

May 15, 2018



CALIFORNIA STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Honorable Richard Roth  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
On State Administration and General Government  
State Capitol, Room 4034  
Sacramento, CA 95814



URBAN COUNTIES OF  
CALIFORNIA

**Re: May Revision Proposal for \$250 million in Homeless Emergency Aid to Local Governments – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the County Health Executive Association of California (CHEAC) we write to express our SUPPORT IN CONCEPT position on the Governor's May Revision proposal to create a new Homelessness Emergency Aid block grant program for local governments, however, more funding is urgently needed to address homelessness.



RURAL COUNTY  
REPRESENTATIVES OF  
CALIFORNIA

With the state's homeless population at an all-time high – more than 134,000 people each night – and many families and vulnerable populations on the brink of homelessness, the Governor's proposal to create a new block grant program to assist cities and counties with this crisis is welcome news. It would serve as a bridge for local governments to ramp up efforts while additional funding provided by the Governor and Legislature to build more housing is in the pipeline.



COUNTY BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION

The Governor's recognition of the magnitude of the problem and his willingness to earmark immediate State General Fund for local use is unprecedented and welcome. However, the funding proposed, \$250 million, falls short of the investment needed to make significant progress on the homelessness crisis.



COUNTY WELFARE  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Counties are desperate for funding to do triage, erect temporary or transitional shelters, and braid services to best meet the needs of those who are homeless. But our members also need to invest in long-term housing solutions that build capacity along the housing continuum, from board and care houses, sober living environments, freestanding psychiatric hospitals, permanent supportive housing, affordable multifamily units, and single family housing. Even creative local solutions, such as tiny homes and collaborative communities, are in need of flexible funding to become a reality.



COUNTY HEALTH  
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION OF  
CALIFORNIA

In addition, the proposed funding allocations for the Homelessness Emergency Aid block grant program require more analysis. By basing the allocations on a single factor – each area's point-in-time (PIT) homeless count– the distribution of funding may not reach local jurisdictions whose count may be smaller and consist of specialized and hard-to-reach populations than larger areas. More analysis is required on this issue, but we wanted to alert your committee to our concern.

Overall, the Governor's additional homeless-related May Revision proposals, along with the initial design of the Homelessness Emergency Aid block grant program, represent a significant first step in working together to combat homelessness.

Counties remain grateful to your committee for your continued attention to this issue, and also want to thank the Governor for igniting a much-needed conversation about resources at the local level. We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature and the Governor on the funding level and distribution for this exciting new proposal. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
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