

HHAP: A Critical Source of Stability, Progress on Homelessness Amidst Federal Uncertainty

California's most consistent source of homelessness funding is the **Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program**. Created by the State Legislature and Governor Newsom in 2019, HHAP has provided \$5.5 billion across seven rounds of funding. HHAP dollars have been a critical lifeline for an array of California and tribal communities by enabling stronger responses to homelessness and **permanently housing over 100,000 people and serving 374,510 people between 2023 and 2025**.

HHAP dollars, which fund local permanent housing, services, and interim interventions through counties, big cities, and Continuums of Care (CoCs), have supported communities of all sizes and has helped drive measurable reductions in homelessness statewide, with dramatic reductions in some communities. A partial 2025 count showed a statewide 9 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness and a 4 percent decrease overall. Some communities saw even more significant progress such as Contra Costa County, which showed overall reductions of more than 25 percent between 2024 and 2025.¹

In smaller communities, **HHAP has been transformative** – often creating the only supportive housing units or shelter options in town. In larger communities, HHAP has augmented what's worked well; this funding has helped to launch new, innovative prevention and rehousing initiatives.

Despite housing tens of thousands of people and demonstrating measurable success, HHAP is not a guaranteed year-over-year appropriation. Instead, it must be reapproved by the Legislature each budget cycle. Compounding this uncertainty, funding levels, performance metrics, and planning requirements have fluctuated with each one-time funding allocation.

Failing to continue HHAP at \$1 billion annually runs the risk of reversing hard-won progress and will likely lead to higher numbers of people on the street, especially amid growing federal policy uncertainty.

Our analysis shows that if no new funding is added to HHAP in this budget cycle beyond the \$500 million agreed to in the spring of 2025, homelessness is likely to increase by 20% across the state in 2027.

Even if all federal uncertainty is resolved, **some jurisdictions would likely see increases in homelessness upwards of 40%, with some as high as 72% (see Table 4 on page 9)**. This increase in homelessness can be avoided with maintaining HHAP at \$1 billion per year, including a commitment to a new round of HHAP 8.

Background on HHAP

The HHAP was created during the FY 19-20 budget process in the spring of 2019, the first year of the Newsom Administration. It was funded with one-time dollars at \$650 million, with funding flowing to all of California's 44 Homelessness Continuums of Care, all 58 counties, and to cities with populations of more than 300,000 people.

Since then, funding allocations have fluctuated year-to-year. The one-time nature of these funds has left HHAP recipients **unsure of the long-term security of this funding** and unable to plan on future state investments.

Table 1: HHAP Amounts by Year and Award Timeline to Communities

Fiscal Year	HHAP Amount Allocated	Funding Disbursed
FY 19-20: HHAP 1	\$650 million	Spring 2020
FY 20-21: HHAP 2	\$300 million	Spring 2021
FY 21-22: HHAP 3	\$1 billion	Late Fall 2022
FY 22-23: HHAP 4	\$1 billion	Early 2023
FY 23-24: HHAP 5	\$1 billion	Fall 2024
FY 24-25: HHAP 6	\$1 billion	Early 2026
FY 25-26: HHAP 7	\$500 million commitment for FY 26-27 ¹	TBD

¹ HHAP Round 7 was established in FY 25-26 budget language, but did not allocate funding, instead stating intent to set aside \$500 million in the following (FY 26-27) budget.

HHAP is the only program that serves everyone experiencing homelessness, including older adults, people fleeing domestic violence, and single adults (who continue to make up the vast majority of the homeless population), and includes a set aside requiring 10% of funding to serve youth experiencing homelessness.²

It also remains the only state homelessness program that can fund all components of a community's homeless response, including homelessness prevention, services and outreach for people currently experiencing homelessness, shelter beds, and rehousing programs that get people back into the permanent housing that ends their homelessness, usually for good.

Accountability Highlights

With each round of HHAP, new efforts to create greater accountability, transparency, and prioritization of spending have emerged. These measures have collectively created more effective use of HHAP spending, although some measures have added greater administrative burden without a clear benefit.

Highlights

Developing System Performance Measures: HHAP 3's Implication on Future Rounds (2021/2022)

In 2021, with the third round of HHAP, the legislature approved new language with requirements for **“a local homelessness action plan and specific system performance measures”** based on available data.³ These system performance measures were developed in collaboration with California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) staff and local jurisdictions that receive HHAP. Meanwhile, HHAP 3 set aside **\$180 million in bonus funds**,⁴ which communities could “unlock” if they met their system performance measures.

Bonus funding was set aside in both Rounds 3 and 4, but never awarded, as funding was utilized in the following deficit years for additional base rounds of HHAP. But the concept of using future funding as an accountability measure would evolve. For Round 4 of HHAP, funding was split into two tranches, with each community required to demonstrate that it was “on track to meet its system performance measures” to receive the second tranche of HHAP 4.⁵ For HHAP 6, each community is required to demonstrate improvement on at least half of their performance measures to receive their second half of HHAP 6.⁶

Creating and Coordinating Regional Homelessness Action Plans (HHAP 5 and 6, 2023-2025)

The fifth round of HHAP, approved by the Legislature in 2023, contained another major accountability measure: the creation of a new planning process called the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans. This process required all HHAP recipients within a region to **work together to identify the roles and responsibilities of each entity**, such as delivery of outreach services or siting of housing and shelter.

The process also required the **coordination of HHAP spending plans**, which were finalized through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between all HHAP grantees within each county. Cities with under 300,000 people were invited and encouraged to sign on. Grantees were then required to update these plans as a prerequisite of applying for HHAP 6 in 2024.

Implementing a Greater Focus on State Priorities

HHAP 5 also added requirements for grantees to **demonstrate sufficient resources going to “long term permanent housing solutions”** prior to funding other uses.⁷

The next round, HHAP 6, required a greater focus on **“homelessness prevention activities, sustaining existing interim housing solutions, and permanent housing solutions, including long-term sustainability of affordable permanent...housing.”**⁸ This was coupled with a high bar for those grantees who wanted to fund activities outside of these primary priorities, requiring them to document how all permanent and interim solutions would be sustained into the future.

Taken together, these measures have **increased collaboration across systems**; strengthened partnerships between cities, counties, and CoCs (who are sometimes at odds with each other); and driven more funding to their highest and best uses, like permanent housing programs that end people's homelessness.

Opportunities to Streamline

While many of these accountability measures are beneficial, grantees report that the sheer number of them has become excessive, and some measures lack a clear nexus to homeless system performance.

The growing number of accountability measures, with more added each round, has drawn administrative capacity away from managing the performance of HHAP-funded programs. A recent report from the Legislative Analyst's Office noted that "for round 6, grantees are being required to meet about two dozen requirements," and that as "the state has added requirements, HHAP's application and award timeline has increased significantly."⁹

In earlier rounds of HHAP, there was a timeline of approximately one year between the Legislature's allocation of funding and the funding arriving in local coffers. As more accountability measures have been layered on, that timeline is now closer to two years.

Unfortunately, basic reporting expectations, such as how grantees are asked to account for spending, have changed from round to round, adding administrative complexity. Taken together, **new accountability measures have been layered on each year without sufficient time to assess what is working and what needs refinement.** Layering on these requirements has made it harder to clearly understand outcomes, and has made it increasingly difficult to explain the impact of homelessness funding to legislators and the public.

Critical Successes from HHAP

HHAP and homeless response programs are **only one side of the equation.** These programs serve to connect with people while they experience homelessness, get them the services they need, and move them out of homelessness. These programs do not, outside of a limited amount of spending on homeless prevention programs, ameliorate the larger housing market conditions that lead so many Californians to the brink of homelessness. So, **despite HHAP's successes, it alone cannot dramatically reduce homelessness.** Californians continue to fall into homelessness faster than local responses catch them.

But thanks to the state's increased focus on data and transparency, and California's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), mandated by AB 977 (Gabriel, 2021), Californians now have visibility into HHAP's outcomes.

From January 2023 through September 2025, HHAP has funded 1,667 projects across the state, leading to 100,684 people being permanently housed and 374,510 people being served. It's worth noting that this data primarily reflects HHAP 1-4, as HHAP 5 only began being deployed in 2025, and HHAP 6 is only now being awarded. Each round has served more people than the successive one:¹⁰

Table 2: Number of People Served by HHAP Round

HHAP Round	Number of People Served to Date
HHAP 1	146,293
HHAP 2	165,914
HHAP 3	204,140
HHAP 4	226,921
HHAP 5	48,686

Impact on Youth Homelessness

HHAP has been a foundational piece of California’s success on youth homelessness. Between 2019 and 2024, youth homelessness declined 24% in California, driven in part due to HHAP requirement that 10% of funding serve youth experiencing homelessness. As a recent report from John Burton Advocates for Youth highlighted, 11 of California’s CoCs saw youth homelessness decline by at least 50% from 2019 and 2024, and over two-thirds of CoCs reported reductions in youth homelessness over that period.¹¹

Impact on Rural Communities

HHAP has also been critical in turning the tide in urban, suburban, and rural communities, with especially critical implications for rural communities where other funding sources to address homelessness are scarce.

Community Highlights

San Luis Obispo CoC and County: Supportive Housing and Shelter Driving Down Homelessness

Few communities have seen as dramatic a turn thanks to HHAP as the San Luis Obispo County community. In 2022, there were 1,446 people experiencing homelessness in the region, 80 percent of whom were unsheltered. But between 2022 and 2024, as HHAP investments began to achieve systemwide impacts, **overall homelessness decreased 19 percent**, with unsheltered homelessness falling 31 percent. Preliminary 2026 data suggests this decrease is continuing.

San Luis Obispo County achieved these major gains by using HHAP funding to ramp up shelter beds while also investing in the responses that **move people out of shelter and back into permanent housing**.

From 2023 to 2025, the region added 179 new shelter beds, with HHAP funding operations in these beds and serving as leverage to attract other funding. This has been coupled with the addition of new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

From 2023 to 2025, the region has added 192 supportive housing units - 84 of which were funded by HHAP, with another 75 units currently in the pipeline using HHAP funding.



Pictured: Siskiyou Crossroads, Permanent Supportive Housing buildings funded through HHAP.

Siskiyou County: New Supportive Housing and Increased Capacity

Hugging the border with Oregon, Siskiyou County's total population is just over 40,000, leaving the local county and CoC with limited capacity to tackle the daunting national challenge of rising homelessness and housing affordability.

Prior to HHAP, county staff directly provided services to people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. HHAP was a sea change, allowing Siskiyou to increase capacity by **bringing two dedicated homeless service provider agencies into the community**, including a youth provider.

Siskiyou focused on **using HHAP to build the county's first PSH sites**. In 2024, Siskiyou Crossroads opened in the City of Yreka, providing 50 units, including 24 PSH units, serving formerly homeless individuals and families with serious mental illness. A second PSH development is in development in the City of Mount Shasta.

HHAP has been essential in serving the diverse scope of the homeless population in Siskiyou County: prior to receiving this funding, the region struggled to serve people that didn't fit into the unique demographic boxes of some specialized programs. If a person wasn't aging out of the foster care system, or part of a family with minor children, for example, few programs could connect them to resources. **HHAP allowed Siskiyou to serve anyone experiencing homelessness**. But the region has still been able to concentrate resources on extremely vulnerable populations, such as older adults, who have benefited from the expansion of programs to rehouse them after exiting health care settings.

San Diego Continuum of Care: Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool Moves People Back Into Permanent Housing and Keeps Them There

San Diego faces one of the most challenging housing markets in the country, leading to 10,596 people experiencing homelessness in the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 6,101 of whom were unsheltered. With a big city, a county, and a CoC allocation of HHAP in the region, each entity has focused on a different component of the homeless system response, with the City of San Diego primarily funding shelter, while the CoC focuses on reducing inflow into homelessness and accelerating movement of people into permanent housing.

To move people out of homelessness, the San Diego CoC has prioritized HHAP investments in its Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (Flex Pool), a permanent housing model that combines rental subsidies, landlord engagement, and supportive services. Originally launched with the Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP), **the Flex Pool has scaled up significantly with HHAP**, serving people in 400-500 housing units at any given time, and nearly 2,000 households served since 2020.

The flex pool advances San Diego's regional system performance with major effect; outcomes include a **95% housing retention rate and 97% at two or more years—getting people back into housing and keeping them there.**

In addition, the San Diego CoC invests HHAP in diversion and resolution strategies. In 2024 alone, HHAP-funded diversion programs assisted 600 people, with 93% exiting to permanent housing, **96% of whom remained stably housed 12 months later.** These homelessness prevention efforts tangibly reduced inflow, with San Diego seeing more people exiting homelessness than falling in in November and December 2024, the first time the region hit this benchmark in nearly three years.

Protecting Our Progress: Major Risks If HHAP Does Not Continue at Scale

Unfortunately, many of the successes shared in this report are unlikely to continue if HHAP does not continue to be funded at \$1 billion annually. Programs such as the supportive housing detailed in places like Siskiyou County and San Luis Obispo County, or the flex pool in the San Diego CoC depend on continued state funding to continue housing people, or they will face the prospect of ramping down their operations.

Federal Chaos

An environment of federal chaos only heightens these risks. The federal CoC program, which brings approximately \$700 million annually to California, primarily to support formerly homeless people living in supportive housing, has in the last 12 months seen:

- abrupt freezes in ability to access funding;¹²
- attempts from HUD to dramatically overhaul the program and move hundreds of millions of dollars out of proven housing programs, putting more than 27,000 Californians at risk of losing their housing;¹³
- litigation to ward off these dire outcomes; and
- bipartisan Congressional action compelling HUD to award funding and maintain some modicum of stability.¹⁴

In addition, HUD has begun sunseting the Emergency Housing Voucher program, which permanently housed more than 14,000 formerly homeless Californians, leaving several thousand of these individuals in a new moment of uncertainty. Finally, HUD is pursuing a range of rule changes that are likely to push more people into homelessness, including moving forward a rule to prohibit households with mixed immigration statuses from accessing funding, which could strip over 7,000 households of federal housing assistance.

Major Increases in Homelessness without Maintaining HHAP at \$1 Billion Annually

All of these federal headwinds necessitate a stable, predictable source of funding for local jurisdictions' homeless responses. **The HHAP program can provide this stability.** And new data show that cutting HHAP, or even cutting HHAP by 50% by splitting a \$1 billion allocation across two budget cycles, is likely to result in lost progress and increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness, even if federal resources are maintained.

The following data show several scenarios:

- The most recent homeless count for which there is comprehensive statewide data (2024). The Senate's recent budget proposal is most likely to maintain the momentum of these numbers. That Senate proposal includes an additional \$500 million for HHAP 7, totaling that round at \$1 billion, while committing another \$1 billion for a future Round 8 of HHAP.
- The projected homeless count, in percentage and raw numbers of people, **if HHAP is cut by 50%.** This is the scenario we anticipate if HHAP is funded at \$500 million annually, which will be the case if HHAP 7 is "topped off" at \$1 billion (\$500 million per year for both FY 25-26 and FY 26-27) without any commitments for a new round of HHAP moving forward.
- The projected homeless count, in percentage and raw numbers of people, **if HHAP is not funded further.** This is the scenario we anticipate if no new funding is committed to HHAP 7 or 8 beyond the \$500 million that was agreed to as part of the FY 25-26 budget deal.¹⁵

If HHAP is not funded moving forward, we anticipate a 20% increase in homelessness in California in 2027. See table 3 below.

Table 3: Statewide Homelessness Increases

Geography	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
California	187,084	205,463	223,843	+20%

These numbers appear more muted than the major increases that would likely appear in some jurisdictions. Table 4 below details the ten largest anticipated increases in homelessness around the state.

Table 4: Top 10 Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Yuba City & County/ Sutter County	928	1,262	36%	1,595	72%
Mendocino County	774	1,047	35%	1,319	70%
San Jose/ Santa Clara City & County	10,394	13,266	28%	16,138	55%
Richmond/ Contra Costa County	2,843	3,459	22%	4,075	43%
Glendale	175	211	21%	247	41%
San Luis Obispo County	1,175	1,409	20%	1,644	40%
Fresno City & County/ Madera County	4,305	5,125	19%	5,945	38%
Pasadena	556	658	18%	760	37%
Riverside City & County	4,249	4,972	17%	5,696	34%
Tehama County	324	378	17%	431	33%

Every region faces major risks from the loss of HHAP. See below for regional breakdowns of the anticipated increases in homeless count.

Table 5. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Southern California

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Los Angeles City & County	71,201	75,955	7%	80,709	13%
San Diego City & County	10,605	11,834	12%	13,062	23%
Santa Ana, Anaheim/ Orange County	7,322	7,796	6%	8,270	13%
Long Beach	3,376	3,483	3%	3,590	6%
Pasadena	556	658	18%	760	37%
Riverside City & County	4,249	4,972	17%	5,696	34%
San Bernardino City & County	4,255	4,497	6%	4,738	11%
Oxnard, San Buenaventura/ Ventura County	2,358	2,697	14%	3,037	29%
Glendale	175	211	21%	247	41%
Imperial County	1,508	1,540	2%	1,572	4%

Table 6. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Central Coast

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Salinas/ Monterey, San Benito Counties	3,057	3,208	5%	3,358	10%
Watsonville/ Santa Cruz City & County CoC	1,850	2,039	10%	2,227	20%
San Luis Obispo County	1,175	1,409	20%	1,644	40%
Santa Maria/ Santa Barbara County	2,119	2,276	7%	2,433	15%

Table 7. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Central Valley

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Turlock, Modesto/ Stanislaus County	2,052	2,261	10%	2,471	20%
Stockton/ San Joaquin County	4,732	5,071	7%	5,411	14%
Visalia/ Kings, Tulare Counties	1,672	1,768	6%	1,864	12%
Fresno City & County/ Madera County	4,305	5,125	19%	5,945	38%

Table 7. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Central Valley (continued)

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Merced City & County	837	907	8%	976	17%
Davis, Woodland/ Yolo County	942	988	5%	1,034	10%
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties	106	106	0%	106	0%
Bakersfield/ Kern County	2,669	3,062	15%	3,455	29%

Table 8. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Bay Area

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
San Jose/ Santa Clara City & County	10,394	13,266	28%	16,138	55%
San Francisco	8,323	8,622	4%	8,920	7%
Oakland, Berkeley/ Alameda County	9,450	10,659	13%	11,867	26%
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/ Sonoma County	2,522	2,624	4%	2,727	8%

**Table 8. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care:
Bay Area (continued)**

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Richmond/Contra Costa County	2,843	3,459	22%	4,075	43%
Marin County	1,090	1,175	8%	1,259	16%
Daly/San Mateo County	2,130	2,368	11%	2,605	22%
Napa City & County	414	473	14%	533	29%
Vallejo/Solano County	1,725	1,821	6%	1,917	11%

**Table 9. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care:
Northern California**

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Sacramento City & County	6,615	7,548	14%	8,482	28%
Mendocino County	774	1,047	35%	1,319	70%
Rocklin/Roseville/Placer County	702	715	2%	727	4%

Table 9. Anticipated Statewide Homelessness Increases by Continuum of Care: Northern California (continued)

CoC	2024 Homeless Count	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with 50% HHAP Cut	Percentage Increase with 50% HHAP Cut	Anticipated 2027 Homeless Count with No HHAP	Percentage Increase with No HHAP
Redding/ Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties	2,404	2,467	3%	2,530	5%
Chico, Paradise/ Butte County	1,381	1,477	7%	1,573	14%
Humboldt County	1,573	1,708	9%	1,844	17%
Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties	248	260	5%	272	10%
Yuba City & County/ Sutter County	928	1,262	36%	1,595	72%
El Dorado County	284	311	9%	338	19%
Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne Counties	719	807	12%	895	24%
Tehama County	324	378	17%	431	33%
Lake County	604	614	2%	624	3%
Nevada County	516	541	5%	566	10%

Policy Recommendations

California faces unprecedented threats to federal funding, which can have major disruptive impacts on homelessness and housing stability. **But California can protect its progress on homelessness** and insulate its residents from federal chaos by doubling down on the success of HHAP. We recommend the following:

- **Fund HHAP at a level of at least \$1 billion annually.** Communities have seen major progress when HHAP stabilized from Rounds 3-6 at \$1 billion annually. The legislature should ensure HHAP 7 is funded at \$1 billion, while also making commitments for a new round of HHAP 8 at \$1 billion.
- **Include flexibilities to mitigate impacts of federal instability.** With HUD putting tens of thousands of formerly Californians at risk of losing their housing, the State can ensure HHAP is effective at preventing increases in homelessness by adding some flexibilities that won't sacrifice accountability, including retroactive reporting of changes in planned uses of HHAP, adding flexibility in the spenddown of HHAP tranches, and adding flexibility to housing element compliance and potential pro-housing designation requirements.
- **Focus on program performance, not excessive paperwork.** HHAP administrators spend far too much time filing monthly financial reports (previously quarterly), along with a range of other burdensome requirements. The State should instead help these administrators focus on program performance and reallocate funding to the programs, providers, and eligible uses that are most effective.
- **Fund a Homeless Housing Rescue Fund.** The State should provide forgivable loans to CoCs to ward off the impacts of disruptions in other parts of the homelessness environment. Not only would this funding keep formerly homeless people in their supportive housing and rental assistance programs, but would allow HHAP to be focused on actually reducing homelessness, instead of maintaining the status quo.
- **Fund HHAP in an ongoing, long-term manner.** While HHAP has been a successful program that has helped reduce and limit increases in homelessness, the program would achieve far greater results with the stability and predictability that ongoing funding would provide. Ongoing funding would additionally give local recipients the security to invest more funding in the long-term solutions that end people's homelessness for good. The state must explore opportunities to fund HHAP in an ongoing manner, either through the General Fund or new revenue sources.

While HHAP has housed more people than ever before and scaled up the capacity and impact of local homeless systems, people continue to fall into homelessness faster than they can be rehoused, which has led to the continued visibility of the issue and narratives that homelessness funding is not effective. But the data show that California is making major strides, and communities are close to housing people faster than they fall in, with bright spot communities all around the state. **The most effective path forward is to fully fund the HHAP and build on its demonstrated success, rather than abandoning California's real but fragile progress.**

Acknowledgments

Special thanks and acknowledgement to the many people who contributed to this report, including colleagues from the National Alliance to End Homelessness (Nicole DuBois, Lindsay Hueston, Joy Moses, Savannah Munn, Tom Murphy), the Corporation for Supportive Housing (Sharon Rapport), Enterprise Community Partners (Araceli Palafox), San Luis Obispo County (Erica Jaramillo, George Solis, Laurel Weir), the Regional Task Force on Homelessness San Diego (Tamera Kohler, Lahela Mattox), Siskiyou County (Maddelyn Bryan, Sarah Collard), Housing Tools (Jess Hinchcliff, Sherry Morgado), and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Sydney Bennett).

Endnotes

- 1 Hub for Urban Initiatives. (September 2025). "2025 Homeless Count Results Released by a Majority of CA Continuums of Care Reveal a Collective Statewide Decrease of 4.3%." Retrieved from <https://homelessstrategy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CoCs-that-Publicly-Reported-2025-Counts-to-Date-Final-Report.pdf>
- 2 10% of HHAP program funding is required to be set aside for homeless youth. For more information on the dramatic impacts of this funding on reducing youth homelessness, see this recent report from John Burton Advocates for Youth: <https://jbay.org/resources/11-12-25/>
- 3 Health and Safety Code Sec. 50220.7(a)(1).
- 4 Health and Safety Code Sec. 50218.6(a)(2)(A).
- 5 Health and Safety Code 50220.8(k)(2).
- 6 Health and Safety Code 50242(h)(4)(a).
- 7 Health and Safety Code 50236(c).
- 8 Health and Safety Code Section 50243(a).
- 9 Legislative Analyst's Office. February 18, 2026. "Overview of Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program Funding and Accountability." Retrieved from <https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2026-02/lao-handout.pdf>
- 10 All HHAP data in this report is derived either from the California Interagency Council's HHAP HDIS Reported Program Outcomes Dashboard, or from Public Records Requests to Cal ICH.
- 11 John Burton Advocates for Youth. November 2025. "Investing in Impact: How State Investment Reduced Youth Homelessness in California." Retrieved from <https://jbay.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/HHAP-Report-2025.pdf>
- 12 National Alliance to End Homelessness. January 2025. "Homeless Services Guidance re: Federal Grant/Loan Pause." Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/homeless-services-guidance-re-federal-grant-loan-pause/>
- 13 National Alliance to End Homelessness. November 2025. "State and Local Impacts of HUD's Housing Cuts." Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/resources/research-and-analysis/housingcuts/>
- 14 National Alliance to End Homelessness. February 2026. "CEO Corner: Week of February 10, 2026." Retrieved from <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/ceo-corner-week-of-february-10-2026/>
- 15 All projections are based on the average annual HHAP funded permanent housing placements in each jurisdictions, and the extent to which these jurisdictions will lose capacity to move people out of homelessness.