



December 9, 2024
Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

As local elected officials from across California, we write to you today in strong opposition to your warnings to localities that failure to comply with your directives to clear homeless encampments will lose state funding. While we all share the goal of ending homelessness, the state must be a leader in executing strategies that work. Holding back critical aid to our cities and towns, many of which are addressing homelessness by creating new shelter opportunities, running community responder programs, and establishing tenant protections as well as affordable housing, is a grave mistake that will further exacerbate the problem. Instead, we urge you to work in partnership with localities to continue investing in locally-led strategies with a proven track record of ending homelessness.

Across our state, more than [186,000 unsheltered Californians](#) are struggling to find a place to sleep, with less than 100,000 beds available in our emergency shelter program. This is a direct result of the housing crisis that has pushed many of our neighbors to the brink. An individual earning minimum wage in our state must work 96 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom apartment. California is collectively short almost a million homes affordable for extremely low-income residents. Despite these challenges, localities are taking action to prevent displacement and provide affordable housing as well as supportive services to our neighbors in need. To help keep residents housed, Antioch and Bell Gardens have enacted rent stabilization. In [Baldwin Park](#), Mayor Emmanuel Estrada's investment in tiny homes and social services helped reduce the unhoused population by 70% over four years. Sacramento has seen a nearly [30% reduction](#) in homelessness through coordination with county officials and a housing-first strategy thanks to over \$120 million in state support. Rather than pull the plug on programs like this, as was done in [San Diego](#), our communities need additional funding and support from our state partners to ensure all our neighbors have a safe place to sleep.

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision in *Grants Pass*, we have seen cities and states across the country quickly move to criminalize homelessness. We have been heartened to see your administration resist the worst temptations of this ruling by extending the critical Homekey program and condemning actions to ban shelters like those done in [Norwalk](#), but we need leadership from the Governor's office, not direction. While we have seen increased state investments in housing and mental health services, our counties and cities need your ongoing

support to invest in proven housing-first strategies. Our housing crisis will require sustained support from the state through continued investment in permanent supportive housing, streamlining of reimbursement to localities, as well as new tenant protections and other affordable housing strategies if we are to truly solve this problem. Mandating our communities to clear encampments and shuffle the crisis between and around our neighborhoods will not solve the issue.

We fully understand that addressing this crisis is not simple. It will require coordinated work from the local, state, and federal levels to provide the services unhoused Californians need to end the cycle of homelessness. Threats of funding cuts will not spur action but endanger the limited successes we have seen across the state and put our communities back years of progress. As Californians, we know that fully funding support networks for our unhoused neighbors provides a positive outcome for the community as a whole, collectively paving a path to healthy and thriving cities where we all have a place to call home. We urge you to work *alongside* our localities in a collaborative effort to find a solution to this human crisis that we all so desperately wish to find a solution to.

Signed,

Eddie De La Riva, *Mayor of Maywood*
Emmanuel Estrada, *Mayor of Baldwin Park*
Elizabeth Alcantar, *Vice Mayor of Cudahy*
Jose Monroe, *Former Anaheim City Councilmember*
Mayra Aguiluz, *Maywood City Councilmember*
Eunisses Hernandez, *Los Angeles City Councilmember*
Daisy Lomeli, *Cudahy Councilmember*
Igor Tregub, *Berkeley City Councilmember*
Carroll Fife, *Oakland City Councilmember*
Devin Murphy, *Pinole City Councilmember*
Hillary Ronen, *San Francisco County Supervisor*
Eric Mar, *Former San Francisco County Supervisor*
Wendy Root Askew, *Monterey County Supervisor*
Kelly Kent, *Culver City Unified School Board President*
Rocio Rivas, *Los Angeles School Board Member*
Hector Bustos, *Santa Ana School Board Member*
Andres Ramos, *Compton Community College District Trustee*

Brian Calderón Tabatabai, *Mayor of West Covina*
Chelsea Byers, *Vice Mayor of West Hollywood*
Monica Wilson, *Mayor Pro Tem of Antioch*
Caroline Torosis, *Santa Monica City Councilmember*
Laura Nakamura, *Concord City Councilmember*
Xouhoa Bowen, *San Leandro City Councilmember*
Devin Murphy, *Pinole City Councilmember*
Benjamin Vazquez, *Santa Ana City Councilmember*
Mateo Bedolla, *Tracy City Councilmember At-Large*
Jonathan Sanabria, *Huntington Park City Councilmember*
Jennifer Brouhard, *Oakland School Board Director*
Valarie Bachelor, *Oakland School Board Director*
Alida Fisher, *San Francisco School Board Member*
Gary Hardie, *Lynwood Unified School District School Board Member*
Paula Amezola, *Culver City School Board Member*
Sara Lamnin, *Parks and Rec Board Director Hayward*
Xavier Johnson, *Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner*
Soli Amezola Johnson, *Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner*
Louis Quindlen, *Oakland College Board Trustee*