



County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
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March 14, 2024

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5  
State Capitol, Room 4210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 6640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Funding**

Dear Assembly Member Quirk-Silva and Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to convey our support for funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program. Counties are responsible for responding to the homelessness crisis, which is the top issue in our communities and state. The HHAP program works and transforms lives throughout the state by helping people secure permanent housing and needed services. We thank the Legislature for investing in this program with Governor Newsom and urge you to continue that commitment.

Sacramento County, like all counties, needs ongoing HHAP funding. Last year, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) created the AT HOME Plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) that outlines the development of a comprehensive homelessness response system. Working with the Administration and the Legislature, counties successfully advocated for several elements of this plan to be incorporated for the HHAP program through enactment of AB 129 (Chapter 40, Statutes of 2023). As part of these reforms, all counties are developing regionally coordinated homelessness action plans, signing memorandums of understanding that define roles and responsibilities, and submitting joint applications with continuums of cares (CoCs) and big cities. Combined with the \$1 billion in funding for HHAP Round 5, these actions will increase accountability for HHAP funding, further local collaboration, and strengthen homelessness response efforts.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the County Board of Supervisors approved our regional plan and application. We look forward to what can be accomplished with this funding. Unfortunately, the HHAP program is funded with one-time investments which prevents counties from being able to make long-term program commitments. Even more concerning, the Governor's Budget does not include funding for a HHAP Round 6, although it acknowledges a commitment to discuss potential funding during this budget process. **Sacramento County respectfully requests ongoing funding for the HHAP program at a level of at least the current \$1 billion annual amount.** We also request that the \$360 million in HHAP supplemental funding be distributed as outlined in AB 129 instead of being delayed until 2025-26 as proposed in the Governor's Budget.

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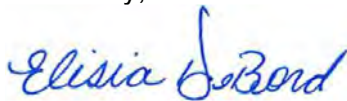
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The HHAP program has been transformative to local efforts to address homelessness. In Sacramento County, HHAP funding has enabled our ability to expand our multi-disciplinary outreach teams, who work directly with people living unsheltered and connect them to critical resources, including permanent housing. In calendar year 2023, the efforts of these teams have supported the exit of 350 unique individuals out of unsheltered homelessness and the provision of almost 35,000 service “touches,” such as housing search and placement, case management, and connections to health care in the unincorporated County. HHAP funds have been instrumental in the County’s expansion of re-housing focused interim housing programs, supporting operations and intentional re-housing supportive services, including 40 units of family interim housing (serving approximately 120 people at a point in time) and over 300 beds for single adults and couples.

Failure to provide ongoing funding or fund Round 6 of HHAP at a consistent level will be detrimental to local homelessness response efforts. If HHAP is discontinued at current levels, Sacramento County may need to close some of these programs and significantly reduce our outreach footprint to support those living unsheltered. Without on-going and consistent funding from the State, the County may not be able to meet the ambitious goals we set for ourselves under the regional plan, including creating more prevention and re-housing supports, increasing our street to housing placements with dedicated rental subsidies, and ensuring that sheltering and housing can meet the needs of the more than 10% of the homeless population with high medical needs.

Without the HHAP program, the number of Californians experiencing homelessness will be far greater than the number today. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5  
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
Justin Garrett, CSAC  
Danielle Bradley, CSAC