
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 790 (Ávila Farías) - Homelessness: single women with children

Version: May 5, 2025

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0, HOUSING
10 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: Yes

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 790 would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among women with children.

Fiscal Impact:

- The Cal ICH estimates minor and absorbable costs for state operations.
- Unknown, potential ongoing costs to cities and counties for administration. Cost to cities and counties would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: The Cal ICH was established to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. Cal ICH was created to oversee the implementation of "Housing First" policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on the idea that homeless individuals should be provided shelter and stability before underlying issues can be successfully addressed. Housing First utilizes a tenant screening process that promotes accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances or participation in services. Cal ICH also manages the state's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) which captures local data collected by Continuums of Care (COCs) through Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS) to help coordinate the state's response to homelessness.

Current law requires Cal ICH, among its duties, to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children and among unaccompanied women in California. Cal ICH must evaluate these goals at least every two years to determine whether updated goals are needed.

Current law requires cities, counties, and COCs receiving state funding to address homelessness to include families, people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, and unaccompanied women within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed to maintain homeless services and housing delivery. Cities, counties, and COCs receiving state funding to address homelessness must develop analyses and goals with victim service providers to address the specific needs of the population described above with data measures, as specified.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require Cal ICH to additionally set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among women with children.
- Require cities, counties, and COCs receiving state funding to include women with children within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed to maintain homeless services and housing delivery.
- Require cities, counties, and COCs that develop analyses and goals to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations described above, to provide that information to the Cal ICH; and require Cal ICH to post that information on its internet website.

Related Legislation: SB 814 (Rubio) would have required the Cal ICH to review its goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children and among unaccompanied women at least every year, rather than at least every two years. The bill was held on the suspense file in this committee.

-- END --