



## **Accountability is the Foundation for Addressing the Homelessness Crisis**

Homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis in California with an estimated 172,000 unhoused individuals and countless others who are struggling to stay housed up and down the state. Unfortunately, the state lacks a comprehensive and accountable plan to address this crisis effectively and equitably.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan is designed to make true progress to effectively address homelessness at every level - state, local and federal.

**Accountability is the first and foremost priority for California's counties.**

**The AT HOME Coalition for Accountability urges the state to adopt the Accountability Pillar of CSAC's AT HOME Plan as quickly as possible.**

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

No one level of government is solely responsible for the homelessness crisis. The undertow of massive economic and systemic inequities, as well as a tangled web of decisions and well-intentioned policies and programs stymies efforts to support those who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused.

***Solution: We need to develop a comprehensive and data-driven plan that includes measurable outcomes and accountability for all levels of government.***

### **What Does 'Accountability' Mean?**

- Clearly defined city, county and state roles and responsibilities making it clear which level of government is responsible for what. **Today, this structure does not exist.**
- **Collaboration and coordination** between the state, counties and cities from start to finish on countywide or regional plans that include measurable goals and outcomes.
- **Ongoing funding commensurate with responsibilities** for each entity within the plan which provides for maximum local flexibility in alignment with established goals and outcomes.
- Funding tied to results to ensure participating cities and counties adhere to clearly defined roles for siting and providing supportive services – as well as encampment outreach and clean-up.

### **To Improve Accountability, the AT HOME Coalition for Accountability Recommends the Following Actions:**

- Funded entities must submit a local homelessness action plan that includes clear outcome goals on a range of metrics, including how the plan addresses equity.
  - Funded entities can be held accountable to these goals only to the extent that the state provides sufficient funding for the reasonable costs of the interventions identified to achieve those goals.
- Consolidate Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program funding and reporting countywide or within a multi-county region to support a simplified countywide or regional plan with one fiscal agent.
  - HHAP funding is a state-funded block grant that provides cities and counties with one-time grant funds to support regional homelessness challenges.



## A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

### **Accountability** is the Foundation for Addressing the Homelessness Crisis

- As a condition of receiving HHAP funding, counties and cities should agree to a defined set of roles and responsibilities related to homelessness that shall minimally include, unless otherwise determined:
  - Counties have the responsibility to administer health and social safety net programs on behalf of the state to individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness regardless of their location within a county.
  - Counties also have the responsibility to provide specialty mental health and substance use disorder services to low-income persons or individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness living with qualifying conditions.
  - Cities shall be responsible for siting, funding, and supporting shelters for the unsheltered population within their jurisdiction. Counties shall be responsible for siting, funding, and supporting shelters for the unsheltered population within the unincorporated areas of the county and providing health and social services regardless of jurisdiction.
    - Shelter beds needed shall be determined by the concentration of homelessness in each incorporated and unincorporated jurisdiction.
  - Cities shall be responsible for siting permanent supportive housing within their jurisdiction. Counties shall be responsible for siting permanent supportive housing within the unincorporated areas of the county and providing key support services on behalf of the state regardless of jurisdiction.
  - If cities or counties do not want to plan or implement the required shelter and housing required by statute, they will forgo HHAP funding.
  - Cities shall be responsible for clean-up and sanitation of encampments within their jurisdiction. Counties shall be responsible for clean-up and sanitation of encampments in unincorporated areas of the county.
    - These responsibilities are done with an understanding of state and federal responsibility for clean-up and sanitation of encampments on state-owned properties and federal lands, respectively.
  - responsibility for encampment outreach must also be defined.
- Maximize local flexibility for uses of this funding to ensure funded entities have the ability to best utilize this funding at the local level to achieve the goals of the homelessness action plan.
- Provide performance-based funding for countywide plans that meet certain metrics in reducing homelessness. Funded entities should be rewarded for aggressive goals and achieving success.
- Consider consolidating or redesigning other related programs and funding streams that support homelessness efforts, such as rental assistance and encampment resolution, to further streamline and make the funding more effective.

**We urge you to join CSAC™ – a nonpartisan, nonprofit association representing California's 58 counties – in the grassroots AT HOME Coalition for Accountability.**

- [Join the AT HOME Accountability Coalition/Learn more about the Coalition](#)
- [Learn more about the entire AT HOME proposal](#)

Questions? Please contact [Joshua Heller](#), coalition coordinator