State Efforts to Address Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Presented by:

California Coalition for Youth
California Coalition for Youth

“To improve and empower the lives of California’s youth.”

- A statewide, grassroots organization representing organizations that serve disconnected youth throughout the state.

- **Our Vision:** That every youth in California is connected to the services, resources and programs they need to have successful lives.

- We provide statewide policy and advocacy leadership around issues concerning disconnected, runaway and homeless youth.

- **California Youth Crisis Line – 1 (800) 843-5200** – Helping youth, and those who serve them, one call at a time.
Panelists:

- Kim Lewis, CCY
- Amy Lemley, John Burton Advocates for Youth
- Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Chris Martin, Housing CA
- Mareva Brown, Chief Consultant, Senate Human Services
A homeless youth is an individual between the ages of 12 and 24, inclusive, who is living on their own without a parent or guardian and lacks a stable or permanent address.

Many of these youth are non-system youth who are not, or have never been, a part of either the foster care or juvenile delinquency systems and are not eligible for many state and federal programs and services.

Others are youth, who may be eligible for systems of care, and have not been identified.
Recently, the first definitive rate of homelessness among youth and young adults was developed.

1 in 10 young adults ages 18-25

1 in 30 adolescents ages 13-17
We also know more than ever about where homeless youth live, the challenges they face and the services they need.

Transition-age youth have unique developmental needs & tend to avoid the adult homelessness system.

Youth homelessness exists in rural, suburban & urban communities.

Roughly 2/3rds of CA's counties have no programs or beds specifically designed to serve youth.
• 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ

• 3x as likely as housed youth to be pregnant/parenting

• High rates of depression, PTSD, and suicidality

• 30-40% report alcohol problems in their lifetime, and 40-50% report drug use

• 79% report multiple childhood abuses

Over 15,000 homeless youth in CA, 32% more since 2015
Youth homelessness has not been addressed in California for a number of reasons:

- Lack of definitive count
- Lack of understanding about causes
- No clear state mandate
- Lack of federal leadership
- Lack of evidence about its long-term impact
Despite this tremendous need, youth homelessness is virtually unfunded in California.

California State Budget 2017-18

- Youth Homelessness: $1M
- Juvenile Probation System: $188 M
- Child Welfare and Foster Care: $2.9 B

California Coalition for Youth
In the last 5 years, these reasons have largely been addressed.

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- No clear state mandate

SB 918!
October 10, 2017 - Joint Hearing of the Senate and Assembly Human Services Committee about causes of youth homelessness, and need for dedicated solutions, including funding, to get young people off the streets.
SB 918
(Wiener)

• Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Rubio
• Coauthors:
  • Senators Beall, Glazer, Hill, Leyva, and Portantino
  • Assembly Members Chiu, Cooley, Lackey, Maienschein, Mayes, Reyes, Steinorth, Mark Stone, and Thurmond

$60 Million funding for Grants to Non-Profits and CoCs to serve homeless youth

$1 Million funding for the creation of the Office of Homeless Youth
SB 918 would provide $60 million annually to fund an array of services:

- Outreach
- Drug Abuse Education and Prevention
- Education and Employment
- Mental & Physical Health
- Services for Pregnant and Parenting Youth
- Legal Services
- Family-Finding Services
- Family Support
- Housing Navigation
- Aftercare and Follow-up Services
SB 918 would also fund a continuum of housing options to meet the diverse needs of homeless youth.

- Rental assistance
- Non-time-limited supportive housing
- Transitional housing
- Post-transitional housing assistance
- Rapid rehousing
- Flexible rental subsidies
- Host homes
- Shelters, for minors and young adults*

* limited to 40% of the total funds granted in a given year
Who could apply for funding?

Preferences given to agencies:

- Involved in a network of youth-serving agencies
- Participate in a local continuum of care
- Utilization of HMIS
- Participate in development of a local, youth-centered coordinated entry system
- Agree to work together with other entities to develop a local plan to reduce homelessness among homeless youth

Private, nonprofit agency

Continuum of care administrative entity
SB 918 would require organizations to demonstrate their capacity to serve homeless youth.

- Positive Youth Development framework
- Understanding of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Language Appropriateness
- Safe, inclusive, and non-stigmatizing
SB 918 would establish the Office of Homeless Youth in the California Department of Housing & Community Development.

Why HCD?

- Facilitates integration of homeless youth into existing HCD programs, including $2 billion bond
- Leverages $300 million in annual funding
- Ends era of youth homelessness “falling through the cracks”
- Leverages existing administrative infrastructure
Creates an Office of Homeless Youth

- Grants
- Coordinates
- Goals and Outcomes
SB 918 also includes protections for abused and neglected minors and prevents inappropriate diversion.

- Ensuring access for maltreated minors to foster care is a stated goal.
- Clarification that funded programs are not a substitute for foster care.
- Data collection requirements to know how many served are foster care or juvenile probation.
- Required assessment for maltreatment & mandated reporter training for direct-service personnel.
Strengths of SB 918 Approach

- Comprehensive continuum of housing options
- Rich array of services, based on individual need of youth or young adult
- Flexibility to use funding to respond to local needs
- Integration with local housing resources and related systems of care, rather than creating a stand-alone system
- Accountability
- Annual appropriation
How can you help make SB 918 a reality?

- Send in a support letter [sample letter SB 918]
- Attend and testify at Committee hearings
- Meet with legislators in the district
- Encourage homeless youth and homeless youth providers to get involved
- Stay tuned for more work over the spring and summer
Opportunities to Engage

Senate Human Services
- April 10 at 1:30pm
- Room 3191
- Letters Due March 30

Senate Transportation and Housing
- April 24 at 1:30pm
- Room 4203
- Letters Due April 18

Senate Appropriations
- Date TBD
- Room 4203
Opportunities to Engage

Assembly Budget Sub 4
- April 3 at 1:30pm
- Room 437

Sign on to Coalition Budget Letter
- Email Organization’s Name and Logo to: klewis@hrdowden.com
Questions//Comments

Please feel free to type in your questions or comments in the chat box.

THANK YOU!!

Email: Kim Lewis
klewis@hrdowden.com
Source: Realignment Expenditures Summary, May 2017

The Economic Burden of Youth Experiencing Homelessness and the Financial Case for Investing in Interventions to Change Peoples’ Lives