

Date of Hearing: May 20, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

David Chiu, Chair

AB 2746 (Gabriel) – As Amended May 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Funding accountability: state funding for homelessness

SUMMARY: Requires that recipients of programs that address homelessness provide specified data. Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Defines “program” to mean:
 - a) Homelessness Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program;
 - b) California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program;
 - c) California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program;
 - d) Whole Person Care pilot programs;
 - e) Housing Disability Income Advocacy Program; and
 - f) Bringing Families Home Program; and,
 - g) Any other program receiving state funding to address homelessness.
- 2) Requires a local government or non-profit that receives funding from a program to submit a report to the state agency that allocated the funds that contains all of the following information:
 - a) The amount awarded to the recipient and a description of the activities the funding supports;
 - b) The amount of funds spent as of the date of the report;
 - c) The amount of funding that remains;
 - d) Any program income received;
 - e) An ongoing tracking of the specific uses and expenditure of the program funds categorized by the eligible uses for the funds and the current status of those funds;
 - f) Project performance standards;
 - g) Progress on meeting on the following performance measures and others established by the recipient to evaluate the success of implementing the activities of the program:
 - h) The number of homeless persons served;
 - i) The number of unsheltered homeless persons served, and the average length of time spent homeless prior to receiving shelter or other housing through the program;

- j) The number of homeless persons exiting into permanent housing from shelter or other housing received through the program;
 - k) The number of persons that return to homelessness after exiting shelter or housing received through the program and resource for unsuccessful exits from the program;
 - l) The number of persons at risk of homelessness served;
 - m) The number of housing units planned for, in construction, and completed within 90 days of receiving program funds or since the last report, whichever is later.
 - n) The number of housing units planned for, in construction, and completed since first receiving program funds;
 - o) The amount spent to plan for and construct each housing unit;
 - p) The number of housing units the recipient projects to construct with program funds in the next 90 days, in the next year, and until the recipient complete spends the funds;
 - q) The number of homeless persons served by the program funds in the last year, the total number of homeless persons served in all years the recipient has program funds, and a description of the homeless population served;
 - r) The type of housing assistance proved through the use of funds and the number of persons that received each type of housing assistance.
 - s) The signature of the recipient's chief executive officer, board of supervisors, city council, or equivalent.
 - t) The signature of the recipient's financial officer, treasurer, or equivalent.
- 3) Requires a grant recipient to submit the report within 90 days of receiving program funds and every 90 days thereafter.
- 4) Requires an agency that receives a report to post it on its internet website 30 day after receipt and provide notice to the Speaker of the Assembly, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Senate Committee on Housing, the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.

EXISTING LAW:

Establishes various state programs that provide Homelessness Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program; California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program; California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program; Whole Person Care pilot programs; Housing Disability Income Advocacy Program; and Bringing Families Home Program.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

Author's statement: According to the author, "AB 2746 ensures that there is clear transparency and strong accountability for all public funding appropriated to address California's housing and homelessness crisis. The Legislature needs to closely track and monitor the use of public funding appropriated for homelessness and to collect relevant data and information about expenditures and outcomes. With this information policymakers can develop and refine data-driven responses and ensure the best outcomes for California residents, taxpayers, and individuals experiencing homelessness."

Included programs: This bill would require counties, cities, non-profits, and Continuums of Care who received funding from programs operated by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and the Homelessness Coordinating and Financing Council (Council) to report data every 90 days after receiving funding.

Programs included in this bill:

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) provides cash aid that can supplement household incomes and, as such, these programs likely operate as de facto homelessness prevention programs for a number of individuals and families by helping them to afford housing costs that otherwise might be difficult to cover.

Bringing Families Home program is designed to assist children and families involved with the child welfare services system by: reducing the number of such families experiencing homelessness, increasing family reunification, and preventing foster care placements. Funds are currently allocated by DSS to 12 county child welfare agencies. Families are eligible if they: 1) have an open family reunification or family maintenance case with child welfare services; and 2) are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Priority is given first to families experiencing homelessness who are seeking reunification, next to families experiencing homelessness who have a family maintenance case and families experiencing housing instability who are seeking reunification, and finally to families experiencing housing instability who have a family maintenance case. The Bringing Families Home program uses evidence-based models and a Housing First approach, and relies on collaboration and coordination with homeless programs, child welfare services, and juvenile dependency courts. The type of housing interventions provided are tailored to meet a family's specific level of need; supports include an assessment of those needs, assistance with housing navigation or search, housing-related financial assistance, and housing stabilization services.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) offers individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness assistance in applying for disability benefit programs (including SSI/SSP) along with housing supports. A dollar-for-dollar county match is required; DSS allocates HDAP funding to 39 counties. Individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness are eligible for HDAP services; highest priority must be given to individuals who are chronically homeless or who rely the most heavily on state- and county-funded services. HDAP services must include four required core components: outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance. Participating counties provide programs that are tailored to the needs of their communities, and that utilize a Housing First approach.

Whole Person Care (WCP) pilot programs provide an option to a county, a city and county, a health or hospital authority, or a consortium of any of these entities to receive support to

integrate care for a particularly vulnerable group of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have been identified as high users of multiple systems and continue to have poor health outcomes. There are 25 WCP pilot programs in the state that provide target populations with a range of comprehensive services and supports to address unmet needs and improve the quality and outcomes of high-risk populations. Many of these pilot programs target individuals who are mentally ill and are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, and have a demonstrated medical need for housing and/or supportive services.

California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) provides funding to local CoCs to engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, help operate and provide essential services in emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

Homelessness Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program received one-time funding of \$650 million in the 2019-20 budget to fund local efforts to respond to homelessness. The funding is allocated to large cities, counties, and CoCs based on local point-in-time counts of people experiencing homelessness. The program requires recipients to report the following information annually:

- An ongoing tracking of the specific uses and expenditures of any program funds broken out by eligible uses listed, including the current status of those funds;
- The number of homeless individuals served by the program funds in that year, and a total number served in all years of the program, as well the homeless population served;
- The types of housing assistance provided, broken out by the number of individuals; and
- Outcome data for an individual served through program funds, including the type of housing that an individual exited to, the percent of successful housing exits, and exit types for unsuccessful housing exits.

Committee amendments: To reduce the administrative burden that this bill could create for recipients of state funding, the committee may wish to make the following amendments:

- 1) Narrow the information a recipient is required to report to data specifically around homelessness and not number of affordable units created;
- 2) Require a recipient to report on an annual basis versus every 90 days.

Related legislation:

AB 2329 (Chiu) (2020): This bill would require the Homelessness Coordinating and Financing Council to complete a statewide gaps and needs analysis of available services and housing to address homelessness.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California News Publisher's Association
San Fernando Valley Young Democrats

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Lisa Engel / H. & C.D. / (916) 319-2085