AB 816 (Quirk-Silva): Flexible Housing Pool Legislation

Challenges of the Current Structure of Homelessness Programming in California

- Cities, counties and homeless Continuums of Care in the same region often silo their programs and compete, instead of collaborate, to receive state funding.
- Homeless programs fail to cross boundaries of health, criminal justice, and child welfare systems to prevent people who are exiting these systems from falling into homelessness.
- In 2018, California funded over 18 different programs, sitting at 6 different departments. These programs require separate applications with different criteria and fund various local agencies, reinforcing silos.

The Solution: A Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool That Advances a Housing First Approach

- Counties across the state are creating flexible housing subsidy pools to address the varied needs of their most vulnerable residents, while bridging the housing and homeless systems to the health care, criminal justice, and child welfare systems, and often the public and private sectors.
- The state should offer incentives for forming regional approaches to homelessness and consolidating existing state homeless housing programs toward a Housing First approach.
- A state pool will (a) draw private investment, (b) pool local resources, (c) facilitate regional collaboration, (d) address systems failures, and (e) ensure vulnerable Californians get housed through spending goals.

How AB 816 Will Work

- Through an ongoing $450 million, the Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) will consolidate HCD programs intended to address homelessness. HCD will allocate funds to cities, counties, and homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs) to provide proven interventions to people experiencing homelessness.
- To obtain funding, local government applicants must (1) use funding for evidence-based interventions, (2) demonstrate regional coordination, (3) commit service dollars and ensure sustainability, and (4) work to scale multi-system leadership.
- Cities and counties will use funding in collaboration with the CoC and in alignment with established homeless strategy plans that the CoC and/or jurisdictions have adopted.
- Jurisdictions will use a single application with uniform reporting requirements and quality standards.

Eligible Uses and Populations AB 816 Will Serve

- Rental assistance to private-market landlords.
- Operating subsidies in existing or new affordable and supportive housing developments.
- Services to get people housed and help them maintain housing stability.
- Systems improvements, such as forming and strengthening regional partnerships and plans.
- Up to 20% in interim interventions, such as shelters, navigation centers, motel vouchers, and respite care, that are low-barrier, culturally competent, and adopt a Housing First approach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Pool</th>
<th>Systems/Populations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>People experiencing chronic homelessness and people who are frequent hospital users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Families and single adults, with at least half of this pot going to single adults.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking experiencing homelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>People on parole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Flexible, to address other needs</td>
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</tbody>
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Contact

Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing: (323) 243-7424, sharon.rapport@csh.org
Chris Martin, Housing California: (916) 287-9886, cmartin@housingca.org