
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1924
Author: Gabriel (D) and Quirk-Silva (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/24/26

AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-1, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Statewide homelessness prevention strategy

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) by July 1, 2028, to develop a statewide homelessness prevention strategy within the Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) with the purpose of coordinating the state's response to homelessness by utilizing Housing First practices.
- 2) Requires agencies and departments administering state programs created on or after July 1, 2017, to incorporate the core components of Housing First.
- 3) Defines "Housing First" to mean the evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or

connecting homeless people to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis, and that do not make housing contingent on participation in services.

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 at or 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 agencies and departments represented on the executive council.
- 4) Requires Cal-ICH, by July 1, 2028, to develop a statewide homelessness prevention strategy in the Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness that includes, but not be limited to, all of the following:
 - a) To the extent reasonably feasible using available data and reporting systems, a baseline estimate of first-time experiences of homelessness and an assessment of achievable short- and long-term progress towards reducing entries into homelessness, taking into account available resources, existing activities and authorities, and other factors affecting entries into homelessness.
 - b) A description of the role of each relevant agency in promoting housing stability and preventing homelessness, limited to the activities, authorities, data, and subject-matter responsibilities of that agency.

- c) An inventory of each definition of homelessness prevention employed by each relevant agency and how those definitions differ;
- d) The actions each relevant agency is taking to promote housing stability and homelessness prevention, including, but not limited to, the identification of any significant gaps or opportunities to improve coordination and implement those actions.
- e) A homelessness prevention action plan for each relevant agency that is developed by Cal-ICH staff and relevant agency, and incorporated into the Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, that details specific actions the agency will take, within its existing authority and through its existing activities and resources, to contribute to housing stability and homelessness prevention, and the anticipated timeline for those actions;
- f) Recommendations, as appropriate, for all of the following:
 - (i) Supporting the coordination and implementation of the homelessness action plans, including conducting an impact assessment of the plans and relevant state-funded activities, benefits, services, grants, employment and training activities, and other interventions in preventing homelessness.
 - (ii) Identifying the highest impact state and local homelessness prevention activities to which new state funding should be devoted, when such funding becomes available.
- g) An inventory of state resources currently devoted specifically to preventing homelessness and a description of how the state resources will work towards preventing homelessness;
- h) Identification of and recommendations for best practices in homelessness prevention activities;
- i) 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 opportunities within existing state activities to intervene when an individual or household faces an imminent risk of losing housing based on 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 activities and propose methods to integrate relevant practices into state agencies and activities.
- 6) Requires Cal-ICH to review and update the strategy in the Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- 7) Provides that Cal-ICH and relevant state agencies shall use reasonably available information and data. This bill does not require an agency to conduct new primary data collection, develop a predictive model, establish a new reporting system, or commission a new program evaluation. Relevant agency participation is limited to existing authority and activities.

Comments

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"

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.

Senate Appropriations Amendments. Author's amendments move the prevention strategy to the existing Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness by July 1, 2028, instead of July 1, 2027. and limits state agency participation to their existing authority, activities, data, and subject matter responsibilities.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Staff estimates that Cal-ICH would incur costs of \$192,000 in the first year and \$180,000 annually ongoing thereafter to develop and update the statewide homelessness prevention strategy for inclusion in its Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, including coordination with relevant agencies to develop homelessness prevention action plans within agencies' existing resources, making recommendations for supporting the implementation of those action plans and highest impact homelessness prevention activities, and describing how state resources and actions will work towards preventing homelessness, as specified. (General Fund)
- Unknown individual agency and overall costs for relevant agencies to work with Cal-ICH staff to develop specified homelessness prevention action plans that detail specific actions each agency will take within its existing authority, activities, and resources to contribute to housing stability and homelessness prevention. Costs for each individual affected agency are not expected to be significant as implementation appears to utilize existing planning and reporting processes, including Cal-ICH's existing Action Plan process, and limits agency responsibilities to current programs and expertise. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) indicates that costs to follow the action plan created in the homelessness prevention strategy would likely be minor and absorbable. (General Fund, various special funds)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

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
California Yimby
City and County of San Francisco
City of Emeryville
City of Los Angeles
City of Santa Barbara
City of Santa Monica
Code in Motion by Sparks
Committee on the Shelterless
Community Corp. of Santa Monica
Community Health Project Los Angeles
Community Legal Aid Socal
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 County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency
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
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
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: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-1, 5/27/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio

NO VOTE RECORDED: Gallagher, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/17/26 10:43:02

**** **END** ****