

## Assembly Bill 1165 (Gipson): The California Housing Justice Act

AB 1165 (Gipson), the California Housing Justice Act, declares the state's intent to require ongoing state investments in proven interventions that match the scale of the need. The Act would require the state to create finance plans to solve our affordable housing and homelessness crisis and invest the resources needed on an ongoing basis. The legislation includes:

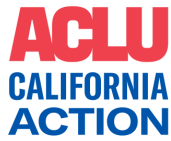
- **A strategic roadmap** to end homelessness and California's housing affordability crisis, informed by research like the [Roadmap Home 2030](#) and [Homeless Housing Needs Assessment](#), ensuring that our investments will have the most powerful effect.
- **Direction on investing ongoing funding** focused on long-term solutions that bring people home and keep them housed, including affordable housing production and preservation, protection for tenants, rental subsidies to prevent and end homelessness, and supportive services.
- **Accountability and transparency** measures that keep local governments and grantees accountable to state oversight, state spending transparent to public review, and the entire system first and foremost informed and shaped by people who have experienced homelessness and housing insecurity—who have been failed by decades of policy choices that led to this crisis.

### How is AB 1165 positioned to address housing affordability and homelessness?

Housing unaffordability impacts everyone in our state and is the leading driver of homelessness in California.

- Over the course of the last year, over 339,000 people experienced homelessness across the state. About 30% of California's renters pay over half their income on housing, with well over 1 million extremely low-income households spending over half of their incomes on rent.
- Due to centuries of racism, embedded in policies and practices, the housing crisis falls hardest on Black Californians. While only 7% of the state's population identifies as Black, Black Californians make up more than 25% of the state's unhoused population.
- Housing and homelessness are top issues for California voters; however, ongoing investments in housing and homelessness account for less than 0.5% of the state's annual budget.
- While California's leaders invested major one-time resources in housing and homelessness in recent years, these investments were not ongoing, fell well short of the scale needed, and were not aligned with a comprehensive plan to deliver housing security to Californians.
- The Trump Administration and Congressional leadership have promised devastating cuts that are likely to hurt the most marginalized Californians and further exacerbate California's housing crisis. Wildfires that have destroyed thousands of homes in Los Angeles have placed added pressure on affordability.

### How much funding would allow California to solve homelessness and housing instability?



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About 5-6% of the state budget could solve the crisis. As indicated by the [2022 Homeless Housing Needs Assessment](#), total investments of \$8.1 billion annually would allow California to solve homelessness within 12 years. The analysis found that state and federal sources already accounted for \$1.2 billion of that figure, leaving a \$6.9 billion gap in ongoing funding. To preserve and produce the number of affordable homes the State said California needs, The [Roadmap Home 2030](#) estimated public investment of \$18 billion annually, including \$8.1 billion needed to solve homelessness identified in the California Homeless Housing Needs Assessment, consistent funding for existing programs to ensure local governments can continue their collaborative work to rehouse and shelter people, additional funding for capital, rental assistance, prevention, and services to help people get and stay housed. California has gained some traction in meeting this goal, but must invest in ongoing, evidence-based programs focused on permanent housing referrals and interventions that end people's homelessness and housing instability.

### **How does AB 1165 promote accountability for progress?**

Consistent, adequate funding of proven solutions requires a new culture of accountability that recognizes the state's obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill the right of all Californians to safe, decent, and affordable housing. To achieve this, the bill requires:

- Transparency, state oversight, and state partnership in accountability,
- Corrective action when a grantee fails to follow requirements in order to maintain consistent quality in services,
- Selection of entities to receive funding with strong track records,
- Centering people with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making, and
- Tracking and delivering equitable outcomes.

### **Sponsors:**

- Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
- ACLU California Action
- Bring California Home Coalition
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- PolicyLink
- National Alliance to End Homelessness

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