



A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS



AT HOME Budget and Legislative Update

The AT HOME (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) plan continues to guide CSAC's advocacy efforts to address California's homelessness crisis. Counties continue to advocate for ongoing, sustainable funding to support a comprehensive homelessness response system. CSAC has been engaging on and supporting various policy proposals that align with the AT HOME plan, including legislation that streamlines supportive housing and services, supports behavioral health services, and removes barriers to cross-agency collaboration. Additionally, CSAC strongly opposes cuts to essential safety net services that play a key role in preventing vulnerable Californians from falling deeper into poverty.

The following budget and legislative priorities align with the AT HOME plan:

AT HOME Budget Priorities:

Ongoing Funding for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program: The top homelessness funding priority is ongoing funding for the HHAP program at a level of at least \$1 billion per year, which will allow counties to continue successful programs and make long-term investments. CSAC requests that the county-by-county methodology for HHAP allocations be adjusted to not be solely based on the most recent point-in-time (PIT) count, in order to ensure counties that are successfully reducing the number of unhoused can sustain those investments.

Oppose Governor's Proposed Cuts to Safety Net Services: CSAC opposes cuts to safety net services that will result in more individuals and families falling further into poverty and at risk of homelessness.

- **CalWORKs:** The Governor's Budget proposes over \$400 million in cuts to CalWORKs services, including to crisis case management and employment services.
- **Family Urgent Response System (FURS) Elimination:** The Governor's Budget proposes to eliminate the FURS program, which provides foster youth and their caregivers with the immediate support they need during times of crisis and links them to supports and services to help stabilize the situation.
- **Proposed Elimination of Housing Supports for Foster Youth:** The Governor's Budget proposes to eliminate the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) and halt implementation of the Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILP) payment housing supplement. These programs help current and former foster youth secure and maintain housing.

Oppose Governor's Proposed \$1.2 billion Reduction for Housing Programs: The Governor's Budget proposes \$1.2 billion in funding reductions for various housing programs that promote affordable housing development and help keep low and very-low-income Californians housed.

AT HOME Legislative Update

SB 1032 (Padilla): The Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) administers several legacy loan programs authorized by the Legislature in the 1980s and 1990s to preserve existing affordable housing across the state. While the intention was that housing entities could use excess future cash flows to pay down the principal on these loans, these affordable housing units seldom experience excess cash flows due to the rent affordability restrictions required by the loan program. SB 1032, sponsored by CSAC, will give HCD the authority to forgive these specific legacy loans. In a high number of cases, housing agencies that would benefit from loan forgiveness serve as the main affordable housing providers in their regions. Without loan forgiveness, these housing agencies will default on these loans, risking closure of affordable housing sites.

AB 1657 (Wicks): Also known as the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, this measure would authorize \$10 billion in State General Obligation bonds to fund affordable rental housing and homeownership programs, if approved by voters. CSAC supports AB 1657.

AB 1948 (Rendon): This measure, which is sponsored by the County of Los Angeles, deletes the January 1, 2025 sunset date on current statute that gives seven counties the authority to exchange personal information of individuals at risk of experiencing homelessness for the purposes of service delivery and prevention through Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams (MDTs), and expands that authority to the County of San Mateo. These MDTs play a critical tool to participating counties to support those at risk of homelessness and prevent additional Californians from becoming unhoused. CSAC supports AB 1948.

AB 2502 (L. Rivas): This proposal would broaden the definition of an emergency as defined in the Public Contract Code to enable local governments more options to expedite the construction of homeless housing by forgoing the typical competitive bidding processes. CSAC supports AB 2502.

SB 1361 (Blakespear): This bill would create a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for actions taken by a local agency to approve a contract for providing services for people experiencing homelessness. Under current law, actions taken by a local agency to site and permit low barrier navigation centers are not subject to CEQA, but the action of executive contracts to provide services are not explicitly exempt from CEQA. CSAC supports SB 1361.

SB 1395 (Becker): Amongst other provisions, this bill expands the existing CEQA exemption for specific types of shelters to include action taken by a county that have declared a shelter crisis to approve a contract to provide services for people experiencing homelessness to a homeless shelter constructed pursuant to these provisions. Also, it revises the definition of “Low Barrier Navigation Center” by specifying that a Low Barrier Navigation Center may be non-congregate and relocatable. CSAC supports SB 1395.

SB 1397 (Eggman): This bill establishes a mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recoup reimbursement from commercial plans for privately insured clients referred to services through Full Service Partnerships (FSPs), which provide comprehensive, intensive, community-based services and case management to those facing severe mental health conditions and play a critical role in preventing long-term institutionalization. SB 1397 will reduce fiscal strain on limited county resources and ensure county behavioral health departments can provide critical lifesaving services to those most vulnerable to institutionalization and homelessness. CSAC supports SB 1397.