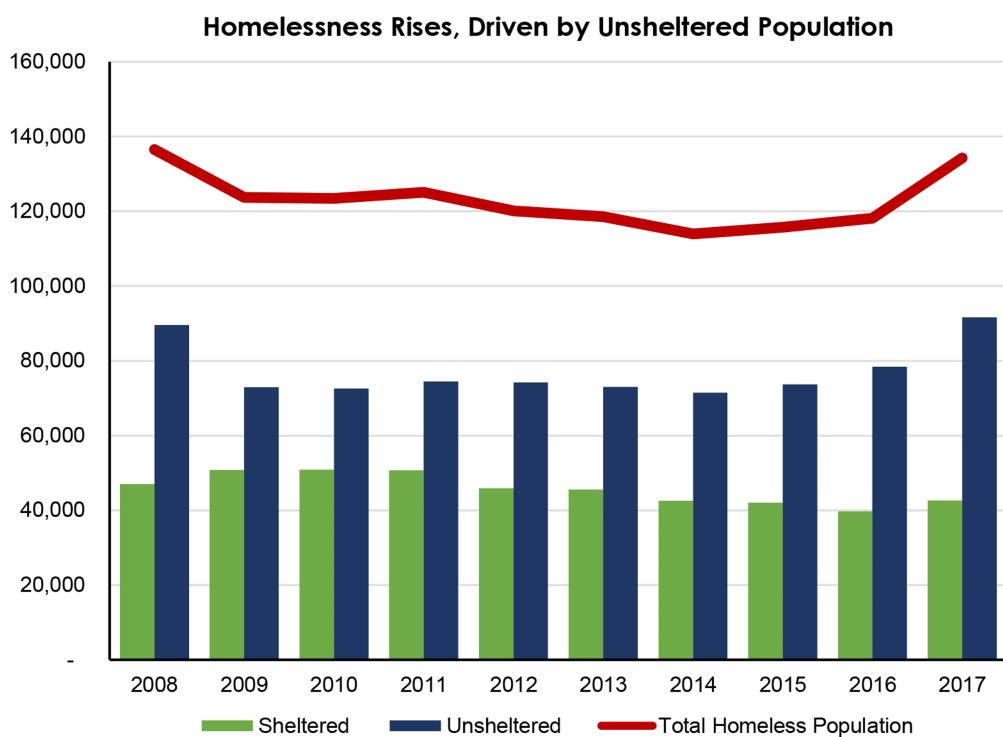


# HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a chronic issue straining local resources and services across all of California. Despite increased state and local investments, federal data have shown an increase in California's homeless population in recent years. See the table below for more details.



Data from Federal Housing and Urban Development's Point In Time Counts.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

The state has addressed homelessness through providing grants and loans to construct affordable housing for extremely low-income households. The Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Act repurposed general obligation bonds totaling \$600 million to provide supportive housing for veterans. The No Place Like Home Act dedicates \$2 billion in bond funding to provide supportive multifamily housing for individuals experiencing mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. And the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act (Chapter 365, Statutes of 2017, SB 3) provides \$4 billion for various programs, of which \$1.5 billion is available for the Multifamily Housing Program that can be used for supportive housing development.

The Budget Act of 2018 provided \$500 million one-time funding for short-term housing operations through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program. Local jurisdictions have used these dollars for emergency housing vouchers, rapid rehousing programs, and emergency shelter construction, among other purposes.

The May Revision increases the state's support to prevent and mitigate this epidemic by \$1 billion. Specifically, it provides \$650 million to local governments for homeless emergency aid, \$120 million for expanded Whole Person Care pilots, \$150 million for strategies to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the public mental health system, \$25 million for Supplemental Security Income advocacy, \$40 million for student rapid rehousing and services for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems, and \$20 million in legal for eviction prevention. In addition, the Governor's Budget included \$1.75 billion General Fund to increase housing production and hundreds of millions to increase grants to families in the CalWORKs program.

## **HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID**

The Governor's Budget included \$500 million one-time General Fund for jurisdictions for the construction and expansion of emergency shelters and Navigation Centers. Additionally, the Governor's Budget included \$25 million ongoing General Fund for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program to assist homeless, disabled individuals with applying for disability benefit programs, and \$100 million one-time General Fund for Whole Person Care Pilot programs that provide housing services.

The May Revision increases the \$500 million proposal to \$650 million and updates the allocation of the grants. California's most populous 13 cities will receive \$275 million, counties will receive \$275 million, and Continuums of Care (CoCs) will receive \$100 million, based on the 2019 federal point-in-time count. To continue to encourage

regional collaboration, funds are contingent on cities and counties submitting regional plans to their CoCs. These plans must then be approved by the state.

The May Revision also expands the eligible uses for the funds to include innovative projects for which one-time funding is well suited. This includes, but is not limited to, hotel/motel conversions, traditional and non-traditional permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, or jobs programs.

### **STUDENT RAPID REHOUSING**

The May Revision builds upon the Governor's Budget investment of \$15 million one-time General Fund to address student food and housing insecurity at CSU and \$15 million ongoing General Fund at the UC. The May Revision proposes \$6.5 million ongoing General Fund to support rapid rehousing of homeless and housing insecure students in the CSU and \$3.5 million ongoing General Fund for students in the UC.

### **WHOLE PERSON CARE PILOT PROGRAMS**

Building on the \$100 million one-time General Fund proposed in the Governor's Budget for Whole Person Care Pilots, the May Revision includes a \$20 million one-time augmentation from the Mental Health Services Fund for counties that do not operate Whole Person Care Pilots. With this funding, additional counties will be able to develop and implement essential programs to focus on coordinating health, behavioral health (for individuals with a mental health and/or substance use disorder), and critical social services, such as housing. Priority will be given to individuals with mental illness who are also homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

### **FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

As described in the Statewide Issues and Various Departments Chapter, the Department of Developmental Services is transitioning the last developmental center clients out of the Fairview Developmental Center by the end of this calendar year. The Department of General Services (DGS) will begin a site assessment to determine the condition of the property for potential future uses.

The May Revision proposes that concurrent to this assessment taking place, DGS will identify an appropriate building or set of buildings at the site that can be leased to a local jurisdiction to be used for permanent supportive housing for up to 200 individuals who are currently homeless or in shelters in the community.

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