

Homelessness and affordable housing programs at risk in State Budget

ACTION

Call your Assembly Member and Senator **TODAY**, urging them to **invest state funding to address homelessness** and **reject the proposed budget cuts to affordable housing programs**.

AND

Voice your **opposition to AB 3093 (Ward) unless amended** to address cities' concerns.

Background:

The Governor's proposed May Revise does not include funding for the next round of the state's flagship homelessness grant program and includes deep cuts to several affordable housing programs. These proposals pose an existential threat to services statewide and come at a time when the state is trying to add additional, duplicative requirements for local governments when they plan for housing for vulnerable Californians.

What are the current budget and legislative proposals?

- The May Revise does not include new funding for a sixth round of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program. It also eliminates \$260 million in previously budgeted HHAP bonus funds, which are awarded to recipients if they meet specified performance metrics.
- The May Revise includes deep cuts to several critical affordable housing programs on top of the \$1.7 billion in cuts to key housing programs the Governor proposed in January. These cuts are estimated to result in a reduction of nearly 13,000 market-rate and affordable housing units statewide.
- [AB 3093](#) (Ward) adds new requirements to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) framework with the goal of better assessing the needs of homeless residents. However, the bill duplicates existing planning efforts and lacks critical information cities need to meet these new obligations.

Talking Points:

- Cities are working in overdrive to find creative solutions to prevent and reduce homelessness and boost affordable housing in their communities.

- The state has made significant investments in recent years. However, one-time investments will not solve these twin crises or allow for long-term planning efforts.
- A recent [statewide survey](#) conducted by Cal Cities shows that more than nine in 10 cities are concerned about their ability to provide homelessness services long-term.
- Failure to invest in a sixth round of HHAP is an existential threat to homelessness services statewide. It is estimated that 120,000 homeless individuals would be unable to access services without these critical funds. In the face of growing economic uncertainty, we cannot afford to leave our most vulnerable residents behind.
- On top of the lack of funding for homelessness and cuts to affordable housing programs, the Legislature and the Governor proposed AB 3093 (Ward) just two weeks ago, and it is now sailing through the legislative process.
- AB 3093 would require local governments to account for the housing needs of people experiencing homelessness in their housing elements **without** funding to develop the plan, implement strategies, or support the construction of affordable housing.
- Cities **oppose AB 3093 unless amended** to clarify how these new requirements differ from what cities are already doing to ensure cities can meet the obligations of this bill.
- Rather than continuing to bury local governments in red tape, the state should focus on bolstering the resources that cities provide to the residents that need them the most.