



HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO CALIFORNIA'S
MANAGEMENT OF THE HOMELESS CRISIS

AVERY CARMOUCHE - ARCH 415
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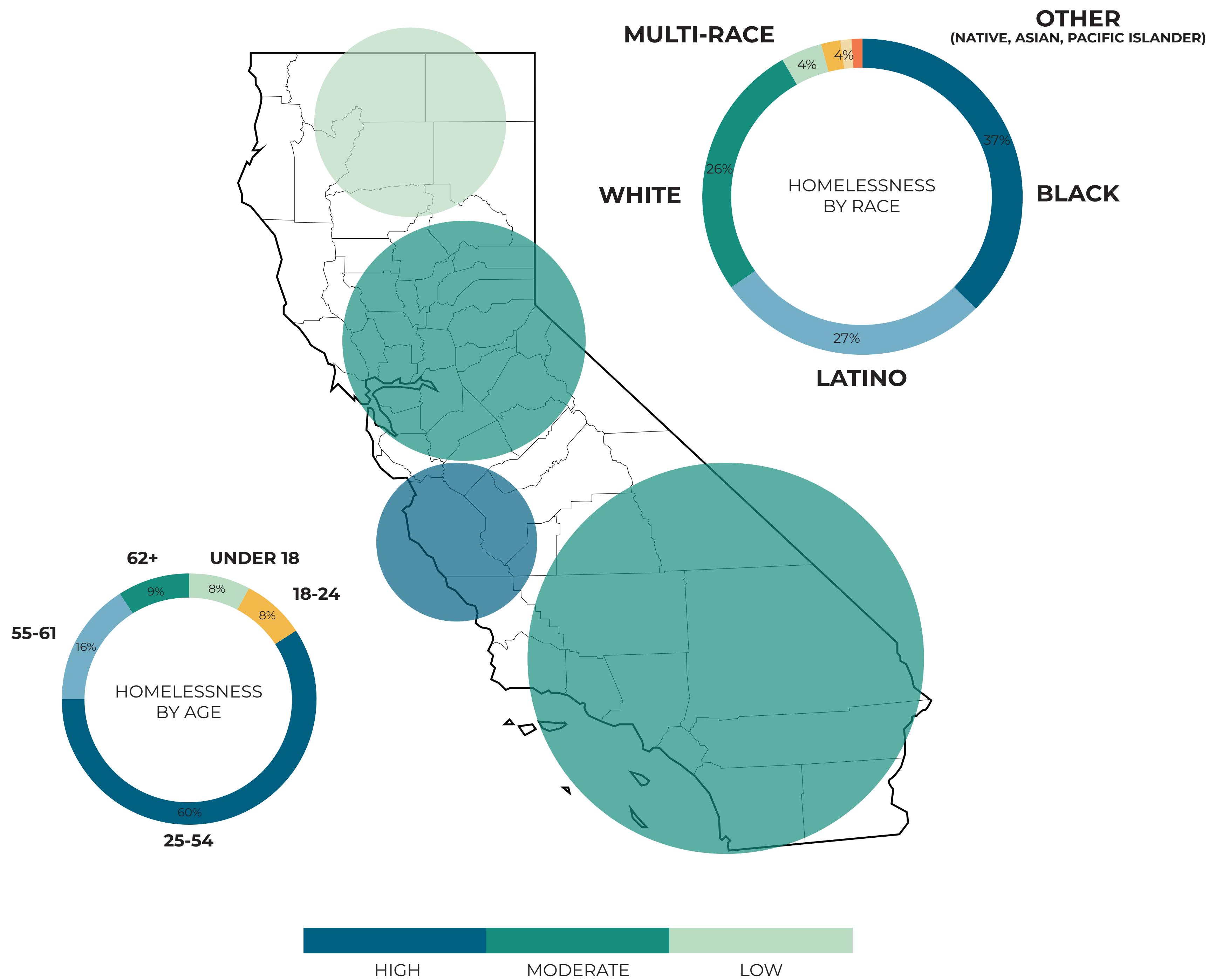
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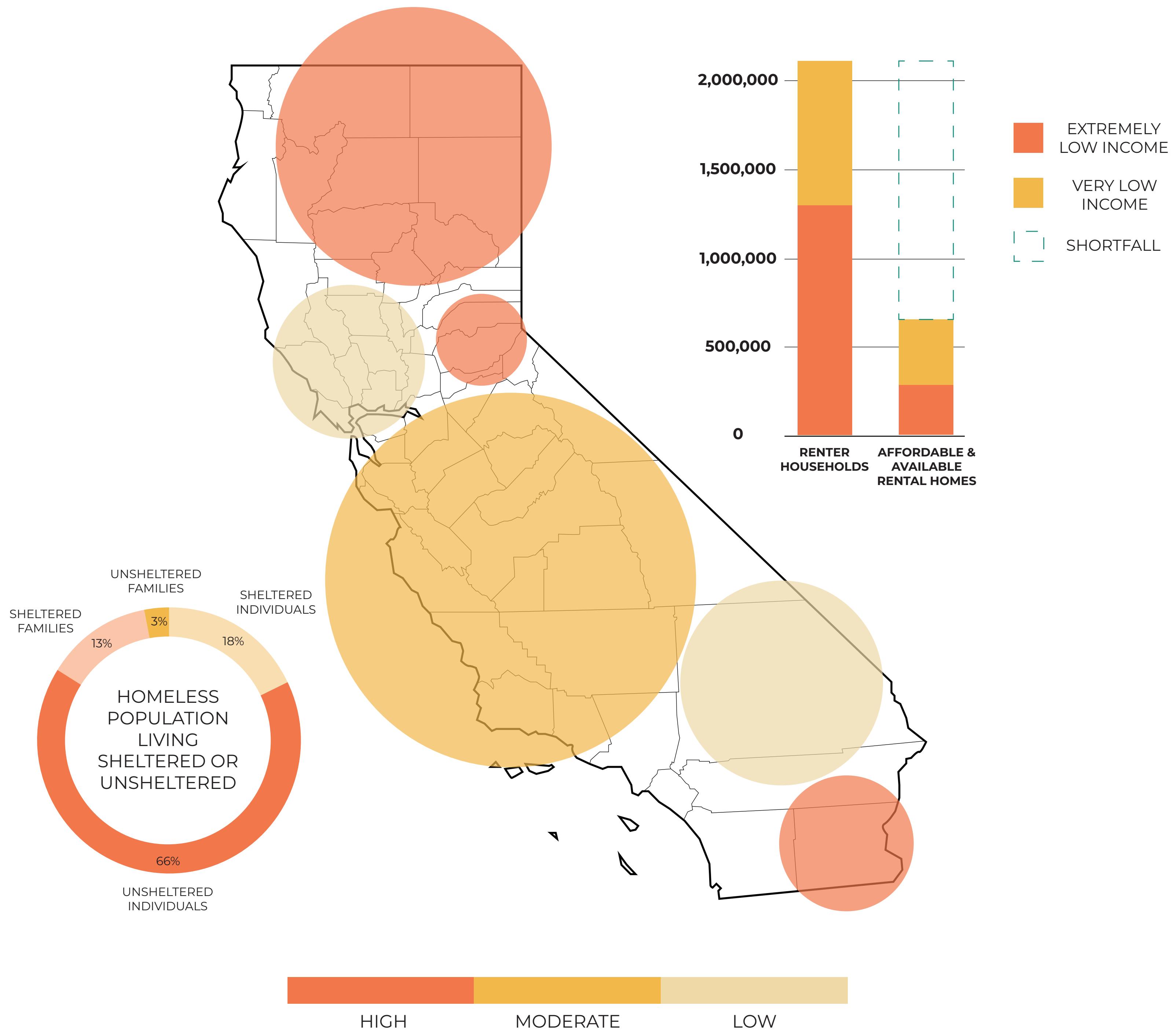
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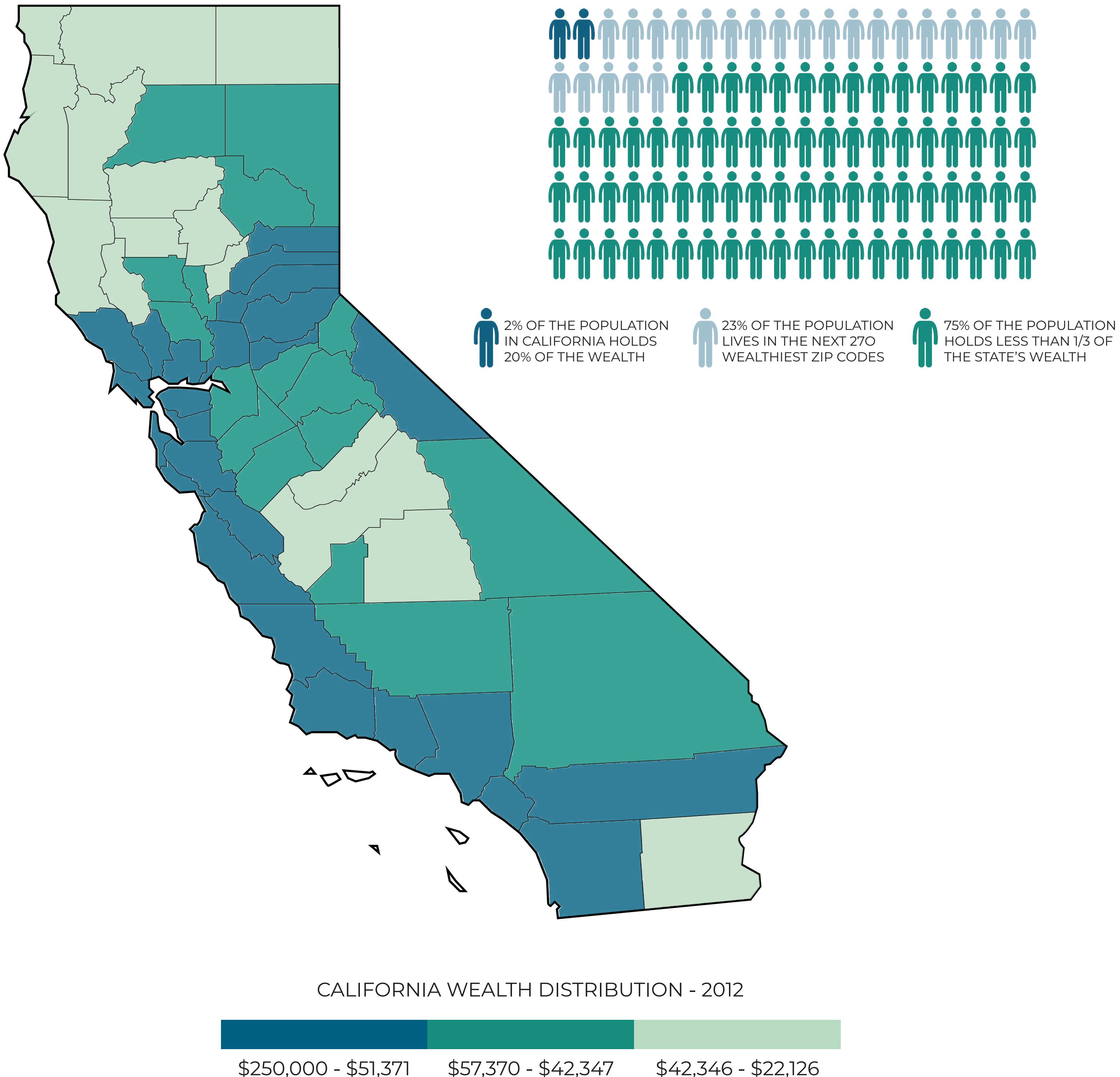
CALIFORNIA HAS THE HIGHEST HOMELESS POPULATION DENSITY OF ANY STATE IN THE US...



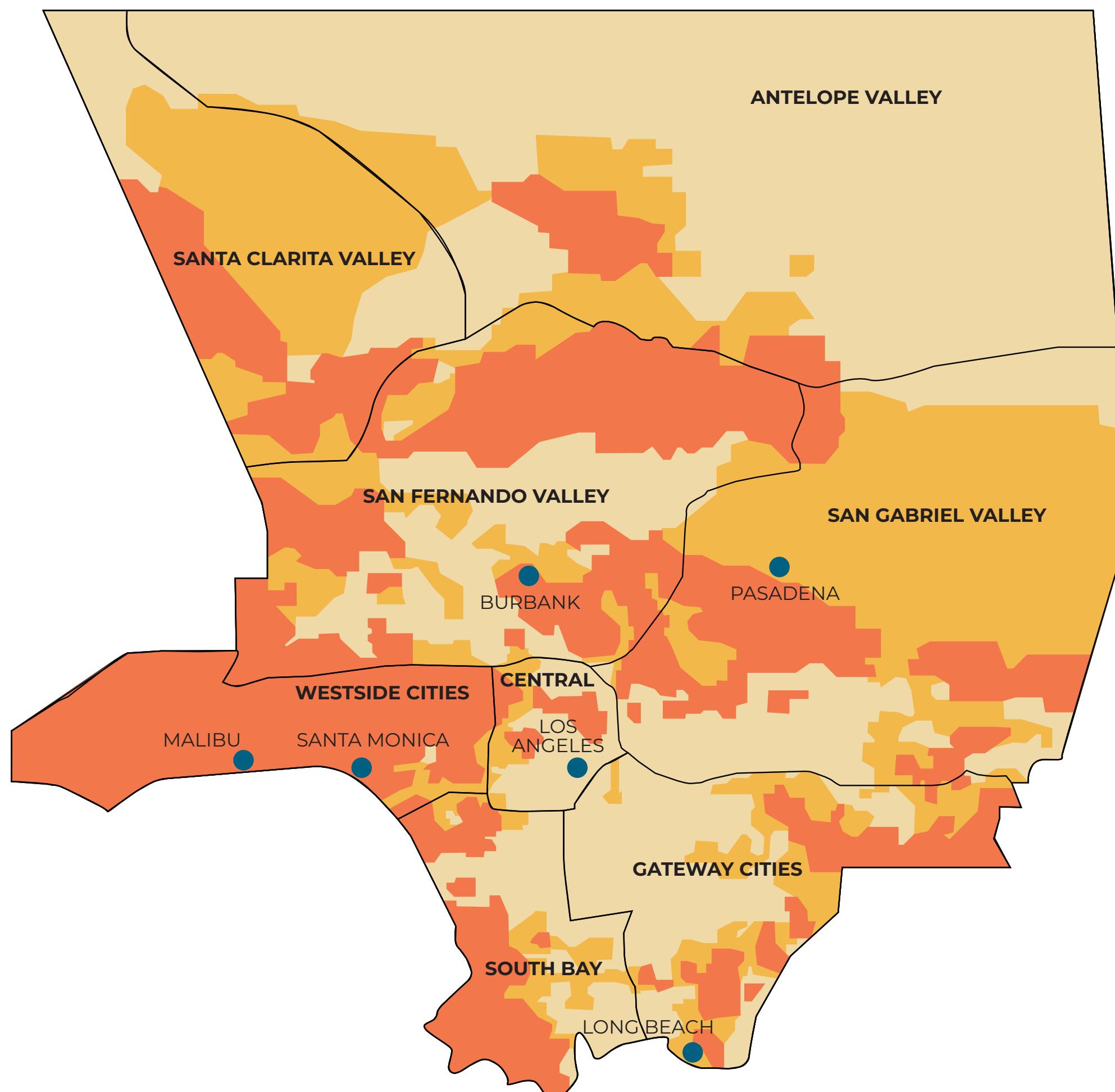
...AND THESE NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO GROW, ESPECIALLY IN THE MORE RURAL PARTS OF THE STATE



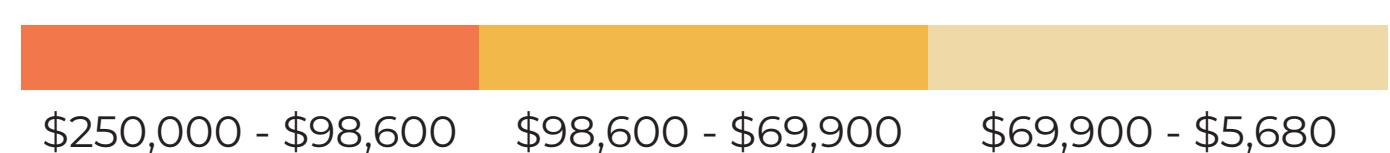
300 OF THE 1,650 WEALTHIEST ZIP CODES IN CALIFORNIA HOLD OVER TWO THIRDS OF THE STATE'S NET WORTH



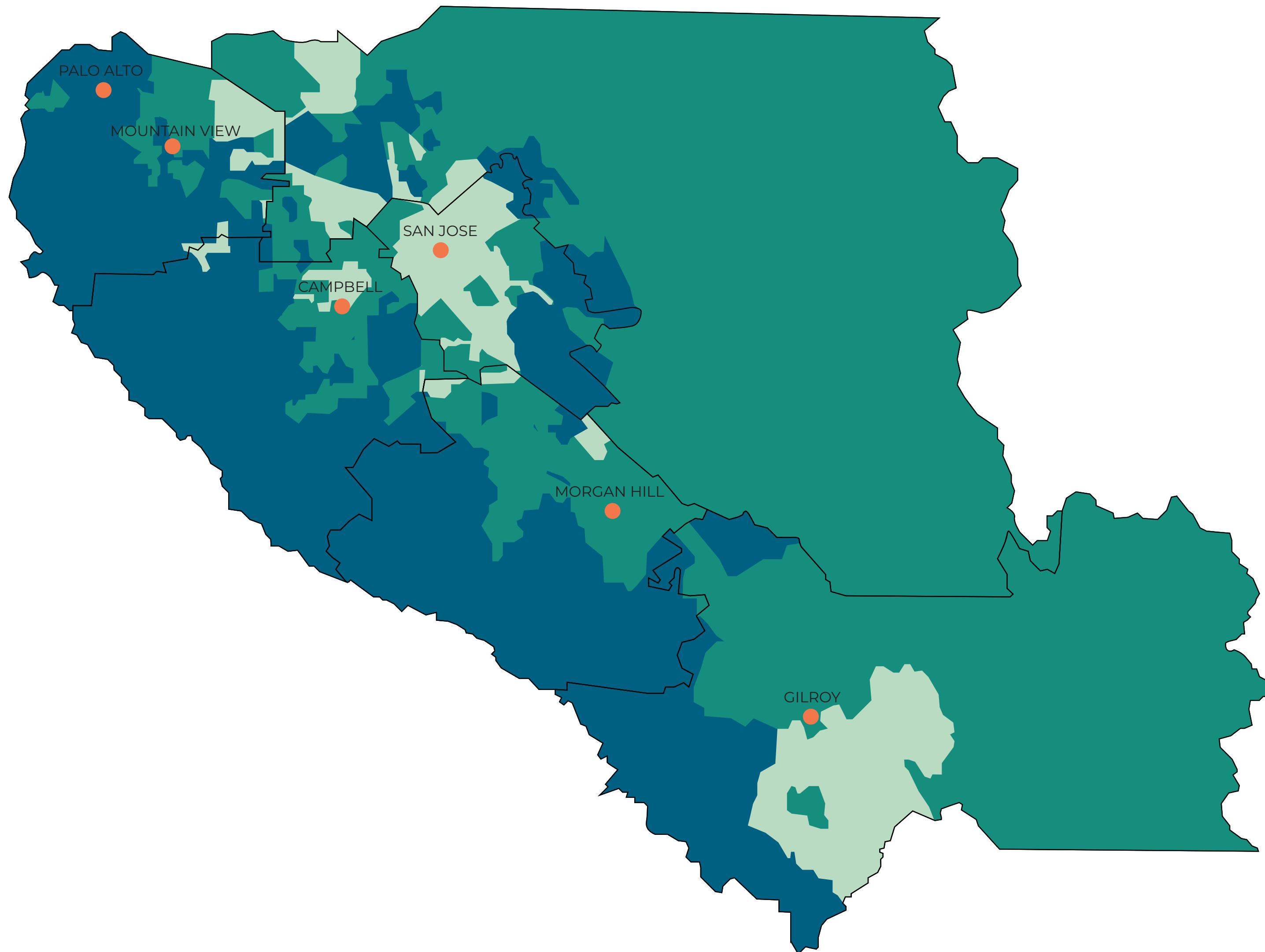
LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S EXTREME ECONOMIC DIVERSITY + HIGH COST OF LIVING CONTRIBUTES HEAVILY TO HOMELESSNESS



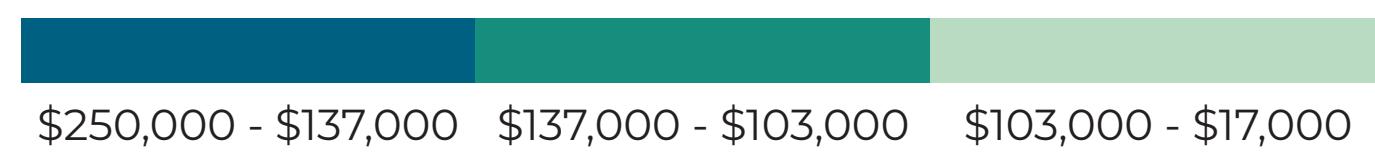
LOS ANGELES COUNTY - WEALTH DISTRIBUTION



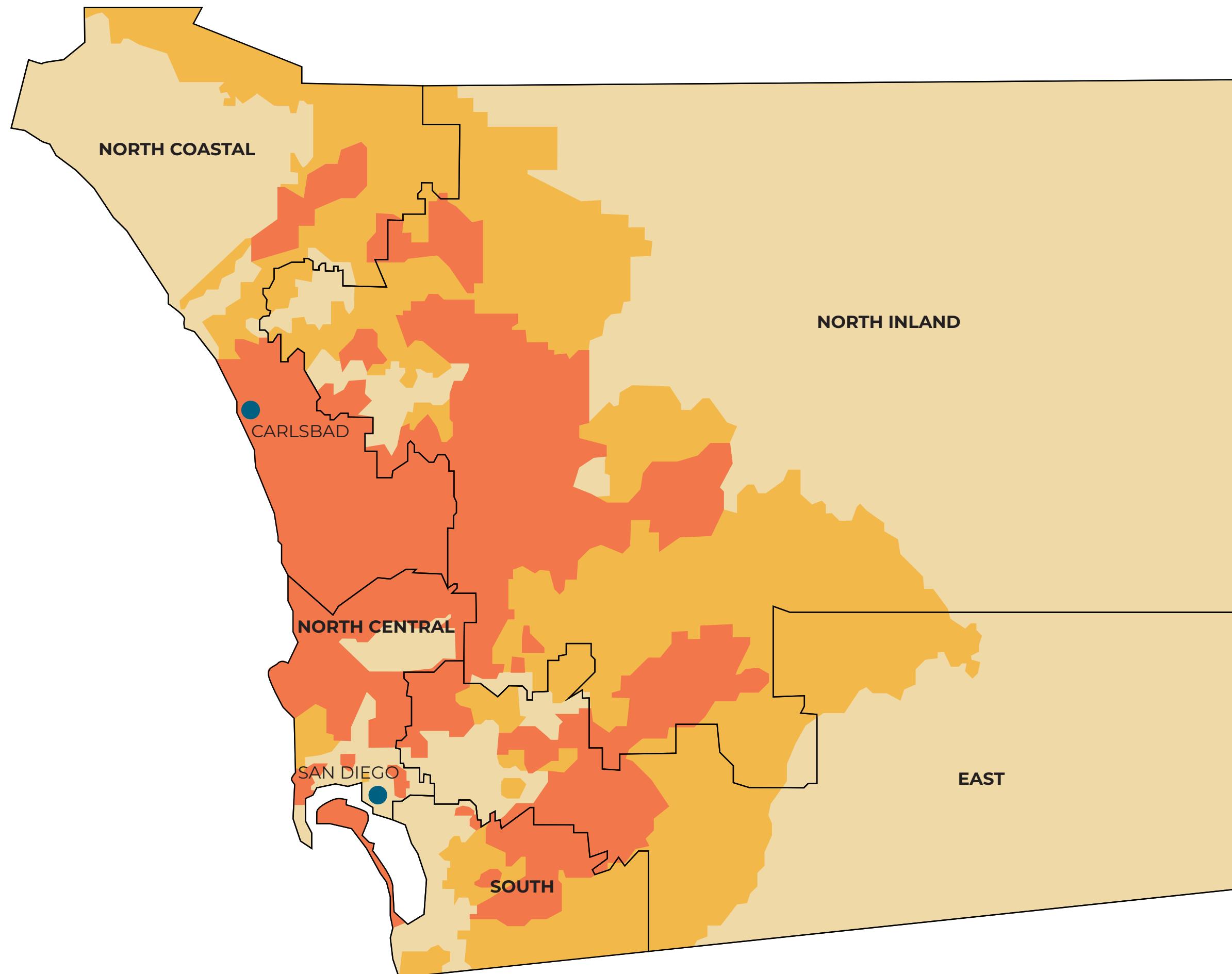
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, THE WEALTHIEST COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA, SAW A 2,312 HOMELESS POPULATION INCREASE BETWEEN 2017 AND 2019



SANTA CLARA COUNTY - WEALTH DISTRIBUTION



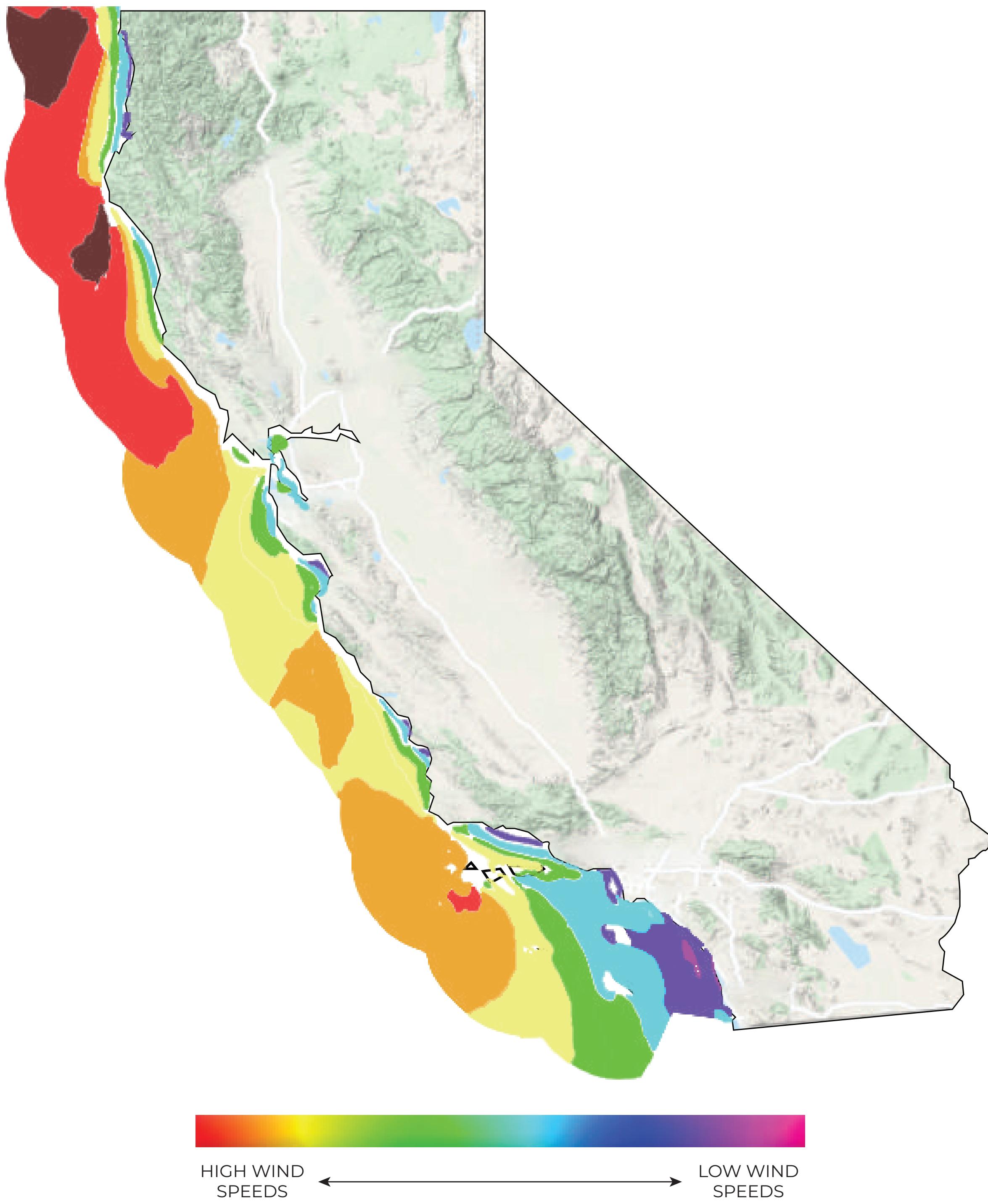
SAN DIEGO COUNTY SAW AN 11% DECREASE IN UNSHELTERED LIVING, RESULTING IN A 6% DECREASE IN IT'S HOMELESS POPULATION OVERALL



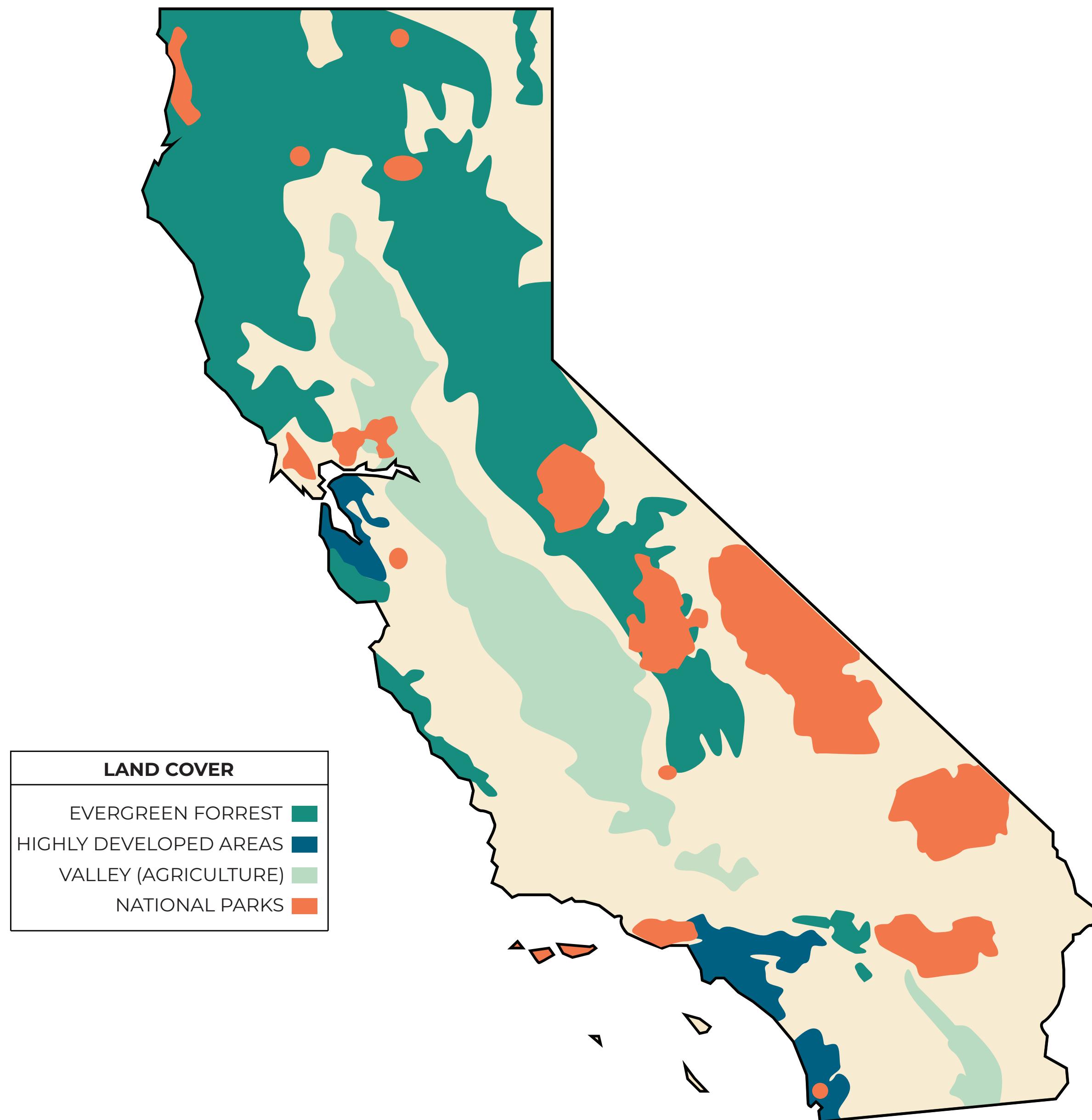
SAN DIEGO COUNTY - WEALTH DISTRIBUTION



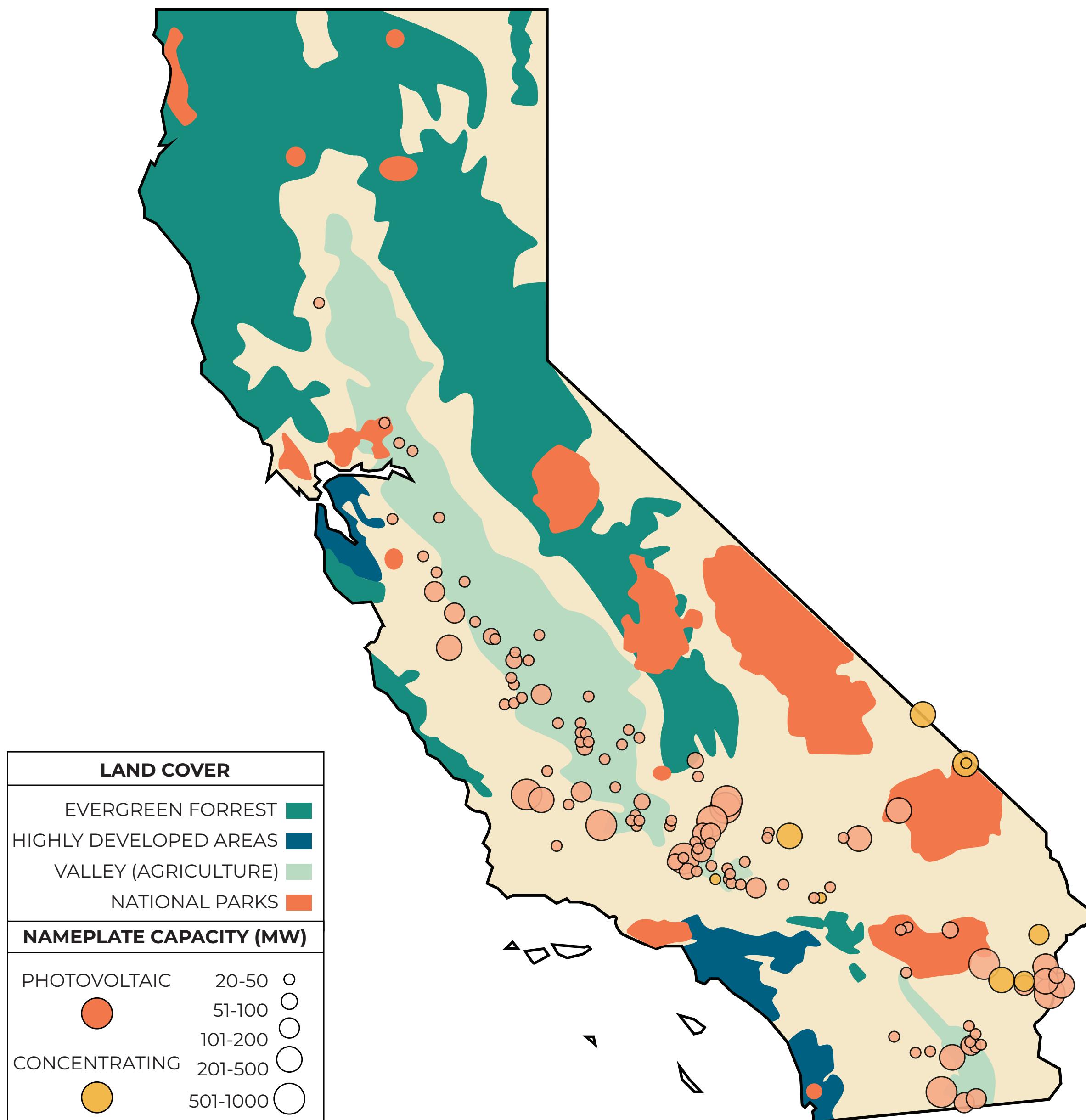
CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE HAS POTENTIAL TO SERVE AS A WIND-FARM DUE TO HIGH OFFSHORE WINDSPEEDS



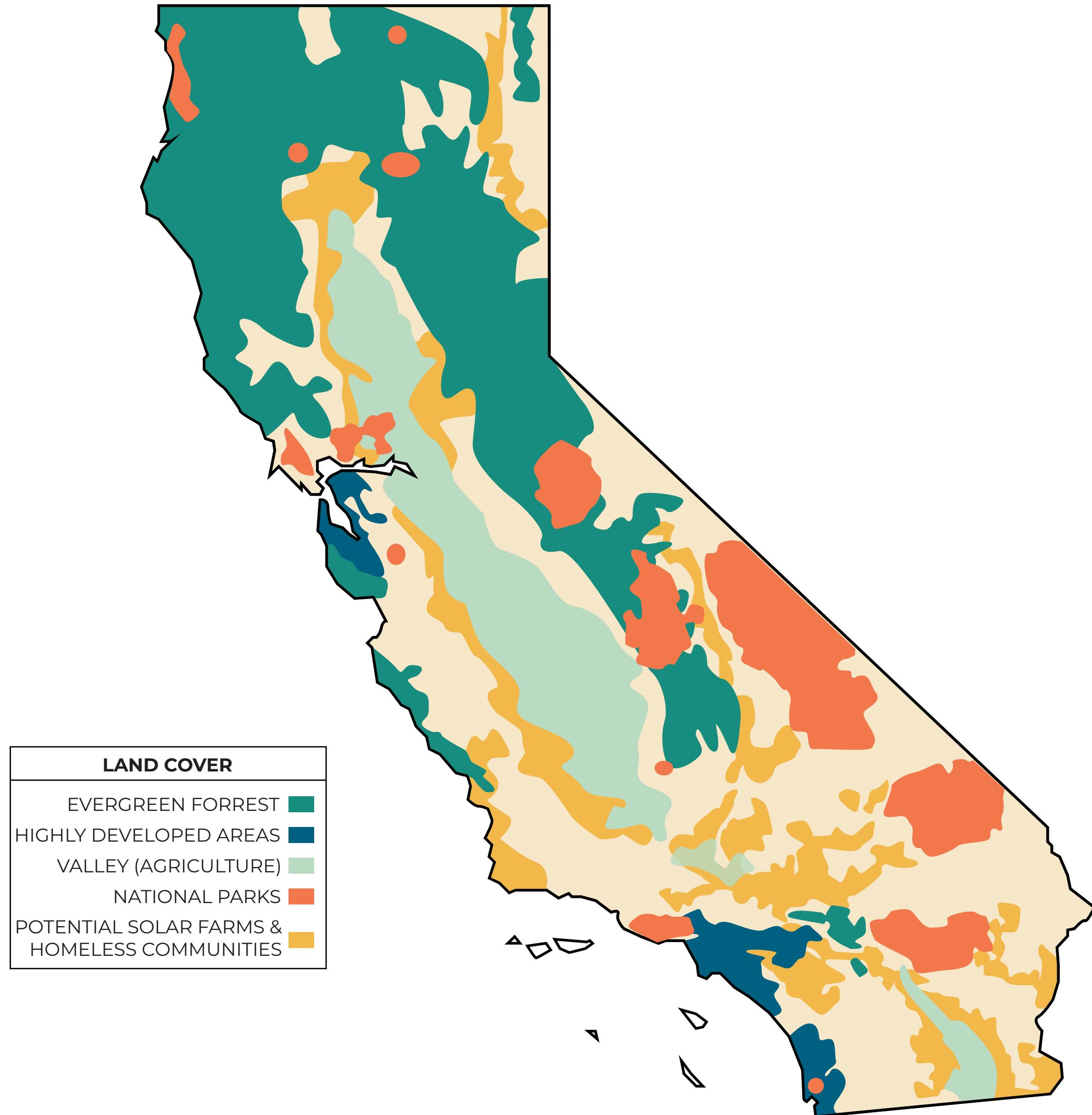
IN ADDITION TO WIND-POWER, CALIFORNIA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY THRIVES DUE TO NUTRIENT-RICH SOIL AND WARM CLIMATE



SOLAR FARMS IN CALIFORNIA PRODUCE 17% OF THE STATE'S TOTAL ENERGY EVERY YEAR - WHY NOT EXPAND UPON IT?



BUILDING LONG-TERM HOUSING COMMUNITIES NEAR SOLAR FARMS WOULD MAKE OBTAINING ENERGY JOBS EASIER FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE



ANALYSIS OF CALIFORNIA'S RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

How is it possible that California - the state that harvests the most solar energy, produces over 400 agricultural products, generates the most yearly revenue of any state, and has the 4th highest economy in the United States - is in 1st place for the highest homeless population of any state in America?

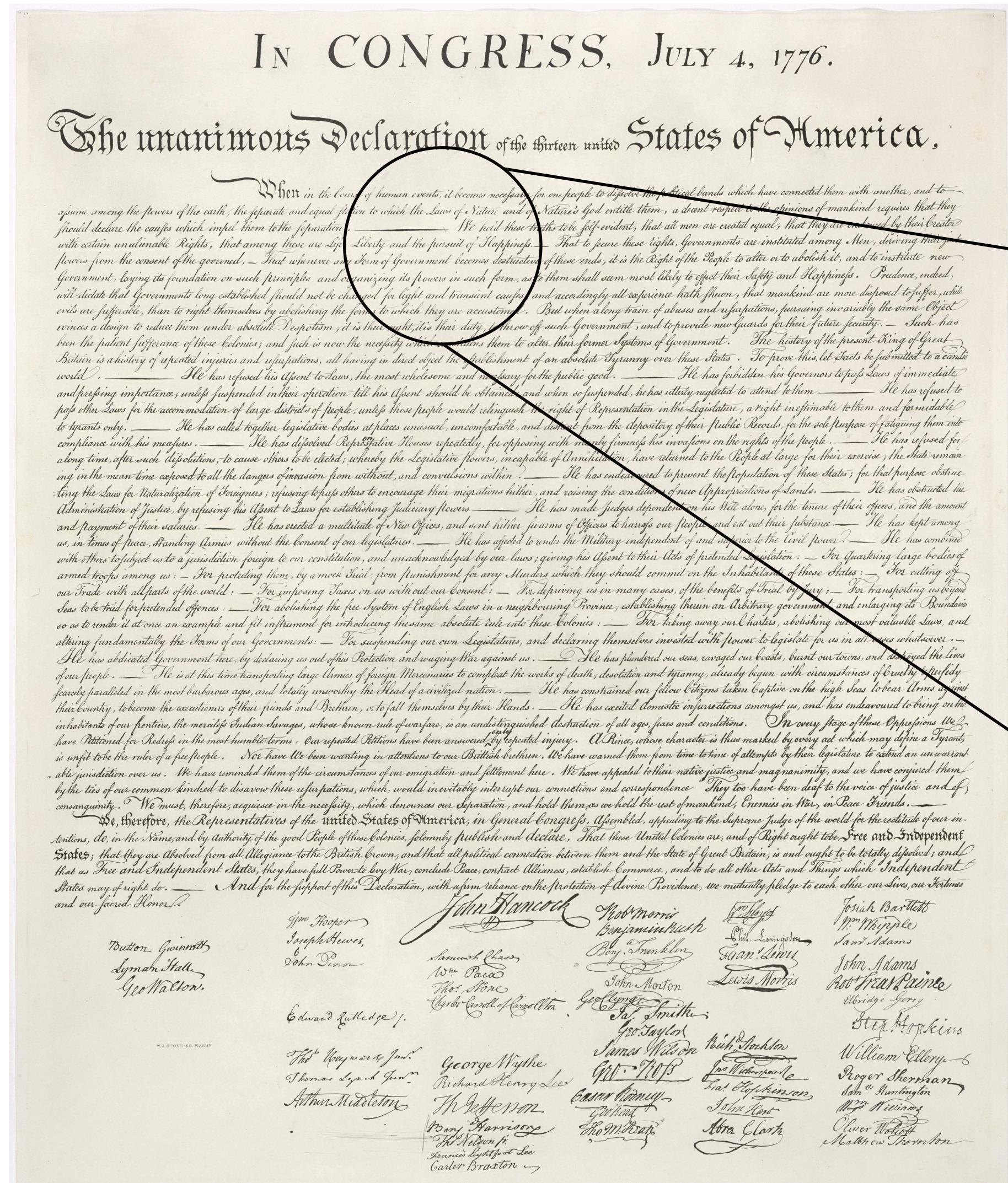
The answer is quite simple: **there aren't enough resources being allocated towards ending homelessness.**

If you take a closer look at city budgets, you'll notice many cities spend well over half of their budgets on police funding. In 2019 alone, the city of Los Angeles spent over \$1.7 billion on police salaries and equipment. That same budget allocated only \$457 million towards the homeless crisis, most of which came from federal or "special" funds.

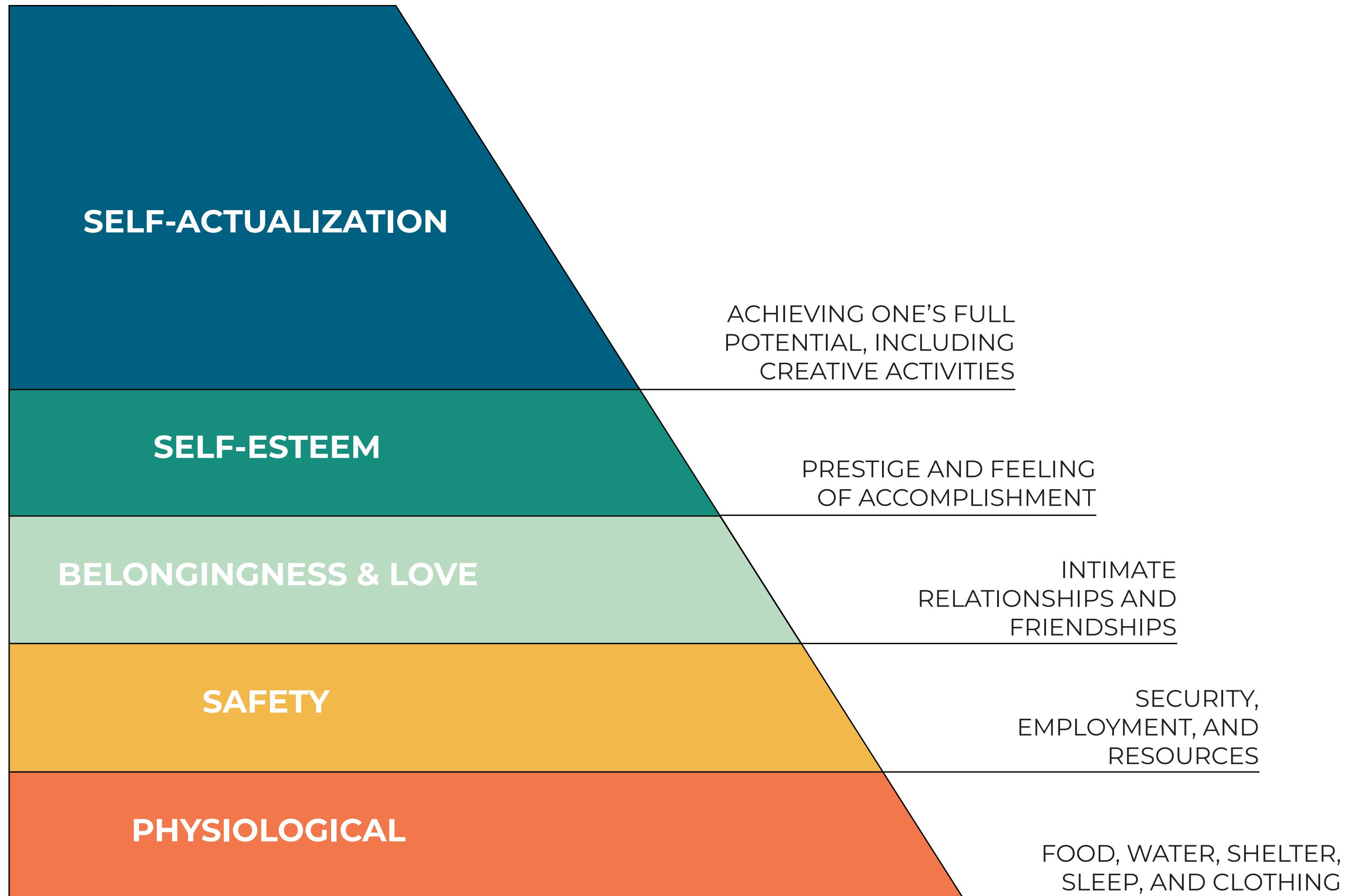
California already has the resources necessary to eradicate homelessness. By investing in the production long-term affordable housing communities that reside in close proximity to solar and wind farms, homeless people have a chance to gain the skills required to enter the workforce as energy technicians and mechanics. Doing this will provide a self-sustaining income that will allow these individuals to advance out of this community and live a happy and secure life.

CORE ISSUES & SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

“LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS” IS DEFINED AS A BASIC RIGHT IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY STRUGGLING TO ACHIEVE PHYSICAL AND SAFETY NEEDS, THEREFORE CAN'T PURSUE LIBERTY AND HAPPINESS



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs clearly defines and lays out the necessities of a happy and fulfilling life. Building upon one another, the next level of need cannot be achieved without the previous. Homeless people can never hope to experience fulfillment beyond safety as long as they are struggling to stay alive. If there is any truth left in the statement "all men are created equal," then action needs to be taken to uphold that belief.

Based on the rights specified in the Declaration of Independence and the needs determined by Maslow, ignoring homelessness is classist and unconstitutional.

THE AVERAGE PERSON HAS A WELL-ROUNDED DAY, ABLE TO MAINTAIN ALL OF THEIR NEEDS...



When examining the day-to-day life of a working citizen, you'll notice that their time is allocated to meet a variety of needs. Time spent with family and loved ones, pursuing hobbies and enriching activities, and gaining important recognition for achievements become core parts of maintaining a certain level of motivation and happiness required to live a life of the highest quality.

If a person isn't constantly concerned for their safety and security, they are able to invest more time into themselves and others.

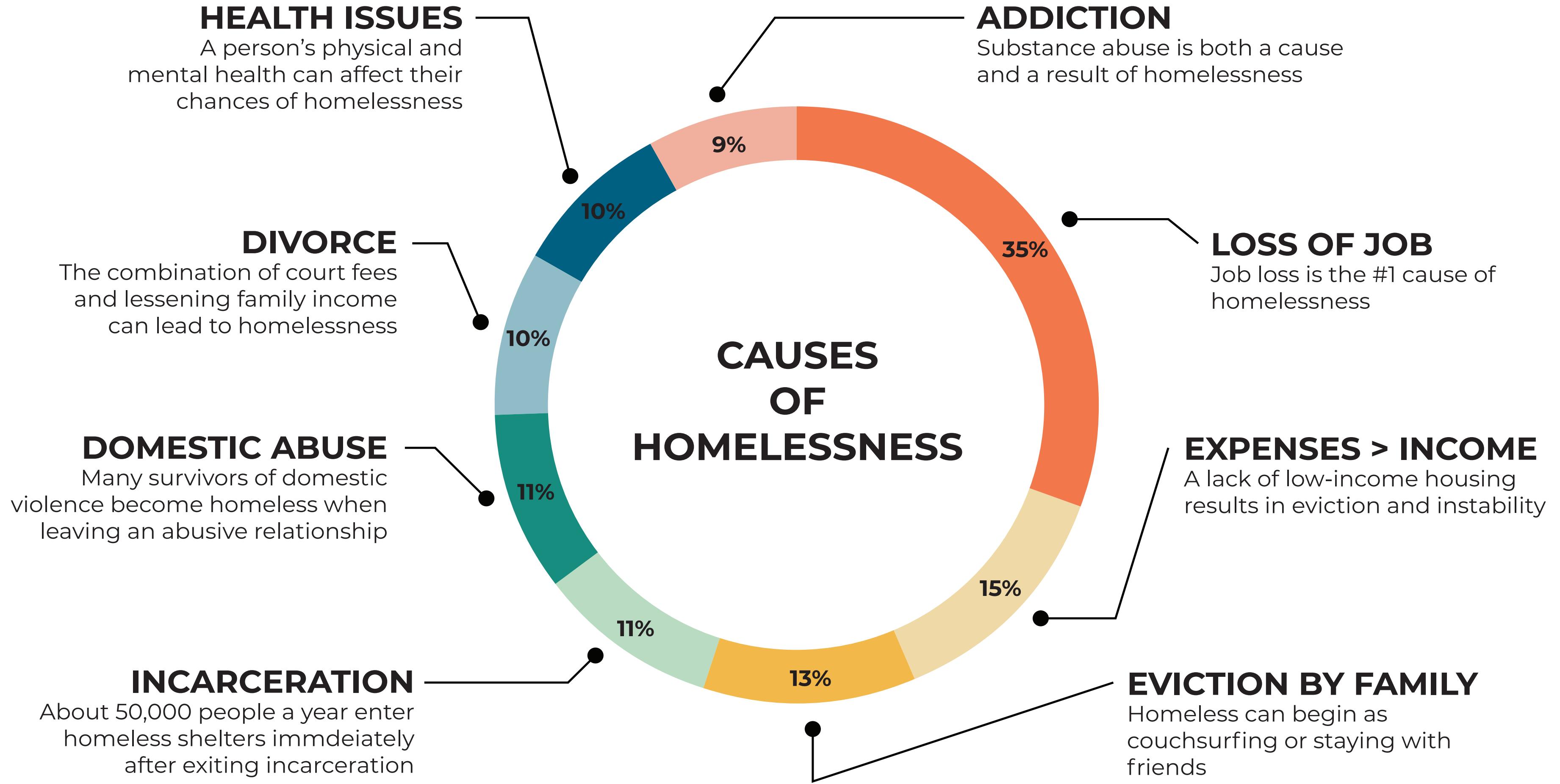
...WHEREAS HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE ALL HOURS OF THEIR DAY



Homeless people spend almost all of their time in pursuit of a place to rest their heads or in search of their next meal. In the constant struggle for survival, they are often turned away from both due to lack of resources in temporary shelters. As a result, people are forced to sleep in hazardous weather conditions with no protection or consideration from law enforcement or society as a whole.

This lack of care and concern by the government sets homeless individuals up for failure and pushes them deeper into this vicious cycle, ultimately worsening the problem.

HOMELESSNESS ISN'T A CHOICE, BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF A LARGER PROBLEM IN OUR SOCIETY

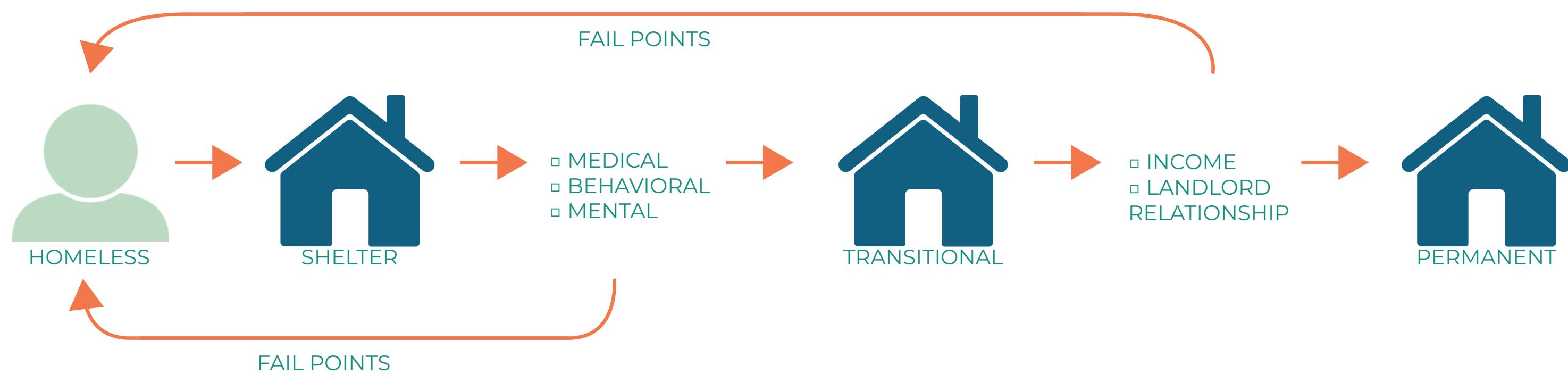


Homelessness is commonly misconstrued as a choice brought on by addiction or laziness. Upon examining the issue further, it's clear that the causes of homelessness encompass a variety of categories. While these things can happen to anyone, the key difference in homeless people is the lack of financial stability to pull themselves out of these situations.

Instead of putting the blame on those not in control of their own lives, maybe more responsibility should be placed on the people and governments in charge of making sure their citizens' basic needs are met.

OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE IMPLEMENTED SOLUTIONS TO THE SAME PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THE US

TYPICAL “HOUSING READINESS” MODEL



VS

“HOUSING FIRST” MODEL



When tasked with eradicating homelessness, the US has favored the “Housing Readiness” model of solution, mainly because it has lower up-front costs compared to “Housing First”. The US should look to other countries for plans and policies that have been proven to drastically reduce chronic homelessness while diminishing the use and funding of emergency services needed for these individuals.

The “Housing Readiness” Model is a failing, short-term fix to a complex problem that requires more effort and consideration from our government.

HOW FINLAND IS SOLVING HOMELESSNESS USING THE “HOUSING FIRST” MODEL



“We decided to make the housing unconditional,” says Kaakinen, head of the Y-Foundation that provides affordable housing to those in need. The number of long-term homeless people in Finland fell by over 35% as a result of implementing “Housing First” and created 3,500 homes in the first year alone. Finland also noticed they spent € 15,000 less per homeless person per year on emergency healthcare, social services, and the justice system simply by providing long-term housing.

HOMELESSNESS IN NORWAY DROPPED 36% BETWEEN 2012 AND 2016



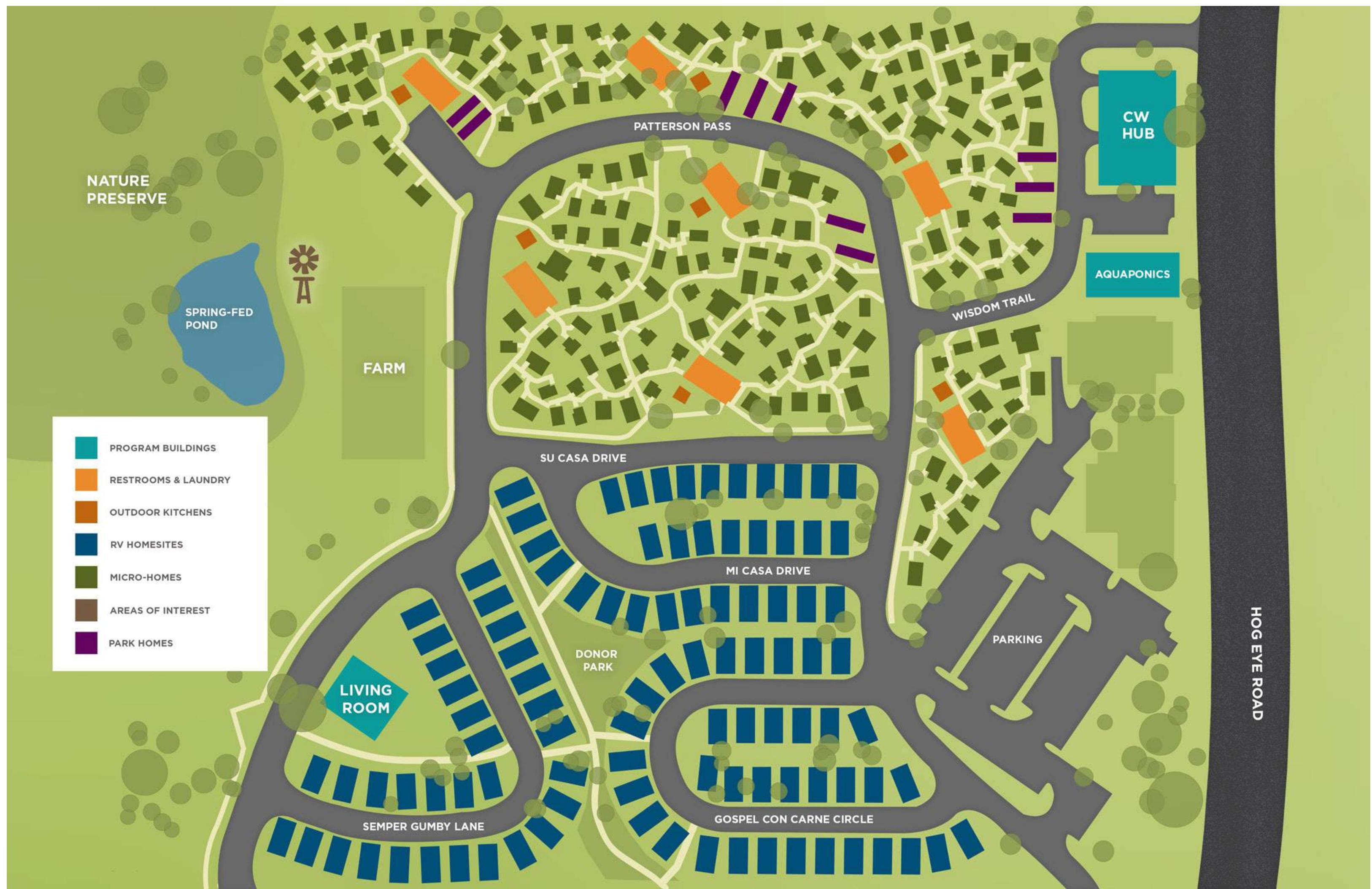
Norway has a residential approach in regards to homelessness, meaning that it **sees homelessness as a housing problem rather than a social issue**. Some initiatives taken to reduce homelessness include preventing individuals recently released from prison or a treatment institution from requiring temporary housing and limiting temporary housing for only exceptional circumstances (not exceeding 3 months).

SINGAPORE MAINTAINS LOW HOMELESS RATES BY DE-STIGMATIZING PUBLIC HOUSING



“Think ahead, think again, and think across” is the philosophy Singapore has adopted and applied to the way it makes governing decisions. With a strong political emphasis on changing the way public housing is perceived, Singapore uses its 90% land ownership to ensure that their citizens are properly housed in affordable living facilities - each having access to high-quality public transport and education.

COMMUNITY FIRST! IN AUSTIN, TEXAS HAS DEVELOPED LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO HOUSE AND REHABILITATE HOMELESS PEOPLE



Community First! has created an ideal model of a long-term solution to ending homelessness. In addition to providing housing, **they offer training in a variety of skill sets** in order to prepare individuals for life after Community First! This helps to ensure that after leaving the facility, people will be able to sustain employment and provide for themselves, thus exiting and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Based on the Declaration of Independence, every citizen has the unalienable right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” It is our government’s responsibility to uphold and protect the rights of their citizens, regardless of the citizen’s financial situation. To not uphold these rights not only goes against everything our country was founded upon, but is also discriminatory towards those living in poverty.

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Need helps us to visualize what is required to achieve certain levels of safety and happiness. **Without a foundation of physical wellness and safety, one can never hope to achieve any form of self-fulfillment** or even maintain friendships and relationships with other people.

While homelessness has many different causes, other countries are aware of a long-term solution to the problem. The “Housing First” model of approaching the situation has produced positive results. If we provide homeless people with long-term access to basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter, they will in turn feel safer and happier and will ultimately be able to sustain themselves, thus exiting the cycle of homelessness.

RESEARCH SOURCES

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PEOPLE

BRAD DEAL
ASHLEIGH OGDEN
EZRA SCHERRER