding consistent with the required plan.

True progress on homelessness can only be achieved when it is clear who is responsible for what, and when sustainable funding and accountability provisions are aligned with those defined responsibilities. That is what can be accomplished with the Accountability pillar of the AT HOME plan. The AT HOME Coalition for Accountability respectfully asks for your consideration. We look forward to a continued partnership on this urgent humanitarian issue.

Respectfully,

California State Association of Counties
Alliance for Community Transformations
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
Association of California Healthcare Districts
California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservators
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Church IMPACT
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Downtown Association
California Park and Recreation Society
California Public Defenders Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Sheriffs Association
Chief Probation Officers of California
Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce
Community Action, Service, and Advocacy
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Downtown San Diego Partnership
East Bay Leadership Council

Eastern Sierra Continuum of Care
Economic Roundtable
Latino Caucus of California Counties
NFIB California
PATH
Pathways to Housing
Public Health Advocates
Rural County Representatives of California
Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce
Safe Family Justice Centers
San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce
San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Small Business Majority
Urban Counties of California
Yosemite Conservancy
Alameda County
Alpine County
Colusa County
Contra Costa County
Del Norte County
Fresno County
Inyo County
Lake County
Madera County
Marin County
Mariposa County
Merced County
Modoc County
Mono County
Monterey County
Nevada County
Orange County
Placer County
Riverside County
Sacramento County
San Benito County
San Diego County
San Luis Obispo County
Santa Barbara County
Santa Clara County
Santa Cruz County
Shasta County
Siskiyou County
Solano County
Stanislaus County
Tuolumne County

Ventura County
Yolo County
Yuba County

cc: Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Steve Padilla, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4
Wendy Carrillo, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency