
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2146
Author: Stefani (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-1, 6/30/26

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

NOES: Seyarto

NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-11, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Coordinated Entry System: study

SOURCE: Housing California

Non-profit Housing Association of Northern California

DIGEST: This bill requires Cal-ICH to complete a comprehensive statewide study of Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) and its role in connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to affordable housing, including supportive housing, in California, as specified, and submit the study to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2028.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 to require Cal-ICH to complete a comprehensive statewide study of CES and its role in connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to affordable housing, including supportive housing, in California, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Defines the composition of a Continuum of Care (CoC) to mean the group organized to carry out the responsibilities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act composed of representatives of organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons to the extent these groups are represented within the geographic area and are available to participate.
- 2) Establishes Cal-ICH to coordinate the State's response to homelessness using Housing First practices with a number of goals including, but not limited to:
 - 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.

This bill:

- 2) Defines "CES" as a centralized or coordinated assessment system developed pursuant to federal law and designed to coordinate homelessness program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals.
- 3) Requires Cal-ICH, on or before July 1, 2028, to complete a comprehensive statewide study of CES and its role in connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to affordable housing, including supportive housing, in California. The study shall evaluate the operation, effectiveness, capacity, and outcomes of CES throughout the state and identify opportunities to improve coordination, reduce unnecessary administrative barriers, accelerate appropriate housing placements, and support effective local implementation.
- 4) Requires Cal-ICH to meaningfully consult with a geographically representative group of stakeholders, as specified.
- 5) Requires the study to include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- a) An assessment of the structure, governance, administration, and capacity of CES throughout the state, including differences in system design, staffing, funding, geographic coverage, access points, assessment processes, prioritization methodologies, matching and referral practices, and housing inventory management.
- b) An assessment of whether individuals and families experiencing homelessness have equitable and timely access to coordinated entry, as specified.
- c) A review of the process from initial access to CES through housing placement, including enrollment, assessment, prioritization, eligibility and documentation verification, matching, referral, provider screening, lease-up, and enrollment into permanent housing.
- d) An assessment of the time associated with each stage of the CES and housing placement process and, to the extent data are available, identification of stages at which significant delays, referral attrition, or unsuccessful placements occur.
- e) Identification of federal, state, and local requirements affecting CES operations, including the entity responsible for each requirement, as specified.
- f) Identification of documentation, eligibility, screening, referral, or compliance requirements that delay or prevent housing placement, as specified.
- g) An analysis of variation among coordinated entry systems, as specified.
- h) An assessment of the interoperability of CES and homeless management information systems with state and local housing, health, behavioral health, and benefits programs, including opportunities to reduce duplicative data collection and documentation consistent with applicable privacy and confidentiality requirements.
- i) Identification of opportunities for state agencies to simplify or align state housing and homelessness program requirements, eliminate duplicative documentation, clarify existing compliance requirements, or provide technical assistance without altering local CES governance or federally required functions.

- j) An assessment of the appropriate role of the state in supporting CES, taking into consideration federal authority governing continuums of care and CES, local governance and decision-making, differences in community needs and resources, and the state's role as a funder of housing and homelessness programs.
- 6) Requires Cal-ICH to post the study on its website, and to submit the study to the Legislature and the relevant policy committees on or before July 1, 2028.

Background

Coordinated Entry Systems (CES). In 2012, HUD began requiring CoCs to use a CES, and in 2017 HUD mandated the use of CES for all CoCs as a condition of receiving federal funds. A CoC is a federally created entity that is responsible for administering federal funding to address homelessness, collecting data that is input into the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), and managing the CES. CES is a CoC-established system-wide process to quickly and equitably coordinate the access, assessment, prioritization, and referrals to housing and services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. CES is an evidence-based strategy that focuses on housing and service coordination designed to link people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing solution based on their needs. CES is also meant to remove racial bias in who is prioritized for housing and services, and prioritize people based on need. Significant racial disproportionality exists among those experiencing homelessness, with people who identify as Black/African American significantly overrepresented. CES prioritizes individuals for housing based on the length of time they have experienced homelessness.

Comments

- 1) *Author's statement.* "Although California has been a leader in creating permanent supportive housing for people who need it most, too many individuals still face unnecessary documentation requirements that stall their access to these life-changing housing opportunities. AB 2146 addresses these barriers to access by removing the requirement that people "prove" they are homeless with hard-to-obtain documents pertaining to their housing history. This bill also gives affordable housing providers more flexibility to fill units that have been sitting vacant for too long by expanding where they can get referrals. Together these changes tackle the real-world barriers that housing administrators, nonprofit providers, and service agencies all agree are getting in the way of connecting people to available housing."

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA) estimates costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for a contract to complete the comprehensive review of compliance documentation and identifying compliance requirements, alternative methods of compliance, and opportunities to streamline documentation, as well as implementing revised compliance requirements based on the review. (General Fund)
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) would incur minor workload costs in excess of \$50,000 to amend program guidelines to incorporate changes specified in the bill and to conduct ongoing oversight and other activities to verify that units qualify for a DASH designation, as well as respond to technical assistance requests from developers and other interested parties. HCD indicates that these costs are likely absorbable within existing resources. (General Fund)
- The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) costs to update program guidelines would be minor and absorbable. (General Fund, Tax Credit Allocation Fee Account)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Housing California (co-source)

Non-profit Housing Association of Northern California (co-source)

Alta Housing

California Housing Partnership

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

City of Emeryville

City of Oakland

City of Sunnyvale

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

Downtown Women's Center

Eah Housing

East Bay Housing Organization - Ebho

Eden Housing

Enterprise Community Partners, INC.

Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco

Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Midpen Housing

National Alliance to End Homelessness
Opportunities for Change
Resources for Community Development
Satellite Affordable Housing Associates
Self Help Enterprises
Southern California Association of Non-profit Housing (SCANPH)
Supportive Housing Alliance
The Kelsey

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-11, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Patterson, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

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8/24/26 13:30:07

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