



**AB 799 (Assemblywoman Luz Rivas):
The Homelessness Accountability and Reduction Act of 2023**

SUMMARY: AB 799 seeks to reshape and strengthen California’s response to homelessness by pairing strong accountability measures that couple required regional planning and refinements to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) with ongoing funding to meet the crisis at hand.

AB 799 (L. Rivas) contains five primary pieces:

1. Accountability through goal setting, regional collaboration, and consequences
2. Focusing HHAP grantees on balanced investments that provide a comprehensive response
3. Intent to invest ongoing funding at the scale needed to meet the crisis
4. Putting racial equity at the forefront
5. Reducing burdensome administrative process that deflect focus from strong outcomes, and create opportunities to build a stable, robust homeless services workforce

1) ACCOUNTABILITY: The most critical piece of this legislation is around holding every level of government accountable for solving homelessness. As the only accountability proposal created by a diverse coalition that includes people with lived experience of homelessness, community-based services providers, representatives of elected officials, and homeless advocates, AB 799 promotes accountability through the following:

- Directs California to **create a statewide goal** for reducing homelessness by January 1, 2025, which will inform the creation of local goals by the end of 2025,
- Requires big cities, counties, and continuums of care (CoCs) to **collaborate on regional, 5-year action plans** that then inform how local jurisdictions are held accountable. These regional plans are the cornerstone of a better statewide response to homelessness, as they would create greater role clarity between cities, counties, and CoCs, and foster more active involvement of systems that can help prevent homelessness, such as healthcare and child welfare,
- **Gives Cal ICH greater authority over setting local goals** to better balance ambitious and reasonable goals,
- **Creates consequences for regions that fail** to meet a critical portion of the regional plan goals, providing the state with a menu of accountability tools.

AB 799 would make regional collaboration a baseline threshold for accessing state homelessness funding, and add additional incentives to drive deeper collaboration.

2) FOCUSING INVESTMENT ON WHAT WORKS: The Bring California Home proposal **does not restrict the flexibility of programs like HHAP** or seek to remove any of the existing eligible uses of funding, but focuses on what works. For the HHAP program, AB 799 requires **coordinating grant recipient investments in the temporary solutions that provide respite and safety with the investments in permanent solutions that end people’s homelessness.**

3) ONGOING FUNDING: This bill would seek **annual, ongoing funding for the HHAP program**, although the bill does not identify a source of funding. Ongoing funding would allow local jurisdictions to build up responses that rehouse people experiencing homelessness faster than new people fall into homelessness. Ongoing funding helps **support a dignified, stable, and living-wage workforce within the**

homeless services system, equipped to meet the challenge of implementing a robust state effort. Moreover, the proposal makes the accountability provisions contingent on the state providing at least \$1 billion or more for HHAP each year.

4) LEADING WITH RACIAL EQUITY: California has long been home to a **disproportionate number of Black and Indigenous people experiencing homelessness**. Emerging data from the 2022 Point-In-Time Count shows the numbers of Latinos experiencing homelessness is now rising sharply around California. This proposal would make racial equity a central tenet of the state’s response to homelessness by—

- Requiring collection and reporting of data on program outcomes by race,
- Including greater accountability for achieving racial equity metrics, on par with other program outcome metrics,
- Directing local grantees to work with service providers on key contracting, hiring, and other practices that contribute to inequitable racial outcomes in homeless services systems, and
- Creating greater opportunities for cross-sector collaboration with other public services systems that play a role in producing inequitable outcomes across California.

5) STREAMLINING AND ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS: Finally, this proposal aims to remove some of the administrative roadblocks that have led to local grant recipients spending more time on applying for funding and less time managing the performance of funded programs. This proposal would—

Convert HHAP to a simplified, over-the-counter application process,

- Move to a regional planning process that takes place every five years, rather than annually, and
- Require the State to establish a unified, consolidated application process for homeless programs providing grants to local jurisdictions.

Co-Sponsors:

Bring California Home Coalition
 Corporation for Supportive Housing
 Housing California
 John Burton Advocates for Youth
 National Alliance to End Homelessness
 Regional Task Force on Homelessness
 Silicon Valley Leadership Group

California Youth Connection
 Central City Association of LA
 Children’s Law Center of CA
 Children Now – Child Welfare
 City Housing, Inc.
 Compass Family Services
 Covenant Community Services
 Covenant House California
 Creative Alternatives TH
 David & Margaret Youth and Family Services
 Destination: Home
 Doing Good Works
 Downtown Women’s Center
 East Bay Housing Organizations
 Encompass Community Services
 Foster Care Counts
 Fulfillment Foundation, Inc.
 Hill Country Health and Wellness Center
 Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership
 Homerise San Francisco

LA Family Housing
 Lifeline Community Services
 New Alternatives
 Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
 North County Lifeline
 PATH
 The Gubbio Project
 The People Concern
 Restoration Transitional Supportive Housing
 RH Community Builders
 Safe Place for Youth
 SPUR
 Steinberg Institute
 Swords to Plowshares
 Sycamores
 Union Station Homeless Services
 Vacaville Solano Services Corp
 Valley Restart Shelter
 VOICES Youth Center
 Walden Family Services
 Wind Youth Service

Supporters:

All Saints Church for Foster Care Project
 Allies for Every Child
 Bay Area Community Services
 Beyond Emancipation
 Brilliant Corners
 California Housing Partnership