



Modernizing Behavioral Health Responses to Homelessness

THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS BEGINS WITH HOUSING

Solving homelessness is possible when we invest ongoing funding in housing and adequately-funded services. California must invest an additional \$6.9 billion, or about 2.5% of our state budget, each year. Once housed and receiving the right services and supports, people with behavioral health conditions can live independently, recover, and thrive.

EVIDENCED-BASED SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS:

ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (ACT) IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Supportive housing enables people with acute behavioral health needs to exit homelessness and live independently in the community. But services and property management in supportive housing are woefully underfunded in California, putting people in jeopardy of living in crisis, losing their housing, or institutionalization.

Decades of data show that evidence-based, intensive services models, such as ACT, successfully stabilize people in their homes.

ACT and other intensive services models are expensive, but they are far cheaper than institutional care.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SB 326 AND AB 531



ACHIEVE THE RESULTS IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING THAT EVIDENCE SHOWS IS POSSIBLE

- Fund the true cost of services and property management in supportive housing
- Use Medi-Cal to fund both ACT services in supportive housing and a supportive housing services benefit
- Housing-based CalAIM-funded supports shouldn't substitute for or be the sole source of supportive housing services unless funded and structured to align with evidence-based service models, such as ACT



REFINE HOUSING PROVISIONS

- Expand eligibility for housing interventions to anyone with a behavioral health condition or who exhibits symptoms of a behavioral health condition
- Include master leasing, move-in costs, and incentives for landlords to take rental assistance in the list of interventions
- Ensure that housing experts at HCD oversee housing interventions



BUILD INCLUSIVITY AND EQUITY

- Include provisions that track and report progress in reducing racial disparities
- Include people with lived expertise in planning and decision-making advisory boards and commissions

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