

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

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April 22, 2025

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Vulnerable Populations to Lose Access to Key Housing &
Homelessness Programs

Dear Chair Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson and Chair Dr. Corey A. Jackson:

Sacramento County respectfully requests your support to maintain funding for critical county-administered housing and homelessness programs, including Bringing Families Home (BFH), Home Safe, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP), and the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). These programs have a proven track record of success stabilizing, rapidly rehousing, and transitioning vulnerable populations at risk of homelessness into permanent housing while concomitantly advancing safety, permanency, and economic security for families in the child welfare system, low-income families receiving cash assistance through CalWORKs, older adults experiencing elder abuse, and people with disabilities.

To maintain core statewide access to services across these impactful housing and homelessness programs, Sacramento County seeks a targeted investment of \$309 million General Fund annually beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 with multi-year availability. We note to meet the needs of our populations across all four programs and avoid any service reductions, an investment nearing \$472 million General Fund is required, however we are aware of the challenging budget situation expected at the May Revision and we see opportunities to invest wisely despite fiscal uncertainty, while continuing to support vulnerable populations.

Compared to other local homeless response systems which exit 35% of overall participants into permanent housing,¹ Home Safe exits 62%, CalWORKs HSP exits 53%, BFH exits 54%, and HDAP exits 50% of clients into permanent housing.²

¹ Across Continuums of Care in California in 2023, just 35 percent of exits in the Homeless Management Information System were to permanent housing. See data source: [Housing and Urban Development, National Summary – CoC System Performance Measures since 2019](#).

² Per California Department of Social Services, percent of clients who exited to permanent housing in FY 2023–24.

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Despite their demonstrated effectiveness, two of these programs—Home Safe and BFH—will cease to exist, while CalWORKs HSP and HDAP will face up to a 67% and 86% reduction, respectively, if no additional funding is included in the FY 2025-26 Budget. Funding cuts of this magnitude will jeopardize family reunification, economic stability, and the overall health and welfare of our older adult populations. These reductions will result in longer stays in foster care for foster children, deepening their existing trauma; increased likelihood of institutionalization or premature death for older adults; and undermining of efforts to lift children and their families out of poverty in the CalWORKs program.

Given the uncertainty around continued funding and some counties' depletion of funds to date, counties have been forced to scale back the number of individuals and families who receive housing assistance to keep the programs operational and prevent the loss of critical infrastructure, including contracts with community-based organizations specializing in housing and homelessness services. This impact has been acutely felt by our community-based providers, who partner with our agencies to provide direct services and supports, including legal assistance such as eviction protection, home modification and hazard abatement for older adults, and concrete items such as beds and other furniture that make a house a home.

Most other housing programs have stringent eligibility requirements and/or limited flexibility to meet individual needs. BFH, Home Safe, HSP, and HDAP reach populations often untouched by the broader housing and homelessness system, bridging effectively to permanent housing solutions, while promoting health, safety, and well-being. These programs also help California to comply with federal and state laws and requirements with respect to meeting various outcome requirements, and are highly cost-effective. **For example, paying for an Adult Protective Services client's** home back taxes (often less than \$10,000) through Home Safe can yield significant cost savings from avoiding repeated hospitalizations and nursing home care, and securing Social Security benefits for homeless adults through HDAP reduces the costs to law enforcement and other continuums of care.

Sacramento County's Home Safe is an example for our client success stories and program outcomes across the housing programs we administer (attached). These stories reveal just how life-altering these programs are for some of our most vulnerable Californians, and how devastating the impacts will be absent continued investment or augmented funding in these programs.

Continued investment is critical to California's goal of eradicating homelessness and building a comprehensive and coordinated approach that protects our most vulnerable Californians from experiencing homelessness. These housing programs have led to expanded networks and leveraging of resources with local Coordinated Entry Systems and Continuums of Care to serve as a bridge to permanent housing options. Continued funding will preserve the existing infrastructure, capacity, and relationships with community-based providers—partnerships that have taken years for counties to establish and maintain.

We urgently encourage the Administration and the Legislature to invest in preserving critical funding for these programs. These housing and homelessness programs are

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integral to achieving positive program outcomes by helping vulnerable populations remain safe and achieve their housing goals and economic stability.

For these reasons, Sacramento County urges your support.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies
County Welfare Directors Association

Attachment

Sacramento County Home Safe

Home Safe funding in Sacramento County provides a 15-bedroom emergency shelter, Nottoli Place, and homeless prevention and navigation services.

Nottoli Place opened in March 2023, serving older adults who are aged 60 and above, eligible for Adult Protective Services, and are affected by housing instability including homelessness. Nottoli Place served a total of 107 individuals; of those, 56 (52%) obtained stable and permanent housing.

The homeless prevention and navigation services began providing homeless prevention and rapid-rehousing assistance in August 2023, serving all APS clients, including dependent adults between 18 and 59 years old. The program served 373 individuals and prevented them from becoming homeless by assisting them in locating affordable housing. In addition, financial assistance was provided, such as shallow rental subsidies, rental and utilities arrears, security deposit, and home repairs, including deep cleaning, personal care, and bio-hazard removal.

The story of E.A. is one of the Home Safe successes. E.A. has been unhoused for the past 10 years and was diagnosed with abdominal hernia. They were unable to remove the hernia due to an unstable housing situation. They entered Nottoli Place **in February 2024, and the county's Public Health Nurse connected them with the medical provider and the county's Family Service Worker assisted in applying for SSDI.** During their stay at Nottoli Place, they were able to complete a colonoscopy and the hernia surgery. With the approval of California Department of Social Services, Home Safe funding was used to provide boarding service for their pet while recuperating from the hernia surgery. E.A. was very thankful for the support given by the department and Nottoli Place staff. While waiting for SSDI, the housing navigator continued to work to ensure that all necessary documents for housing applications were obtained. An application for permanent supportive housing was accepted and E.A. has recently moved in.