

This bill:

- 1) Requires Cal-ICH to create specific and measurable goals that decrease number of youth experiencing homelessness who struggle with food insecurity.
- 2) Requires Cal-ICH to create specific and measurable goals that decrease unemployment by increasing access to employment opportunity and economic security.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's statement.* "AB 1817 would update the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 to establish a more extensive list of goals that includes not only shelter, but an emphasis on food security and economic stability as well. These additional goals reflect the struggles that homeless youth have experienced increasingly over time, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time for California to take a more comprehensive approach to the youth homelessness crisis by adding goals related to food security and employment opportunities to end youth homelessness once and for all."
- 2) *Cal-ICH.* Cal-ICH, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), was created to oversee the implementation of "Housing First" policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on the idea that homeless individuals should be provided shelter and stability before underlying issues can be successfully addressed. Housing First utilizes a tenant screening process that promotes accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances or participation in services. As the state's homelessness crisis has worsened, the role of Cal-ICH has significantly increased, until recently, as was has been charged with administering two significant programs dedicated to addressing homelessness, the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP).
- 3) *Homelessness Numbers.* According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, chronically homeless people are people with disabilities who also experience extended or repeated episodes of homelessness. The 2020 point in time (PIT) count found that 48,812, or 40%, of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness were in California; 84% of chronically homeless people in California were unsheltered. Nationally, 110,528 (over a quarter of all homeless individuals) were chronically homeless.¹ Notably, chronically

¹ Henry et al. "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress." (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2021). <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

homeless people are a subpopulation that Cal-ICH is required to quantify, and localities must address this subpopulation in local landscape analyses in order to receive HHAPP funding.

4) *Homeless Youth Act of 2018*. The Homeless Youth Act of 2018 was created by AB 918 (Weiner, Chapter 841, Statutes of 2018) within Cal-ICH. The Act placed additional responsibilities on the HCFC to focus on youth facing homelessness. The Act’s current goals reflect the overall goals of the Cal-ICH to decrease homelessness and increase coordination. Specifically, the Act required the Cal-ICH to pursue the following goals:

- a) Decrease the number of youth experiencing homelessness
- b) Decreasing homelessness caused by separation from family or legal guardian
- c) Decreasing the rate and length of youth experiencing homelessness
- d) Decreasing barriers to service by increasing cross- systems partnerships government entities service this population.

This bill adds two additional goals related to food security and employment.

4) *Incoming!* This bill passed out of the Senate Human Services Committee on June 17, 2024 with a 5-0 vote.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

SB 918 (Weiner, Chapter 841, Statutes 2018) — created the Homeless Youth Act of 2018, which adds new responsibilities related to homeless youth to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Cal-ICH.

AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes 2021) — created Cal-ICH to coordinate state homelessness resources and programming.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.)

SUPPORT:

California Coalition for Youth
Los Angeles County Office of Education

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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