

National Center for Youth Law





**MNHC**  
Mission Neighborhood  
Health Center



**Self-Help  
Enterprises**



**FVLC**



**EBHO**



**HUB**  
URBAN INITIATIVES



Multi-faith ACTION Coalition  
We are Advocates and Communities  
Taking Initiative for Our Neighbors



**RCAC**  
www.rcac.org



**LSC**



**SOUTH COUNTY  
Homeless  
Task Force**

East Bay Housing Organizations



MARY+ELIZABETH INN



**Swords to  
Plowshares**  
VETS HELPING VETS SINCE 1974



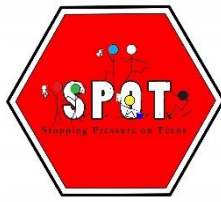
**"First To Serve" Inc.**  
Outreach Ministries



**SOUTH LA**  
CAFE



**LYRIC**  
CENTER FOR LGBTQ YOUTH



**SPOT**  
Stepping Process of Outreach



UNION STATION  
HOMELESS SERVICES  
HOUSING + EMPLOYMENT + LIFE SKILLS



PEOPLE'S BUDGET  
ORANGE COUNTY



**mogavero**  
ARCHITECTS



**tndc**  
HOMES. HEALTH. VOICE.  
Tenderloin neighborhood  
development corporation



**the  
architects  
collective**



**HOPE  
SOLUTIONS**  
The Heart of Housing and Services  
Formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing



**LENS CO**



**elder focus**  
DEVELOPING & ENRICHING HOUSING FOR OUR ELDER



**SEA**  
stone energy associates



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
S.F. BAY AREA CHAPTER



COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



**Daylight**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**BET TZEDEK**  
JUSTICE FOR ALL



ST. JOSEPH CENTER  
HOPE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT



**voices**



**Community  
Economics**  
a nonprofit corporation



**Funders Together**  
TO END HOMELESSNESS  
SAN DIEGO



**EAST BAY  
FOR EVERYONE**



SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COALITION TO  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

Founding Guiding Principle: Public policymakers and the community must address the underlying issues of structural racism and its intersections with class, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, and the political, economic and social structures that create and perpetuate hunger, homelessness, the lack of decent affordable housing and disinvestment in neighborhoods of color.



Coalition on  
Homelessness  
San Francisco



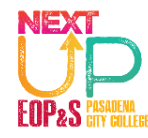
**Hathaway-Sycamores**  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



**Ensuring Opportunity:**  
The Campaign to End Poverty In  
Contra Costa County



**interfaith**  
community services  
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES



**NEXT  
UP**  
EOP&S PASADENA CITY COLLEGE



**LARKIN  
STREET**  
YOUTH SERVICES



March 24, 2021 (Updated Letter to Reflect Additional Support)

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 5052  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 4167  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4052  
Sacramento, CA 9581

**RE: Ongoing State Funding to Reverse the Cycle of Homelessness**

Dear Chairs Skinner, Ting, Caballero, Carrillo, Arambula, and Eggman:

On behalf of a statewide coalition called Bring California Home, the undersigned organizations are writing to request ongoing funding of \$2.4 billion to put the state on a course for ending homelessness. This funding will transform California's response to homelessness, hold local governments accountable for reductions in homelessness, and avoid costs associated with the state's currently ineffective response.

**Increasing rates of homelessness throughout the State.** California leads the nation with the highest homeless population, the highest rate of chronic homelessness, and the largest populations of youth and veterans experiencing homelessness in the nation. With 161,548 people experiencing homelessness at any given night, California is home to a quarter of the nation's entire homeless population, despite being home to only 12% of the nation's population. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened our homelessness crisis by putting hundreds of thousands of Californians into financial distress, and either on the brink of or experiencing homelessness. It has also endangered the health and wellbeing of those experiencing homelessness, and depleted local resources. Even before COVID-19, over 1,000 people experiencing homelessness died each year, just in Los Angeles, from causes attributable to homelessness. People experiencing homelessness were over four times more likely to die from coronary heart disease, over 17 times more likely to die from a transportation-related injury, and over 36 times more likely to die from a drug overdose, as housed residents.

**One-time funding does not meet the scale of the need or voters' expectations.** California has no statewide strategy nor any long-term funding targeted to ending homelessness. That needs to change. *Despite polling showing that combatting homelessness has been voters' top priority for the last few years, the state's investment in solving our crisis has never exceeded more than 0.5% of the state's total budget.*

None of the state's recent one-year programs have made the level of progress we need to reduce the number of people falling into and experiencing homelessness significantly. While the state's investments have helped local governments shelter tens of thousands of people and thwart more dramatic increases in homelessness, one-time investment, by its nature, narrows practical uses, preventing a comprehensive response. It taxes local governments to create administrative structures, complete complex applications year after year, and creatively combine funding sources with different, often inconsistent requirements. And one-time funding prevents service providers from being able to scale their staffing and organizational capacity to offer consistent, maximum capacity to move more people into housing.

One-time funding also limits the state's ability to hold local governments accountable for lasting results, and frustrates budget committees that have to make new funding appropriations before last year's investments have been allocated. Experience in other policy areas clearly shows us that steady progress is only possible when governments plan well, fund sufficiently, and track outcomes consistently. California's leadership on greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy are two of many examples of this approach's success.

For these reasons, the Legislative Analyst's Office stated on February 5th, in response to the Governor's proposal for one-time funding, "[A] clear, long-term strategy would make it more likely that the state's investments would have a meaningful, ongoing impact on its housing and homelessness challenges" than

one-time funding. And a recent State Auditor's report indicates the fragmented response of multiple one-time programs has prevented progress on this issue.

**Ongoing revenue scaled to meet the need, and invested in proven solutions dramatically reduces homelessness.** Other states have succeeded in significantly reducing homelessness through state investment in targeted, effective interventions, including New Jersey and Michigan. Federal and state funding for comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to house veterans experiencing homelessness reduced homelessness among veterans by almost 40% over the last 10 years nationally and in California, even while homelessness among other Californians increased. Thirty years of studies shows providing people experiencing homelessness with housing and services reduces homelessness and leads to decreases in hospital and nursing home admissions, recidivism to jails and prisons, and foster care placement among individuals and families getting housed.

**The budget can drive a comprehensive strategy through a “Bring California Home Act” that would:**

- ✓ Generate \$2.4 billion in new revenue that will free up General Fund dollars currently spent on nursing home and hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and other Medi-Cal costs, prison and juvenile justice costs, child welfare costs, and more.
- ✓ Hold the state and local governments accountable for spending on *evidence-based* approaches to ending and preventing homelessness: permanently-affordable homes, rental assistance, and services to help people access housing stability.
- ✓ Change the state's current approaches to local grants by setting, measuring, and reporting quantifiable outcomes. One such outcome would be *reductions in racial disparities* that result in Black and Indigenous residents vastly over representing—by almost 7 times the general population—Californians experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Evaluate to make the program more effective through legislative changes.
- ✓ Foster collaboration between local governments and the state.
- ✓ Set aside 10% of funding to promote the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, which account for 10% of California's homeless population, using developmentally appropriate services and housing interventions.
- ✓ Make California more competitive for small and mid-sized businesses by addressing quality of life issues, like risk of homelessness among low-wage workers, and Californians with nowhere to sleep other than doorways and sidewalks near storefronts.

To generate \$2.4 billion per year, we propose restoring the 1986 corporate tax rate for the corporations with profits of \$5 million or more from business in the state. This increase would only impact 500 California businesses—one out of every 3,000+ businesses. *Regardless of where a corporation is located*, this higher rate would apply to corporations doing business in California. Our proposal would also generate revenue by conforming to federal law that taxes multinational corporations that shift their profits overseas. Neither tax measure will touch small or medium-sized businesses, most responsible for recent economic growth, or businesses that are suffering during the pandemic. Moreover, because our corporate tax rate applies to corporations anywhere in the world, not just in California, our proposal would have no impact on where a corporation chooses to headquarter.



**Your committees can alternatively allocate \$2.4 billion per year to reverse the cycle of homelessness through General Fund allocations.** Whether through identified revenue sources or the General Fund, or a combination thereof, we request ongoing funding of \$2.4 billion per year to “bring California home,” and enact the comprehensive, strategic plan the Legislative Analyst’s Office, the Governor’s Council of Regional Homeless Advisors, and the State Auditor have recommended.

Eighty-five percent of Californians identify homelessness as one of the most important issues facing California. They are counting on all of us as elected, non-profit, and public sector leaders to take dramatic steps to solve homelessness. And that’s why our diverse coalition, over 150 strong, has come together to ask you to put the state on the path toward solving it. We urge your consideration of this critical budget proposal.

Sincerely,

**Sponsoring Organizations**



Mayor Eric Garcetti  
**City of Los Angeles**

Supervisor Hilda Solis  
**Los Angeles County**



Bill Pickel  
**Brilliant Corners**



Beth Stokes  
**Episcopal Community Services-San Francisco**



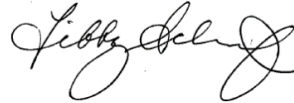
Christopher Martin  
**Housing California**



Heidi Marston  
**Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority**



Amie Fishman  
**Non-Profit Housing Association of N. California**



Mayor Libby Schaaf  
**City of Oakland**



Tomiquia Moss  
**All Home**



Sharon Rapport  
**Corporation for Supportive Housing**



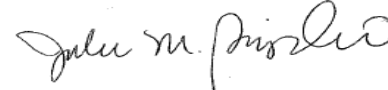
Veronica Lewis  
**HOPICS**



Amy Lemley  
**John Burton Advocates for Youth**



Christina Miller  
**National Alliance to End Homelessness**



Julie Snyder  
**Steinberg Institute**



Tommy Newman

**United Way of Greater Los Angeles**

### **Supporting Organizations**

Aieste Star Foundation  
Alexandria House  
Ascensia  
Architects Collective  
Bay Area Community Services  
Bend the Arc  
Bet Tzedek  
Bill Wilson Center  
Build Affordable Better/TODCO  
California Alliance of Caregivers  
California Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies  
California Association of Student Councils  
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies  
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence  
Casa de Amparo  
CAST Los Angeles  
Children Now  
Coalition for Responsible Community Development  
Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco  
Community Action Marin  
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles  
Community Economics, Inc.  
Community Forward SF  
Community Resource Center  
Compass Family Services  
Covid-19 Dental Task Force  
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services  
Daylight Community Development  
Destination: Home  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Downtown Women's Center  
East Bay for Everyone  
East Bay Housing Organizations  
ElderFocus  
Ensuring Opportunity - Richmond Community Foundation  
Family Violence Law Center  
Fathers and Mothers Who Care  
First Place for Youth  
First to Serve, Inc.  
Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego

GLIDE

Good Seed Community Development Corporation

Good Shepherd Center

Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services

Homebase

Hope Solutions

Housing is a Human Right Orange County

Housing Tools

Hub for Urban Initiatives

Interface Children & Family Services

Interfaith Community Services

IRMSlovakia

Jovenes, Inc.

Justice in Aging

LA Family Housing

Larkin Street Youth Services

LavaMae

Lens Collective LLC

LISC

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

LYRIC

Many Mansions

Mary Elizabeth Inn

Mission Neighborhood Resource Center / Mission Neighborhood Health Center

Morgavero Architects, Inc.

Multi-Faith Action Coalition

Mutual Housing California

Napa County Democratic Central Committee

National Center for Youth Law

National Lawyers Guild – SF Bay Area

New Life Global Development Corporation

Operation Checks and Balances – Indivisible

Pasadena City College - EOPS and Foster Youth Programs

PATH/PATH Ventures

People's Budget Orange County Coalition

Public Counsel

Public Law Center

Rainbow Services

Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) San Diego

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness

Sacramento Housing Alliance

Safe Place for Youth

San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research

Self-Help Enterprises

Serving Seniors



Shelter Partnership, Inc.  
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council  
Skid Row Housing Trust  
South County Homelessness Task Force  
South LA Cafe  
Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH)  
St. Joseph Center  
Stone Energy Associates  
Stopping Pressure on Teens  
Swords to Plowshares  
Tahoe Youth Family Services  
Temple Beth Hillel  
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp.  
United States Vets Homeless Feeding & Housing Services  
Union Station Homeless Services  
University of Laverne  
VOICES Napa  
Wakeland Housing  
Women of Temple Beth Hillel  
Women's Empowerment  
Women's Foundation of California  
46 Individuals