



of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments and to function as the community link at the local level for the development of those services.

**This bill:**

- 1) Requires Cal-ICH coordinate with California COCs and AAAs to provide gerontological training for homelessness services staff upon appropriation by the Legislature.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) *Author's statement.* "California Seniors are at great risk because of the rapid rise in the cost of housing. Most have worked their entire lives, find it difficult to manage a budget on a limited income. Seniors are estimated to be the fastest-growing group in our nation experiencing homelessness many for the first time. Homeless shelter and prevention services staff are an important component of the success of addressing California's homeless crisis, however the majority of the supportive staff are not trained in the issues and concerns of older adults. Training staff to understand the impacts of aging that can affect communication, mobility issues, isolation, hearing loss and memory , and medical issues and all important to know to help seniors to make choices to have them live their best life and boost the quality of care for individuals across care services. Having knowledge of regional services and resources is needed to better assist this more vulnerable population experiencing homelessness".
- 2) *California's Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.* In 2022, Cal-ICH updated their action plan to prevent and end homelessness in California. It identifies 15 objectives and a related 150 activities needed to achieve these goals. Two of these activities encompass the intentions of this bill:
  - a) Objective 14—Activity 9: Incorporate a focus on housing status, housing instability, and housing needs within development of standardized tool for assessing needs within Aging and Disability Resource Centers' (ADRCs') and Area Agencies on Aging's programming.
  - b) Objective 15—Activity 5: Identify and implement strategies to serve older adults and people with disabilities at risk of experiencing homelessness, including meeting the need for in home supports and access to licensed adult and senior care facilities.
- 3) *Cal-ICH, CoC, and AAA missions in alignment.* Cal-ICH, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), was created to

develop policies and identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California while leading and coordinating statewide responses. CoCs coordinate community-based service and funding providers as designated by the Federal government. CDA designates AAAs to administer programs that serve older adults and adults with disabilities including trainings, provision of services, fall prevention, chronic disease self-management and more. This bill appropriately aligns the Cal-ICH coordinating directive with CoCs and AAAs service provision to aging populations at risk of homelessness to provide gerontological training for homelessness services staff.

- 4) *What should be prioritized?* The lack of affordable housing plays a significant role in causing individuals to become homeless or creates obstacles for individuals experiencing homeless to transition into stable housing. The need for and costs of housing have consistently outpaced the development of affordable housing for over 30 years. As of 2022, working at the minimum wage of \$15/hour, Californians have to work 83 hours each week to afford a modest one bedroom rental home at Fair Market Rent in California.<sup>1</sup> Older adults are increasingly living on Social Security and have a fixed income that only increases nominally with a cost-of-living increase of a few percent a year. However, rental costs are increasing at a much higher rate, making it difficult for many seniors to afford them. From 2017 to 2021, California’s overall senior population grew by 7% but the number of people 55 and over who sought homelessness services increased 84%—more than any other age group.<sup>2</sup> Over 40% of unhoused Californians in adult-only households who came in contact with the homelessness response system in the 2021-22 fiscal year were aged 50 and older.<sup>3</sup>
- 5) *Allocation required.* This bill would require a budget allocation. The author has not communicated an intent to submit a budget request.
- 6) *Double referral.* This bill was passed out of the Senate Human Services Committee on April 17, 2023 with a vote of 4-0.

## RELATED LEGISLATION:

**AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2021)** — renamed the HCFC to Cal-ICH. It also added members to the Council and created the advisory committee that Cal-ICH must seek guidance from.

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<sup>1</sup> Out of Reach. National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2022. <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/ca>

<sup>2</sup> BCSH Homeless Data Integration System. 2021. <https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/calich/hdis.html>

<sup>3</sup> Who is experiencing homelessness in California? California Budget and Policy Center. 2023. <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/who-is-experiencing-homelessness-in-california/>

**SB 1380 (Mitchell, Chapter 847, Statutes of 2016)** — created the HCFC to oversee implementation of the Housing First guidelines and regulations.

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

**POSITIONS:** (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.)

**SUPPORT:**

Serving Seniors

**OPPOSITION:**

None received.

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