



## Special Homelessness Update ■ January 8, 2020

### **Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order, Previews Budget Investments on Homelessness**

This morning, Governor Gavin Newsom [announced](#) Executive Order [N-23-20](#), directing state departments to implement a number of actions on homelessness, and also previewed new investments in addressing the homeless crisis in his proposed 2020-21 state budget.

Specifically, the Executive Order directs:

- The Department of Finance to establish the California Access to Housing and Services Fund within the Department of Social Services to receive future state appropriations and private contributions to provide rental subsidies, additional affordable housing units, and stabilizing board and care facilities;
- The Department of General Services to identify properties from its previous inventory of state properties that can be used by local partners to provide short-term, emergency housing;
- CalTRANS to develop a model lease agreement for cities and counties to use for purposes of leasing CalTRANS-owned land adjacent to highways and state roads for short-term, emergency housing;
- The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to work with local jurisdictions to assess the appropriateness of vacant and decommissioned hospital and health facilities for purposes of utilizing them for short-term, emergency housing;
- The Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with other state departments, to assess fairgrounds properties in communities experiencing a shelter crisis that would be available for short-term, emergency housing;
- The Department of General Services to deploy 100 travel trailers and the Emergency Medical Services Authority to deploy modular tent structures for purposes of temporary, emergency housing;
- The formation of a multi-agency state strike team to assist local jurisdictions to connect those experiencing homelessness to health and social services programs.

In terms of the Governor's budget, slated to be released on Friday, the Administration announced a \$750 million investment in the new California Access to Housing and Services Fund for purposes of providing the above-referenced services. Notably, the Administration's release indicates "Unlike other state efforts, this money will go directly to service providers." The proposal includes \$695 million for the newly named Healthier California for All (previously Cal-AIM), which is the state's proposal to transform the Medi-Cal program. Finally, the Governor announced a \$24.6 million investment to implement a three-county pilot to place individuals deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial in a community placement instead of in a state hospital.

In addition to specific efforts on homelessness, the Administration will establish a Behavioral Health Task Force that will bring together relevant state departments, counties, advocates, health plans, providers, and other stakeholders to review existing policies and programs and coordinate system changes to prevent and respond to the impacts of mental illness and substance abuse in California. The Administration will also consider updates to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to serve persons with mental illness who are experiencing homeless, justice-involved populations, and early intervention of children, a recent goal of the initiative's sponsor, Sacramento City Mayor Darrell Steinberg. The Administration will submit a proposal in Spring 2020 regarding proposed reforms to Proposition 63, which may include new metrics to track local governments' use of these resources, namely the number of people served and the efficacy of spending.

Details on these and other proposals associated with the Governor's budget will likely be available after the Friday release. In the meantime, check out the *Los Angeles Times* article [here](#) regarding the Governor's announcement.