



SB 678 (Rubio) Unaccompanied Women Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021

Bill Summary

SB 678 – the Unaccompanied Women Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021 – will make California the first state to recognize the unique needs of this group and require the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to collect and include data about them in the state’s Homeless Data Integration System (“HDIS”).

Existing Law

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8257 creates the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to, among other things, identify resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California.

Background

Unaccompanied women are individuals experiencing homelessness without children or other dependents.¹ Nationally, unaccompanied women make up 29%, or nearly 1-in-3, of adult individuals experiencing homelessness, for a total of 115,635 women. Over half of all women experiencing homelessness in this country are now doing so as individuals – 53% – up 15.4% in four years, even as the total number of unhoused women nationally has decreased.²

Despite making up a significant portion of the homeless population, there remains a critical dearth of research on unaccompanied women. As governments have designed programs and strategies to address the specific needs of unique subpopulations, unaccompanied women – who are not eligible for family programs – have largely fallen through the

cracks. Unaccompanied, unsheltered women wait on average over 10 years to access stable housing, a rate 2.5 times greater than men, while 80% of this subpopulation, per a recent analysis of HUD data, reported trauma or abuse as the cause of their homelessness.³

Details of the Bill

SB 678 requires the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to set specific, measurable goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness among unaccompanied women. The bill requires the Council to collect county-level and statewide data about this group in accordance with state and federal privacy and confidentiality laws and include the data in the state’s Homeless Data Integration System.

Support

- Downtown Women’s Center (*Sponsor*)
- Brilliant Corners
- California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
- Chrysalis
- Good Shepherd Center
- Housing California
- Hub for Urban Initiatives
- Little Tokyo Service Center
- Los Angeles City Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Peace Over Violence
- Skid Row Housing Trust
- The People Concern

¹ [USICH, "Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness," October 2020](#)

² [The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report – Part 1," January 2020](#)

³ [California Policy Lab, "Health Conditions Among Unsheltered Adults in the U.S.," October 2019](#)



Support (continued)

- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- WISEPlace

For More Information

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