

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Chistopher Cabaldon, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
1020 N Street, Suite 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Homelessness Trailer Bill Language**

Dear Chair Cabaldon and Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your steadfast commitment and leadership to address our state's homelessness crisis. On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I am writing to share recommendations related to a potential homelessness budget trailer bill.

There are two critical elements that are needed in this legislation in order to sustain and build upon the progress we are collectively achieving in reducing homelessness in California.

1. Distribute the \$500 million for Round 7 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program as quickly as possible in the 2026-27 budget year with minimal administrative barriers.
2. Take initial steps to establish a comprehensive homelessness response system, which includes clearly defined roles for all levels of government (state, counties, and cities), accountability, and funding.

Both elements are especially important given the challenges over the coming year with no funding for the HHAP program in this year's budget, drastic cuts at the federal level to safety net programs that counties administer, and significant cuts and threats to federal housing and homelessness funding.

**HHAP Round 7 Implementing Language**

CSAC recently joined a [coalition letter](#) outlining priorities for trailer bill language that would implement Round 7 of the HHAP program. Consistent with those key principles, it is vital

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**CSAC Officers**

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Inyo County

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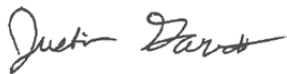
that the \$500 million provided for Round 7 as outlined by SB 131 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025) be distributed in a manner that allows for homelessness and housing services to be minimally disrupted and maintained to the maximum extent possible. The funding for HHAP Round 7 should be distributed within 60 days of enactment of the 2026 Budget Act. Further, the applications should be kept simple with no requirements added beyond what is required in statute unlike what occurred with Round 6 applications. Finally, there must be pathways established for counties to show progress on meeting the new requirements outlined in SB 131 to ensure there are no delays in this funding being distributed.

### **Defined Roles and Responsibilities**

Earlier this year, CSAC unveiled the [AT HOME Pilot Program](#) which addresses the two fundamental barriers to making further progress on homelessness – (1) the lack of clearly defined responsibilities for each level of government (state, county, city) and (2) the state’s unreliable, one-year-at-a-time funding approach. For a potential homelessness trailer bill, CSAC proposes establishing a process that would lead to the development of recommendations for the creation of a comprehensive homelessness system in our state. This system would include clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all levels of government, accountability, and sufficient and ongoing funding. The process should involve key stakeholders from the state, counties, cities, continuums of care, individuals with lived experience, and other partners. CSAC looks forward to engaging on how best to structure such a process within consideration of existing resources and existing entities, such as the California Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. It’s critical that homelessness legislation advances progress on what is needed to truly change the tide in our state’s struggle. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or [jgarrett@counties.org](mailto:jgarrett@counties.org).

Sincerely,



Justin Garrett  
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee Committee No. 4  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee Committee No. 5  
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

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Tim Griffiths, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Genevieve Morelos, Assembly Budget Committee

Chantele Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Brent Finkel, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office

Misa Lennox, Office of the Senate President Pro Tem

Katie Kolitsos, Office of the Assembly Speaker

Gustavo Velasquez, Director, Housing and Community Development Department

Meghan Marshall, Executive Officer, California Interagency Council on Homelessness

Myles White, Office of Governor Newsom

Teresa Calvert, Department of Finance