



February 26, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O St., Ste. 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire
1021 O Street, Ste. 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Ste. 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Chair Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Ste. 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel
1021 O Street, Ste. 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Subcommittee 4 Chair
Chris Cabaldon
1021 O Street, Ste. 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5 Chair
Sharon Quirk-Silva
1021 O Street, Ste. 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ongoing Funding to Address Homelessness in the 2025-2026 Budget

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore McGuire, Assembly Speaker Rivas, Senate Budget Chair Wiener, Assembly Budget Chair Gabriel, Senate Sub 4 Chair Cabaldon, and Assembly Sub 5 Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your commitment to addressing California's homelessness crisis. Unprecedented state investments under your leadership have helped tens of thousands of Californians—more Californians than ever before—exit homelessness, access shelter and supportive services, and connect to care. Thanks to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, between January 2023 and June 2024, our local communities connected over 225,000 Californians to shelter, services, and housing. Over 50,000 Californians exited homelessness for good during that period through permanent housing, thanks to HHAP. Your investment in this program has, in fact, allowed California to experience smaller increases in homelessness in 2023 and 2024 than the nation experienced as a whole.

However, California continues to undergo an unprecedented crisis in the number of Californians falling into homelessness. The state's Homeless Data Integration System shows over 187,000 Californians fell into homelessness in 2023. Though our communities are serving more people thanks to your investments, we are also seeing more people fall into homelessness than ever before. The natural disaster Los Angeles County recently faced has displaced tens of thousands of residents and decreased the region's housing stock. These events will certainly worsen this crisis and put greater pressure on the rental market in Los Angeles and surrounding counties and cities.

Ongoing funding for HHAP is needed to help us avoid an even greater crisis. The undersigned local government leaders, nonprofit service providers, advocates, and people directly impacted by homelessness request you take one step further by prioritizing **ongoing funding for housing and services solutions to address homelessness of at least \$1 billion per year for HHAP, along with a seventh round this fiscal year.**

While we recognize that difficult budget decisions need to be made this year, prioritizing ongoing funding for housing and homelessness will save people's lives. Indeed, [the Sacramento Bee](#) has estimated over 5,000 Californians die each year from causes directly attributable to homelessness. People experiencing homelessness die 25-30 years younger than their housed counterparts and suffer worsening chronic health conditions the longer they are on the streets or living in shelters, exacerbated by the inability to sleep, store medications, and be safe from victimization.

We greatly appreciate the steadfast commitment you have made to funding HHAP every year over the last six years. Yet, ongoing funding does matter and is far more effective than repeated one-time commitments. Ongoing funding would result in the following:

- (1) Allow local and state agencies to reduce administrative burden by forgoing annual applications, resulting in greater efficiency and more effort and investment in programs.
- (2) Provide a more reliable source of funding to allow service providers to build capacity, support our frontline workforce with greater stability, and dedicate funding to a more comprehensive response.
- (3) Promote funding for long-term housing interventions that are difficult, often impossible, to provide with one-time funding, such as rental assistance and operating funding for permanent housing, the only evidence-based solution to homelessness.
- (4) Permit our local governments to fund operating costs for interim and permanent housing and the vital services Californians with disabilities or barriers to housing stability need to access and maintain housing stability.
- (5) Address cliffs in operating and services funding multiple Homekey projects are now facing and will allow Homekey+ projects to become more viable as well.

Put quite simply, ongoing funding would transform HHAP into a more reliable, effective program that would allow local governments to achieve greater gains.

Solving homelessness will also require addressing our housing crisis through continued significant investments in building and preserving more affordable and supportive housing and increasing housing stability by helping individuals and families maintain their housing. Our homeless response systems,

meant to be emergency responses to a humanitarian crisis, cannot solve our long-term and growing affordable housing gaps. Given the number of people falling into homelessness, we must continue to invest in affordable housing, particularly for our lowest-income populations. For this reason, we urge you to prioritize meaningful funding for affordable housing through the FY 25-26 budget.

We understand that ongoing funding provides a critical accountability tool for all levels of government to ensure the best possible outcomes from HHAP dollars. We welcome continued conversations to ensure HHAP retains these meaningful accountability provisions.

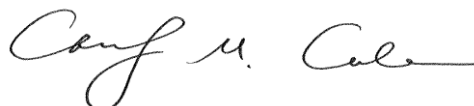
We share a vision of a state in which all Californians have an affordable place to live and can access the services and care they need. Creating ongoing funding that is at least level with \$1 billion for HHAP would be a meaningful step towards realizing that future.

Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration.

Sincerely,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)



Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director & CEO
League of California Cities



Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside
Chair, Big City Mayors



Susannah Parsons
All Home
On Behalf of Bring California Home