

- d) Tenants have a lease and all the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, as outlined in California's Civil, Health and Safety, and Government codes; and
- e) The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.

This bill:

- 1) Defines "at risk of homelessness" as the presence of multiple evidence-based homelessness risk factors for an individual, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a) Prior experience of homelessness;
 - b) Annual income below 30% of the area median income (AMI);
 - c) Experiencing rent burden; and
 - d) Experiencing other household and social characteristics that are known to elevate the risk of homelessness.
- 2) Defines "housing stability" as the ability of an individual or family to maintain housing that is consistent, safe, and affordable.
- 3) Defines "relevant agency" as any state agency or department that affects, or has the potential to affect, housing stability and the prevention of homelessness, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - a) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD);
 - b) Cal-ICH
 - c) The State Department of Social Services;
 - d) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
 - e) The Division of Rehabilitative Programs, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
 - f) The Office of Youth and Community Restoration, California Health and Human Services Agency;
 - g) The California Health and Human Services Agency;

- h) The State Department of Public Health;
 - i) The State Department of Health Care Services;
 - j) The State Department of State Hospitals;
 - k) The Employment Development Department; and
 - l) The State Department of Education.
- 4) Requires Cal-ICH, by July 1, 2027, to develop and publicly issue a statewide homelessness prevention strategy that includes all of the following:
- a) Identification of each relevant agency, and an inventory of each definition of homelessness prevention employed by each relevant agency and how those definitions differ;
 - b) The actions each relevant agency is taking to promote housing stability and homelessness prevention, and the gaps in those actions;
 - c) A homelessness prevention action plan for each relevant agency that is developed by Cal-ICH and the relevant agency that details specific actions the agency will take to contribute to housing stability and homelessness prevention, and the timeline for those actions;
 - d) Recommendations for legislation or executive action to implement the homelessness prevention action plans;
 - e) A plan to coordinate and integrate the homelessness prevention action plans;
 - f) A plan to annually evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the homelessness prevention action plans that includes, but is not limited to, accountability measures, and an assessment of the impact of the homelessness prevention action plans on homelessness prevention.
 - g) An inventory of state resources currently devoted specifically to preventing homelessness and a proposal for state resources and actions to prevent homelessness in addition to existing resources.
 - h) Statewide homelessness prevention goals and accountability measures.

- i) An annual agenda recommending third-party evaluations of selected local or state homelessness prevention programs other than the homelessness prevention action plans that test the impact of those programs on homelessness prevention;
 - j) Evidence-based model homelessness prevention practices identified or designed and developed by the department that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - i. Identification of persons most at risk of homelessness through evidence-based risk factors, as specified.
 - ii. The use of predictive models to identify individuals most at risk of homelessness.
 - iii. The targeting of resources to households most at risk of homelessness.
 - iv. The most effective and efficient interventions to prevent homelessness, as specified.
- 5) Requires Cal-ICH to offer the model homelessness prevention practices to local programs and propose methods to integrate relevant practices into state agencies and programs.
- 6) Requires Cal-ICH to annually review and update the strategy and publish any revisions.

Background

Homelessness: stats and causes. According to the most recent point in time (PIT) count, 187,084 people were experiencing homelessness in California—representing 24% of the nation’s homeless population. Two-thirds of the homeless population in California is unsheltered. Over half (51%) of all unsheltered people in the United States were in California. A lack of affordable housing is the biggest contributor to homelessness. As housing costs continue to rise, rent becomes less affordable for lower-income households, who are forced to live beyond their means (paying more than 30% of income on housing costs) or are pushed out of their homes, leading to rapid increases in homelessness. Variation in rates of homelessness cannot be explained by variation in rates of individual factors such as poverty or mental illness; conversely, cities with higher rents and lower rental vacancy rates (i.e., tighter housing markets) *are* directly linked to higher per capita rates of homelessness.

The lack of affordable housing plays a significant role in causing individuals to become homeless and creates obstacles for individuals experiencing homelessness to transition into stable housing. The need for, and costs of, housing have consistently outpaced the development of affordable housing for over 30 years. As of 2022, working at the minimum wage of \$15/hour, a renter has to work 83 hours each week to afford a modest one-bedroom rental home at Fair Market Rent in California. The lack of supply is the primary factor underlying California's housing crunch. To keep up with demand, HCD estimates that California must plan for the development of more than 2.5 million homes over the next eight years, and no less than one million of those homes must meet the needs of lower-income households (more than 640,000 very low-income and 385,000 low-income units are needed). For decades, not enough housing was constructed to meet need, resulting in a severe undersupply of housing. New construction of housing, both single family homes and apartments, continues to lag behind historical averages, and lags further behind the number of new units needed to meet housing demand.

Comments

- 1) *Author's statement.* "For each homeless individual who is successfully connected with housing, nearly three access homelessness services for the first time. To make meaningful progress and address California's homelessness epidemic, we can't have more people entering homelessness than exiting it. Prevention is a cost-effective and critical piece of solving this problem. AB 1924 would create a statewide homelessness prevention strategy, along with a collection of evidence-based best practices that can guide programs and agencies that work to stop people from falling into homelessness in the first place. Through stronger guidance and support to those seeking to prevent Californians from becoming unhoused, this legislation will help prevent homelessness before it can occur, better protecting our state's most vulnerable residents and preserving limited state resources"
- 2) *Homelessness Prevention.* Making progress in solving homelessness requires that we reduce the number of people falling into homelessness while simultaneously expanding housing opportunities for those currently experiencing it. Homelessness prevention interventions can include:
 - Short-term and medium-term rental assistance,
 - Emergency Rental assistance
 - Flexible financial support
 - Legal services, mediation, and credit repair
 - Moving costs support, including rental application fees, security and utility deposits; and

- Housing case management.

Homelessness Prevention programs are funded through local sources, through the state HHAP Program, and through federal sources, including the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and the Continuum of Care program. In HHAP Round 5, Prevention and Shelter Diversion programs accounted for roughly 5% of total funds awarded.

- 3) *California Interagency Council on Homelessness*. 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 the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (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.

The first Action Plan was adopted by the Council in March 2021 and has been updated annually since. The new Action Plan, adopted December 2024 by the Cal-ICH Council, focuses the Council's work around bold, measurable goals, the strategic investments that help achieve those goals, and the actions each member department and agency is taking to ensure those investments are effective and coordinated. The 2024 Action Plan is a three-year roadmap for addressing homelessness in California between 2025 and 2027. It is designed to serve as a tool the Council will use to organize and assess its investments, ensuring that efforts are strategic, measurable, and aligned with our shared vision of preventing and ending homelessness. Specifically, the Action Plan outlines Guiding Principles and Commitments to achieve the vision, identifies five Action Plan Goals, identifies Strategic Investments made or administered by the state, and an Implementation Plan for executing the Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies the following goals:

- Help more people leave unsheltered homelessness
- Help more people move into housing
- Ensure people do not experience homelessness again
- Prevent more people from experiencing homelessness
- Create more housing

The Action Plan identifies state administered programs that contribute to one or more of the goals. These include investments from the State general fund or federal passthrough dollars that the State administers, but do not include federal

or private dollars that are not administered by the state (i.e. Emergency Housing Vouchers, Housing Choice Vouchers, public housing, etc.) Investments listed were current at the time of the Action Plan's adoption (December 2024). The investments contribute to the Action Plan Goals by:

- Expanding the supply of permanent, affordable, and supportive housing units for people at-risk and experiencing homelessness.
- Providing rental subsidies and other financial assistance to support more people to move into permanent housing.
- Increasing shelter and interim housing options available in communities to reduce unsheltered homelessness.
- Supporting expanded diversion and prevention services so that people do not become homeless.
- Creating stronger connections to physical and behavioral health care services to support people to thrive.
- Providing access to an array of supportive services that foster housing stability, connect people to benefits, and/or help people to secure employment and achieve their goals.

This bill would build upon the current Action Plan by compelling Cal-ICH to develop and issue a statewide homelessness prevention strategy by July 1, 2027. The strategy would evaluate all actions taken by state agencies to prevent homelessness and identify the gaps in those actions. Each agency will be given an action plan including specific steps to contribute to housing stability and homelessness prevention, recommendations for the legislature and administration to implement those plans, and methods (goals and accountability measures) for evaluating the efficacy of the actions in the plans. Cal-ICH shall also identify model prevention practices and offer those as guidance to local programs and integrate them into other state agencies and programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, June 17th, 2026.)

SUPPORT:

Abundant Housing LA
 Active San Gabriel Valley
 Aids Healthcare Foundation
 Alameda County Board of Supervisors
 All Home
 Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (acce Action)

Amplifi
Ascencia
Bay Area Community Health
Bay Area Community Services
Being Alive - Los Angeles
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Bill Wilson Center
California Coalition for Rural Housing
California Housing Partnership
California Native Vote Project
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
California Yimby
City and County of San Francisco
City of Emeryville
City of Los Angeles
City of Santa Barbara
Code in Motion by Sparks
Committee on the Shelterless (COTS)
Community Corp. of Santa Monica
Community Health Project Los Angeles
Community Legal Aid Social
Community Services Agency
Compass Family Services
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Dap Health
Destination: Home
Disability Rights California
Downtown Women's Center
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Episcopal Community Services
Eviction Defense Collaborative
Fathers and Mothers Who Care
Golden State YMCA
Homebase
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
Housing California
Housing Matters
Inner City Law Center
Insight Housing
LA Forward Institute
LA Voice

League of California Cities
Legal Aid Association of California
Lifemoves
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Los Angeles Poverty Department
Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
Mental Health Advocacy Services
Midpen Housing
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
Non-profit Housing Association of Northern California
Para Los Ninos
Path
Project Sentinel
Public Advocates
Redefine Alliance
Redf
Restoration Diversion Services
Sacramento Housing Alliance
Safe
Safe Place for Youth
San Francisco Safehouse
Silicon Valley At Home (SV@HOME)
South County Community Services
South Pasadena Residents for Responsible Growth
Southern California Obtainable Housing
St. Joseph's Family Center
Stories From the Frontline
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)
Sunnyvale Community Services
Supportive Housing Community Land Alliance
Sv@home Action Fund
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
The People Concern
The Sidewalk Project
Union Station Homeless Services
United Way Bay Area
West Valley Community Services
Western Center on Law and Poverty

OPPOSITION:

None received.

-- END --