

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Matt Haney, Chair

AB 1899 (Caloza) – As Amended March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention

SUMMARY: Creates the Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention (OYHP) in the California Agency on Housing and Homelessness. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Declares that the mission of the OYHP is to reduce youth homelessness in the state to functional zero.
- 2) Gives the OYHP the following responsibilities:
 - a) Developing and overseeing the implementation of a comprehensive framework, by September 15, 2027, to reduce youth homelessness to functional zero, with specific and measurable goals, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - i. Decreasing the number of youth who experience homelessness within 12 months of discharge from a public system of care, including foster care, inpatient residential treatment, and incarceration;
 - ii. Decreasing the length and occurrence of youth homelessness caused by a youth's separation from family or a legal guardian; and
 - iii. Decreasing the number of homeless youth experiencing homelessness to functional zero, through, among other things, identifying and enhancing programs that address the root causes of youth homelessness, including timelines within which to attain these measures of success.
 - b) Leading the coordination of funding, policy, and practice to prevent youth homelessness across federal and state agencies and departments with jurisdiction over the state's child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice systems, including, but not limited to, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH), the State Department of Social Services, and the Department of Youth and Community Restoration, focused on all of the following:
 - i. Sufficient stable housing, including, but not limited to, the utilization of housing vouchers, rapid rehousing, rental support, and eviction prevention;
 - ii. Economic and employment support, including job training and placement, financial management skills, flexible financial assistance, and assistance connecting with public benefits;
 - iii. Education, including support to earn a high school degree and to pursue and complete postsecondary education and training programs;

- iv. Prevention of youth homelessness, including family reconciliation, interventions to prevent exits from public systems of care, including child welfare, foster care, juvenile justice, and behavioral health, into homelessness, flexible financial assistance, and school-based supports;
 - v. Health and mental health, including support for youth to obtain and maintain mental health care; and
 - vi. Services to assist youth to establish and maintain connections with supportive adults and peers.
- c) Supporting, advising, or providing guidance to local agencies and entities, including, but not limited to, county child welfare agencies, and county probation departments, on funding, policy, and practice, including transition planning, housing services, aftercare supports, and other approaches to preventing youth from existing public systems into homelessness;
 - d) Developing best practices and policy recommendations, with proposed timelines for completion, to address gaps, shortfalls, and other inadequacies in the areas listed in 2)b).
 - e) Gathering data, including by initiating data sharing agreements, and analyzing the data to evaluate the progress toward desired outcomes, including tracking the rate at which youth exit foster care and other public systems of care into homelessness; and
 - f) Creating and posting on or before December 15, 2027, to its internet website a publicly accessible dashboard tracking the office's progress toward the goals.
- 3) Requires OYHP to consult with a 12-member advisory committee with membership as follows:
- a) Two youth with current or previous lived experience with the foster system or the juvenile justice system;
 - b) Two parent advocates;
 - c) Three advocates for youth;
 - d) Two members of the Legislature; and
 - e) Three stakeholders knowledgeable in the provision of services to homeless youth, the dependency system, and family reunification.
- 4) Requires the Governor to appoint the members of the advisory committee by March 1, 2027.
- 5) Requires the advisory committee to meet on or before June 1, 2027, and at least twice each calendar year thereafter.

- 6) Requires at least one member of the OYHP to attend advisory committee meetings to provide administrative support and guidance as needed.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Cal-ICH with the purpose of coordinating the state's response to homelessness by utilizing Housing First practices. (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 8255)
- 2) Establishes a number of goals for Cal-ICH, including the following:
 - a) Creating partnerships among state agencies and departments;
 - b) Promoting systems integration to increase efficiency and effectiveness; and
 - c) Coordinating existing funding and application for competitive funding.
- 3) Establishes the Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) as co-chairs of Cal-ICH, which consists of 20 other members:
 - a) The Director of Transportation;
 - b) The Director of Housing and Community Development;
 - c) The Director of Social Services;
 - d) The Director of the California Finance Agency;
 - e) The Director or the State Medicaid Director of Health Care Services;
 - f) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
 - g) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
 - h) The Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the State Treasurer's Office;
 - i) The State Public Health Officer;
 - j) The Director of the California Department of Aging;
 - k) The Director of Rehabilitation;
 - l) The Director of State Hospitals;
 - m) The Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board;
 - n) The Director of the Office of Emergency Services;
 - o) A representative from the State Department of Education;

- p) A representative of the state public higher education system from one of the following:
 - i) The California Community Colleges;
 - ii) The University of California; and
 - iii) The California State University.
 - q) One member appointed by the Senate Committee of Rules, and one appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, from two different stakeholder organizations.
- 4) Requires Cal-ICH to have a public meeting at least once every quarter and authorizes Cal-ICH to invite stakeholders, members of the philanthropic community, experts, and individuals who have experienced homelessness.
 - 5) Requires Cal-ICH to seek guidance from and meet, at least twice a year, with an advisory committee that includes the following:
 - a) A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness;
 - b) Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program;
 - c) Stakeholders with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states;
 - d) Representatives of committees of African Americans, youth, and survivors of gender-based violence;
 - e) A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California; and
 - f) A current of formerly homeless youth who lives in California.
 - 6) Established Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) to provide jurisdictions with one-time grant funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges, informed by a best-practices framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and supporting the efforts of those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing. Directs the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) to administer HHAP. (Government Code (GOV) Section 50216)
 - 7) Requires an applicant to use at least 10% of funding from a HHAP allocation for services for homeless youth populations. (Health and Safety Code Section 50218.6)
 - 8) Requires HHAP to be used for evidence-based solutions that address and prevent homelessness among eligible populations, including any of the following:
 - a) Rapid rehousing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees;

- b) Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves;
 - c) Street outreach to assist persons experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing and services;
 - d) Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability in supportive housing;
 - e) Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system, particularly for vulnerable populations, including families and homeless youth;
 - f) Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions;
 - g) Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing, including rental subsidies; and
 - h) Interim sheltering, limited to newly developed clinically enhanced congregate shelters, new or existing noncongregate shelters, and operations of existing navigation centers and shelters based on demonstrated need. Demonstrated need for purposes of this paragraph shall be based on the following:
 - i) The number of available shelter beds in the city, county, or region served by a CoC;
 - ii) The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the homeless point-in-time count;
 - iii) Shelter vacancy rate in the summer and winter months;
 - iv) Percentage of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions; and
 - v) A plan to connect residents to permanent housing. (GOV 50220.7)
- 7) Requires, beginning with the third round of HHAP, applicants to provide the following information for all rounds of program allocations through a data collection, reporting, performance monitoring, and accountability framework, as established by Cal-ICH. The framework includes:
- a) Data on the applicant's progress towards meeting their outcome goals, which must be submitted annually on December 31 of each year through the duration of the program;
 - i) If the applicant has not made significant progress toward their outcome goals, the applicant must submit a description of barriers and possible solutions to those barriers;
 - ii) Applicants that do not demonstrate significant progress towards meeting outcome goals must accept technical assistance from Cal-ICH and may also be required to limit the allowable uses of these program funds, as determined by the council.

- b) A quarterly fiscal report of program funds expended and obligated in each allowable budget category approved in their application for program funds; and
 - c) If the applicant has not made significant progress toward their outcome goals, then the applicant must report on their outcome goals in their quarterly report. (GOV 50220.7)
- 8) Requires Cal-ICH to post a statewide report that aggregates each applicant's outcome goals into a single statewide set of metrics. (GOV 50220.7)
- 9) Requires each recipient that receives a round three program allocation to submit to Cal-ICH a final report, as well as detailed uses of all program funds, no later than October 1, 2026. (GOV 50220.7)
- 10) Requires each recipient that receives a round four program allocation to submit to Cal-ICH a final report, as well as detailed uses of all program funds, no later than October 1, 2027. (GOV 50220.7)
- 11) Establishes the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 to better serve the state's homeless youth population and requires the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to take on additional related responsibilities, including setting goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth in the state, defining outcome measures, and gathering data related to those goals. (WIC 8261)
- 12) Includes among the existing goals of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, the following:
- a) Setting goals to prevent and end homelessness among California's youth;
 - b) Improving the safety, health, and welfare of young people experiencing homelessness in the state;
 - c) Increasing system integration and coordinating efforts to prevent homelessness among youth who are currently or formerly involved in the child welfare services or the juvenile justice systems;
 - d) Leading efforts to coordinate a spectrum of funding, policy, and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness; and
 - e) Identifying best practices to ensure homeless minors who have experienced maltreatment and are eligible to be dependent children re-referred to, or have the ability to self-refer to, the child welfare system, as specified. (WIC 8261)
- 13) Tasks the council with setting and measuring progress towards goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth in California by setting specific, measurable goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness among youth in the state, and defining outcome measures and gathering data related to those goals, as specified. (WIC 8261)
- 14) Instructs the council, in order to coordinate a spectrum of funding, policy, and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness, to do the following:

- a) Coordinate with young people experiencing homelessness, the Department of Social Services (DSS), appropriate state and county agencies and departments, the state advisory group established pursuant to current law related to runaway and homeless youth, and relevant stakeholders, in order to inform policy, practices, and programs; and
- b) Provide technical assistance and program development support, to the extent that funding is made available, in order to increase capacity among new and existing service providers to best meet statewide needs, particularly in areas where services to youth experiencing homelessness have not yet been established, and provide support to service providers in making evidence-informed and data-driven decisions. (WIC 8261)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

Author's Statement: According to the author, "No young person should have to choose between school and the streets or between meaningful work and the street economy. No young person should be sleeping on a city bus or camping on a sidewalk. Creating an Office of Homeless Youth, as envisioned in AB 1899, will ensure that there are programs specifically designed to support and serve youth and young adults to prevent unnecessary suffering and prevent them from growing up and becoming chronically homeless. It is modeled after Washington State, which has reduced youth and young adult homelessness by forty percent. California can, and must, do more for our young people who are experiencing homelessness. If youth or young adults do experience homelessness, then it must be rare, brief, and non-recurring."

Homeless Youth in California: According to the 2024 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-in-Time (PIT) count, there are over 187,000 people experiencing homelessness in California. This includes 9,052 homeless youth and 1,890 parenting youth and their children experiencing . Homelessness among some groups of youth is significantly disproportionate – up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Among racial and ethnic groups, African American youth were especially overrepresented, with an 83% increased risk of having experienced homelessness over youth of other races. Most telling, the lack of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) was the most strongly correlated indicator with the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness. These young adults, without a high school diploma or GED, had 4.5 times the risk of experiencing homelessness compared to peers who completed high school. Youth homelessness is often rooted in family conflict. Other contributing factors include economic circumstances like poverty and housing insecurity, racial disparities, and mental health and substance use disorders. Young people who have had involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are also more likely to become homeless. Evidence has also shown that being homeless as a youth is a key indicator of adult homelessness.

HHAP: Beginning in 2018, in response to a growing number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the state began investing significantly in the local homelessness response system through HHAP. HHAP provides one-time grants to cities with populations over 300,000, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and counties to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges. Investments are informed by a best-practices framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and supporting the efforts of those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing. Big cities, CoCs and counties can use HHAP for operating subsidies for

shelters and supportive housing; construction of shelter, interim housing and supportive housing, landlord incentives, rental assistance and rapid rehousing; prevention and shelter diversion; street outreach and services coordination. The program has received 7 rounds of funding totaling \$5.45 billion from 2019-2025, of that \$3.9 billion has been awarded, and \$2.3 billion has been expended. Round 6 of HHAP is available to applicants and an additional \$500 million was included in this year's budget, contingent on more accountability, with a commitment that funds would go out in an expedited fashion.

HHAP Youth Set Aside: The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and subsequently HHAP requires applicants to use a percentage of their allocation to assist homeless youth. The 10% set-aside for youth totals of \$276 million from both programs must be used by local jurisdictions to address youth homelessness. The John Burton Foundation analyzed the impact these funds had regionally on reducing the number of homeless youth by comparing the 2020 PIT count to the 2022 PIT count. They found a 21% reduction in homelessness among unaccompanied youth. California's decrease in youth homelessness is 2.6 times greater than the reduction in all other states – all other states decreased by 8%.

HHAP rounds 3 and 4 both authorized the use of HHAP funds to create a youth-specific CES or youth-specific coordinated entry access points, or to improve the coordinated entry assessment tool to ensure that it contemplates the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Youth Act of 2018: SB 918 (Weiner) Chapter 841, Statutes of 2018, established the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 to better serve the state's homeless youth population. Cal-ICH is required to set goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth in the state, defining outcome measures, and gathering data related to those goals. Specifically, Cal-ICH is required to set specific and measurable goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness for youth in the state by defining outcome measures and gathering data related to the goals. In addition, coordinate with young people experiencing homelessness, the State Department of Social Services, and the appropriate agencies and departments to coordinate a spectrum of funding policy and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness. SB 918 did not include any deadlines by which Cal-ICH would deliver on the goals of the bill or a reporting requirement on progress or outcomes.

California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH): In 2016, SB 1380 (Mitchell), Chapter 847, created the Homelessness Coordination and Financing Council (HCFC) to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. HCFC was later named Cal-ICH. Cal-ICH is made up of all state agencies or departments that operate programs that provide housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The council meets quarterly and has an advisory committee which includes a current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California. One of the listed statutory goals of the Council is to prevent and end homelessness among California's youth.

This bill would create the OYHP to be the lead state entity in coordination of funding, policy, and practice to prevent youth homelessness across federal and state agencies and departments with jurisdiction over the state's child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice systems, including, but not limited to, the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the State Department of Social Services, and the Department of Youth and Community Restoration. While youth are a deserving population of special attention, the Committee may wish to consider if this proposal is duplicative of the role of Cal-ICH.

Arguments in Support: According to the sponsors of this bill, “the State of Washington established an Office of Homeless Youth in 2015, with the goal of preventing state systems from discharging youth and young adults into homelessness. Washington has reduced youth and young adult homelessness by forty percent since the Office was created. Solving youth homelessness is a critical part of ending California’s larger homelessness crisis because young people who experience homelessness are five times more likely than their peers to become homeless adults. While the Interagency Council on Homelessness is tasked with setting goals to reduce youth homelessness, a state-level Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention, focused exclusively on leading California to achieve function zero in youth and young adult homelessness, would ensure these goals are fulfilled.”

Arguments in Opposition: None on file.

Committee Amendment: The Committee may wish to consider moving the OYHP into Cal-ICH. The Governor’s reorganization of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency made Cal-ICH its own entity, which has the potential to give it more authority to influence the work of other state departments and agencies.

Double-Referred: This bill was also referred to the Assembly Committee on Human Services where it will be heard should it pass out of this committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Coalition for Youth (Co-Sponsor)
 Inner City Law Center (Co-Sponsor)
 Aspiranet
 Bill Wilson Center
 Black Women United
 Bright Futures for Youth
 California Behavioral Health Association
 Fostering Promise
 Glide
 John Burton Advocates for Youth
 Larkin Street Youth Services
 League of California Cities
 Legacy Bridge CDC
 Orangewood Foundation
 Safe Place for Youth
 Steinberg Institute
 SV@Home Action Fund
 Unity Care
 Youth Law Center

Opposition

None on file.

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