

Introduced by Senator Weber Pierson
Co-Sponsors: Megan Dahle
October 1, 2025

An Act to amend SB 606 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program, by
mandating shelter construction, implementing mental health services, and strengthening
“Functional zero unsheltered”

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 24, as introduced, Senator Weber Pierson. “Addressing Homelessness”

Under existing law, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program requires local jurisdictions to develop detailed plans for achieving "functional zero unsheltered" homelessness, meaning local jurisdictions have sufficient resources and a system to ensure no homelessness. It is required that every unsheltered individual has access to indoor housing, and money is being used effectively. Larger jurisdictions must work with and include smaller cities in coordinated plans to address homelessness.

This bill would amend the pre-existing Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program by requiring that at least 10% of the funds be allocated toward homeless shelter construction or expansion and fund mental health services within them in order to achieve “functional zero unsheltered”.

Vote: Majority Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Committee: Yes Local Program: Yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 50224 of the Health and Safety Code, amended to read:

50224. (a) This section may be cited as the Functional Zero Unsheltered Act.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) “Functional zero” means a milestone indicating a community has measurably solved homelessness, when homelessness becomes rare and brief and people falling into homelessness are able to be rehoused quickly in housing without limits on length of stay or in permanent housing.

(2) “Functional zero unsheltered” means a necessary milestone in the effort to achieve functional zero indicating sufficient housing options of all types to accommodate a jurisdiction’s unsheltered, chronically homeless population based on its most recent homeless point-in-time count.

(3) “Small cities” means the cities in a jurisdiction that are not Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program applicants.

(c) When updates to the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan required by Section 50233 are next required to be submitted, or beginning with the next round of program applications as provided in Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 50230), in addition to the data required under Sections 50221, 50222, and 50223, applicants shall provide the following information:

(1) (a) An assessment of what would be required for the applicant to achieve and maintain functional zero.

(B) The assessment in subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of the number of housing units of all types needed to achieve functional zero in a jurisdiction.

(2) (A) An assessment of what would be required for the applicant to achieve and maintain functional zero unsheltered.

(B) The assessment in subparagraph (A) shall include a financial model that will assess needs for investment in all of the following:

(i) Capital for the purpose of building permanent housing and interim interventions.

(ii) Operating supports in project-based housing and interim interventions.

(iii) Rental assistance with private-market landlords.

(iv) Services needed to assist persons in exiting homelessness and remaining housed [as well as providing mental health services](#).

(C) In order to meet the requirements of this paragraph, the assessment in paragraph (A) shall do all of the following:

(i) Identify federal, state, and local funding programs that provide housing or services to persons experiencing homelessness and describe all of the following for each program to the extent that data is available:

(I) The amount of funding the program receives each year and funding sources for the program. [Program funds allocated to a jurisdiction shall be used for the purpose of constructing or expanding homeless shelters](#).

(II) The number of persons the program serves each year, disaggregated by race and gender.

(III) The types of housing and services provided to the persons the program serves each year, disaggregated by race and gender.

(IV) Limitations, if any, on the length of stay for housing programs and length of provision of services for service programs.

(V) If applicable, reasons for the unavailability of data.

(ii) Identify the total number and type of permanent housing beds, units, or opportunities available to persons experiencing homelessness statewide and in geographically diverse regions across the state.

(iii) Analyze the need for permanent housing opportunities, including, but not limited to, supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and affordable housing.

(iv) Analyze the need for services to assist persons in exiting homelessness and remaining housed.

(v) Identify the number and types of interim interventions available to persons experiencing homelessness in geographically diverse regions across the state. The data shall also include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(I) The number of year-round shelter beds.

(II) The average length of stay in or use of interim interventions, to the extent data is available.

(III) The exit rate from an interim intervention to permanent housing, to the extent data is available.

(vi) Analyze the need for additional interim interventions and funding needed to create these interventions, taking into consideration the ideal length of stay in or use of the intervention.

(3) All of the following information regarding the applicant's implementation of local homeless housing incentives:

(A) Whether the applicant has a shelter crisis declaration that is currently valid and in effect, and, if so, whether the applicant has adopted California Building Code Appendix P or other local variations.

(B) What steps the applicant has taken to reduce the number of discretionary approvals required of interim and permanent housing projects.

(C) Whether the applicant has waived applicable zoning requirements.

(D) Whether the applicant has waived local fees charged to affordable housing projects serving low-income and homeless populations.

(E) Whether the applicant allows affordable housing project appeals to be heard, despite “by right” ministerial authority.

(4) A demonstration of the applicant’s efforts to include small cities in its regionally coordinated homeless action plan, pursuant to Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 50230) of Part 1.

(5) Funding for implementation of this section shall be provided as follows

(a) Program funds allocated to a jurisdiction under the HHAPP program shall include a minimum of 10% for construction or expansion of homeless shelters.

(b) Additional funds shall be allocated as necessary to provide on-site mental health and medical services in shelters.