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May 16, 2024

The Honorable Steve Padilla  
Chair, Senate Budget Sub #4  
1021 O Street, Suite 6640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget Sub #3  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub #5  
1021 O Street, Suite 4210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Corey Jackson  
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub #2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber  
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub #1  
1021 O Street, Suite 4130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: May Revision Homelessness Proposals**

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Menjivar, Assembly Member Quirk-Silva, Assembly Member Jackson, and Assembly Member Weber:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to share our significant concerns with the proposed funding cuts to homelessness programs in the Governor’s May Revision. Counties remain on the frontlines of responding to the homelessness crisis, which is the top issue facing our communities. CSAC respectfully requests that the Legislature continues to prioritize those key programs that are supporting our collective efforts to reduce homelessness and help individuals and families obtain safe and permanent housing.

Specifically, CSAC is opposed to the following homelessness program funding cuts, including ones carried over from the January Budget.

- \$260 million cut for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program
- \$80 million cut for the Bringing Families Home Program
- \$65 million cut for the Home Safe Program
- \$50 million cut for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program
- \$18.8 million cut for the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Supplement
- \$13.7 million cut for the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program
- \$450.7 million cut for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)
- \$340 million cut for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program

### HHAP Program

For the HHAP program, the \$260 million in Round 5 supplemental funding that is proposed to be eliminated was originally slated to be bonus funding within the overall \$1 billion total for earlier HHAP rounds. This funding cut and failure to provide ongoing funding will have devastating impacts on local homelessness response efforts. HHAP funding is the key to making local programs and services come together. The flexible nature of the program allows it to fund a broad range of homelessness prevention and response programs. Many of these efforts are not able to be replaced with new or existing funding streams that can only be used for certain populations.

While recognizing the difficult budget situation, CSAC also recognizes that addressing homelessness is one of the state's top priorities and should continue to be prioritized as such in the state budget with a Round 6 of HHAP funding. Failure to provide a Round 6 of funding is essentially a cut to this program at a time when new accountability measures are just going into place and all counties have spent six months collaborating with cities, continuums of cares, and other local partners to complete regionally coordinated homelessness action plans. These plans can guide successful local homelessness efforts for several years if appropriately funded. With the proposed funding cut and no new or ongoing funding, counties will have to cut housing, services, and supports for thousands of clients who are utilizing services and rental supports to stay housed. In addition, the acquisition of additional permanent housing will be delayed and grow more expensive.

### Social Services Homelessness Programs

The numerous social services homelessness programs are effective at preventing homelessness, maintaining housing, and securing permanent housing for the state's most vulnerable populations. The proposed cuts will make it more difficult for foster youth, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to stay housed and find permanent housing.

Older adults are experiencing one of the fastest growth rates of homelessness. The Home Safe Program provides critical case management and housing assistance to help those most vulnerable older adults involved with Adult Protective Services. A critical component of successful child welfare and foster care efforts is safe and secure housing. The Bringing Families Home Program provides upfront services to stabilize housing for those at risk of entering foster care. For those foster youth transitioning into independence, the SILP supplement and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program can help youth secure housing at a crucial juncture in their lives and reduce the likelihood of experiencing homelessness later in adulthood.

### Behavioral Health Homelessness Programs

The behavioral health programs address a range of needs for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The BHBH program provides critical funding to address the immediate housing and treatment needs of individuals with serious behavioral health conditions who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. BHCIP supports the addition of new inpatient and residential facility sites. The proposed cuts present challenges to maximizing the potential impacts of these programs that serve some of our most vulnerable individuals.

### Conclusion

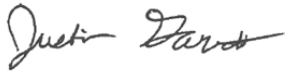
CSAC remains committed to the AT HOME Plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) that outlines the development of a comprehensive homelessness

response system. Along with the accountability, prevention, and housing policies outlined by that plan, maintaining state funding commitments for homelessness programs is necessary for success. Taken together, the May Revision proposes to cut nearly \$1.3 billion from existing flexible homelessness, social services homelessness programs, and behavioral health homelessness programs. These cuts will reduce the housing and services that vulnerable Californians rely on and will chip away at years of progress in establishing an effective homelessness response system.

While the state's homelessness funding programs are successfully transitioning individuals into permanent housing, the inflow into homelessness continues to outpace our collective efforts. Now is not the time to pull back on our collective commitment to these programs, but rather to maintain and strengthen our investments.

Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or [jgarrett@counties.org](mailto:jgarrett@counties.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett  
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1  
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Tim Griffiths, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Scott Ogus, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Christian Griffith, Assembly Budget Committee  
Genevieve Morales, Assembly Budget Committee  
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Committee  
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office  
Misa Lennox, Office of the Senate President Pro Tem  
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tem  
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tem  
Katie Kolitsos, Office of the Assembly Speaker  
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Assembly Speaker  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Office of the Assembly Speaker  
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ryan Miller, Legislative Analyst's Office

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency  
Kim Johnson, Director, California Department of Social Services  
Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services  
Teresa Calvert, Department of Finance  
Kris Cook, Department of Finance  
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