



June 7, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

California's Big 13 Cities thank your Administration for taking unprecedented steps to address homelessness and housing in recent years. We know the state is currently faced with a significant budget deficit, one that necessitates difficult decisions and choices. We write to ask that homelessness funding remain a top priority, even in the midst of the projected deficit. Solving the intertwined homelessness and housing crises requires state and local governments to continue to work together.

California's crisis of unsheltered homelessness did not appear overnight, and it will not disappear overnight. Now is not the time to abandon efforts to shelter and house people as we begin to produce results.

Thanks to the Legislature and your Administration, the Big 13 Cities have used the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) funding to stand up 15,772 shelter beds. These shelter beds are nearly 100 percent full on any given night. Without these shelter beds, another 16,000 people would be on the streets. In addition to emergency shelter, HHAP funds have been used by cities to place 42,215 people into temporary and permanent housing.

There has been a call for greater accountability in how local governments spend state homeless dollars. The Big City Mayors value accountability through increased data reporting, greater coordination, and a focus on outcomes. Our new regional homeless action plans contain measurable and targeted goals for reducing unsheltered homelessness – and we stand by those goals. We welcome working with your office on further appropriate accountability measures. However, greater

accountability while eliminating a primary funding stream cities rely on to house thousands of people every night will make the problem of unsheltered homelessness far worse.

In many of our cities, the number of newly homeless individuals outpaces the number of individuals we can place in housing, both transitional and permanent. Big Cities supported initiatives such as CARE Court, SB 43, and Proposition 1. As we wait to see the results of these reforms, we must continue to address the homelessness crisis.

California's Big Cities are using every tool in our toolbox to move people off the streets and into housing. Continuing HHAP funding is vital, so we do not see the numbers of unhoused individuals swell once again. We are thankful for the partnership we have with you and your Administration to solve the policy challenge of our time. As you work to finalize the 2024-25 budget, California's biggest cities respectfully ask you to continue funding HHAP at \$ 1 billion.

Yours in partnership,

**California Big City Mayors Coalition**



**Todd Gloria**  
Mayor  
City of San Diego



**Karen Bass**  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles



**Matt Mahan**  
Mayor  
City of San José



**London Breed**  
Mayor  
City of San Francisco



**Jerry Dyer**  
Mayor  
City of Fresno



**Darrell Steinberg**  
Mayor  
City of Sacramento



**Rex Richardson**  
Mayor  
City of Long Beach



**Sheng Thao**  
Mayor  
City of Oakland



**Karen Goh**  
Mayor  
City of Bakersfield



**Ashleigh Aitken**  
Mayor  
City of Anaheim



**Kevin Lincoln**  
Mayor  
City of Stockton



**Patricia Lock Dawson**  
Mayor  
City of Riverside



**Farrah Khan**  
Mayor  
City of Irvine

CC:

Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas