

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Eloise Gómez Reyes

FORTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB-307: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Grant

SUMMARY

AB 307 the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Grant Program which would award funds to nonprofits or continuum of care (COC) administrative entities to provide services for youth experiencing homelessness.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

California has the highest rate of youth homelessness in the nation – 54 percent of the nation’s total. In 2018, there were 12,396 unaccompanied homeless youth in California without a safe place to call home, and another 2,292 parenting youth and their children experiencing homelessness. This includes youth ages 12 to 24 living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, on the street, or in other places not intended for human habitation.

The state’s investment in programs to support young people is woefully inadequate. At the last statewide survey, only 20 of California’s 58 counties had direct services for homeless youth. Yet, culturally competent and age-appropriate services are needed for this population.

Solving youth homelessness is a critical part of ending California’s larger homeless crisis. One study of chronically homeless adults found fully half of them were homeless as youth.

Yet, California lacks a clear on-going commitment to preventing and ending homelessness among young people in the state. Policy and funding are scattered across various state agencies and departments, and starting this year, the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council take the first steps by setting specific goals to prevent and end youth homelessness in California.

THIS BILL

This bill creates a grant program to be administered by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to award nonprofits and COC administrative entities to. The intent of this program is to provide housing assistance and appropriate wrap around services to support efforts to combat youth homelessness.

SUPPORT

California Coalition for Youth (Co-Sponsor)
Corporation for Supportive Housing (Co-Sponsor)
Equality California (Co-Sponsor)
John Burton Advocates for Youth (Co-Sponsor)
Tipping Point Community (Co-Sponsor)
Housing California (Co-Sponsor)

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