



Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins, 78th Assembly District

AB 1056 – Second Chance Program for Community Re-entry

IN BRIEF

AB 1056 creates the Second Chance Program for Community Re-entry and directs a portion of the Proposition 47 savings toward providing evidence-based post-incarceration supportive housing opportunities.

BACKGROUND

Upon their release from incarceration, many parolees find themselves at a very increased risk of housing instability and insecurity. Simply put, individuals released from our state's prisons and jails either find themselves homeless on their very first night out of a correctional institution or only being able to secure temporary housing.

Securing adequate, stable housing for formerly incarcerated individuals has been documented as a serious challenge for local and state governments to overcome. The existing systems are fragmented and no particular agency or entity is responsible for helping secure housing for individuals leaving the state's prisons and jails. Historically, correctional departments have viewed the provision of long-term housing for released prisoners as outside their agencies' mission or purview.

THE ISSUE

The lack of available housing is cited as one of the most significant barriers to re-entry and a main driver of recidivism for the formerly incarcerated. Their criminal history locks them out of many state and federal programs that would otherwise help individuals in their situation.

Securing employment, maintaining sobriety, or even participating in recidivism prevention programs and activities is made that more difficult without a stable housing situation.

While the issue of housing for the formerly incarcerated is not a new problem, the need for such housing is growing dramatically as increasing

numbers of formerly incarcerated individuals are returning to our communities in a response to prison overcrowding directives as well as recent public safety reforms such as AB 109 and Proposition 47

THE SOLUTION

Housing the formerly incarcerated can serve as the literal and figurative foundation for successful re-entry and reintegration for released adults. It allows them to seek employment, pursue educational opportunities, and participate in anti-recidivism programs without the fear of not having a place to sleep. Having a place to live for these individuals also lessens the likelihood that they will interact with law enforcement personnel stemming from reasons of homelessness.

AB 1056 provides housing supports for the formerly incarcerated utilizing evidence-based models, including those established in the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Such supports include, but are not limited to: (a) financial assistance, including rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and motel and hotel vouchers; (b) housing stabilization and relocation, including outreach and engagement, landlord recruitment, case management, housing search and placement, legal services, and credit repair; and (c) mental health, substance abuse, and employment services as indicated by individual needs assessments.

SUPPORT

National Center for Youth Law
Californians for Safety and Justice
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Drug Policy Alliance

OPPOSITION

None on file

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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