



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

Building California's Response to Youth Homelessness:

**YEAR THREE OF THE
YOUTH SET-ASIDE**

APRIL 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
About the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program	6
Methodology	7
Findings	8
State-Level Recommendations.....	17
Recommendations for Local Jurisdictions	19
Appendices	21
Appendix A: Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Continuums of Care	22
Appendix B: Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Large Cities	24
Appendix C: Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Counties.....	25

Introduction

Unaccompanied youth up to age 24 comprise 8% of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in California, according to the 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) count.¹ Over the five-year period preceding the 2020 PIT count, unaccompanied youth averaged 10% of the state's homeless population.² While this level of homelessness is considerable, PIT methodology tends to undercount this population.



Historically, youth experiencing homelessness have not received a proportionate share of homelessness resources. Prior to California's investment in homelessness in 2018, the federal government was the main source of funding for local homeless response systems across California. Over the past several years, consistently just 3% of people served by programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were youth.³ With the creation of state funding inclusive of a "youth set-aside," \$521 million in new funding has been appropriated in the state budget to address youth homelessness since 2018.⁴

California's "youth set-aside" requires a minimum percentage of funding to be devoted to addressing homelessness among youth within specific state-funded homelessness programs. California first appropriated \$500 million for the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) in 2018 with a 5% youth set-aside (\$25 million). Building on the success of this program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program was launched in 2019, and has been funded in three state budgets with an increasing proportion set aside for youth: \$650 million in 2019 with an 8% (\$52 million) youth set-aside; \$300 million in 2020 with an 8% (\$24 million) youth set-aside; and \$2 billion over two years beginning in 2021 with a 10% (\$200 million) youth set-aside.

1 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_State_CA_2020.pdf

2 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/>

3 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. CoC Housing Inventory Count Reports. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/>

4 The 2018–19 California state budget included \$500 million for the Homeless Emergency Aid Program which had a 5% (\$25 million) youth set-aside. HHAP was subsequently funded as follows: \$650 million in 2019–20 with an 8% (\$52 million) youth set-aside; \$300 million in 2020–21 with an 8% (\$24 million) youth set-aside; \$2 billion over two years in 2021–22 with a 10% (\$200 million) youth set-aside. The 2021–22 state budget also included \$2.75 billion over a two-year period for Homekey, with an 8% (\$220 million) youth set-aside.

In 2020, the state invested funding in capital development during the COVID-19 pandemic through the establishment of Homekey, which funds the purchase, rehabilitation, and construction of interim and permanent housing. After the rollout of Homekey resulted in very little investment in housing for transition-age youth, the state established an 8% youth set-aside in the 2021 Homekey appropriation of \$2.75 billion, directing \$220 million to youth housing.

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) has released three reports documenting how funds from each of these programs have been invested locally to address the needs of California's youth experiencing homelessness, and found that local jurisdictions were collectively allocating more than the minimum youth set-aside requirement.⁵ This report builds on earlier research and analyzes round two of the HHAP youth set-aside, identifying how California's Continuums of Care (CoCs), counties, and large cities have allocated their HHAP youth set-aside, how effective these efforts have been in reducing youth homelessness, and how many youth have been served.



5 To learn more about these three reports, visit the John Burton Advocates for Youth website: <https://jbay.org/resources/youth-set-aside-reports/>

About the HHAP Program

The 2019–20 California State Budget included \$650 million to fund round one of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP), which included a youth set-aside—requiring a minimum of 8% of the funding be used to address youth homelessness. The 2020–21 budget allocated \$300 million to HHAP round two—the round analyzed in this report, requiring the same 8% set-aside. HHAP is a grant program designed to support regional coordination and the expansion or development of local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges across the state. HHAP is administered by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council) within the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Round two of HHAP funding was allocated to three groups:

- ➔ California's 44 local homeless Continuums of Care were allocated \$81 million;
- ➔ California's 13 largest cities—those with populations of more than 300,000 people—were allocated \$121 million; and
- ➔ California's 58 counties were allocated \$82 million.

Each jurisdiction's allocation was based on their region's homeless Point-in-Time count with standards applied for minimum and maximum allocations. For the purposes of regional coordination, jurisdictions were given the option to redirect their funding to another eligible applicant in the same region, while engaging in joint planning and monitoring. HHAP round two has the following eight eligible use categories considered to be evidence-based solutions that address and prevent homelessness among eligible populations:

1. Rapid rehousing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords;
2. Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers;
3. Street outreach to assist persons experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing and services;
4. Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability in supportive housing;
5. Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system, particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth;
6. Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions;
7. Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing, including rental subsidies; and
8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need.

HHAP rounds three and four in 2021–22 and 2022–23 will each allocate \$1 billion in funding and require jurisdictions to invest a minimum of 10% (\$100 million per round) in addressing youth homelessness, increased from the 8% set-aside in rounds one and two. Rounds three and four also require a local homelessness action plan and offer a potential "bonus" disbursement of funds for jurisdictions that meet specific benchmarks.

Methodology

Throughout March 2022, JBAY conducted an analysis of how CoCs, counties, and cities utilized round two of HHAP to serve youth. This report includes data from **100%** of CoCs, counties, and cities on the **amount of HHAP funding spent on youth** and **which eligible uses were funded**. The report also includes data from a subset of CoCs, counties, and cities on the **effectiveness of HHAP funding** and the **estimated number of youth served** through rounds one and two. This subset includes data from CoCs, counties, and cities that together received **58%** of statewide HHAP funding. Data was gathered using two methods:



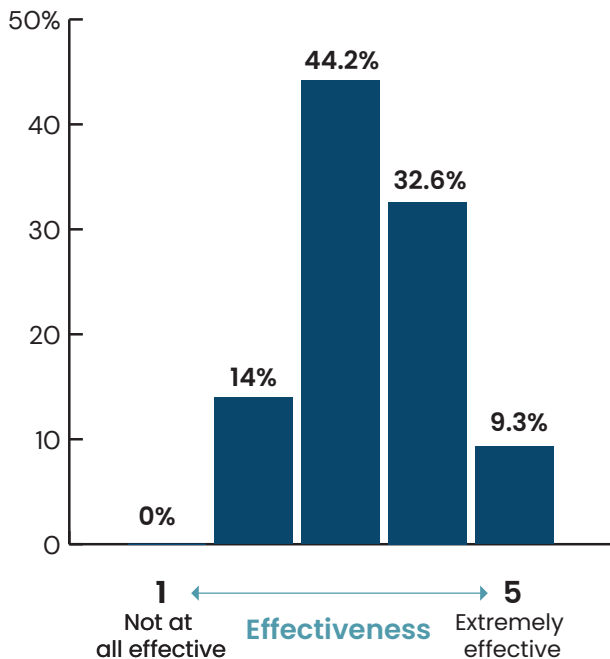
- 1** Information was collected via an online survey and phone interviews. Respondents were asked to estimate the number of youth served by HHAP funding to date (in both rounds one and two) within their respective jurisdictions. They were also asked to identify the services funded locally by the youth set-aside, to report the proportion of HHAP funding being dedicated to serving homeless youth, and to rate the effectiveness of HHAP in addressing youth homelessness. A total of 17 CoCs, 22 counties, and five cities that together received a total of 58% of statewide round two HHAP funding responded to the survey.
- 2** For those jurisdictions that did not respond to JBAY's survey, HHAP applications approved and posted on the Cal ICH website were reviewed to gather information about the intended use of HHAP funds and the intended youth investment.

Findings

To date, HHAP funding has served over 11,000 youth experiencing homelessness.

Based on data from respondents, the HHAP youth set-aside has helped serve an estimated 11,052 youth across California. Survey respondents were asked to estimate the number of youth assisted by both rounds of HHAP funding administered by their respective jurisdictions to date.

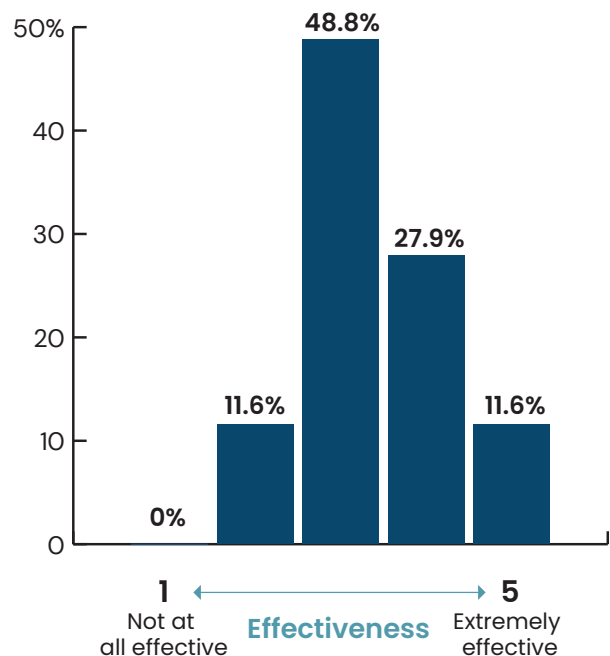
Figure 1: Effectiveness of HHAP Funding in Reducing the Number of Youth Struggling with Homelessness



A majority of respondents (85–90%) indicated HHAP funding was effective at addressing youth homelessness.

Survey respondents were asked to identify the effectiveness of HHAP funding at reducing the number of youth struggling with homelessness in their respective jurisdictions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not at all effective and 5 being extremely effective. As shown in Figure 1, 86% graded the effectiveness at a 3 or higher, with 42% of respondents identifying a 4 or higher. Using the same scale, respondents were also asked to identify the effectiveness of HHAP funding at reducing the length of time it takes to house a youth experiencing homelessness. As shown in Figure 2, 88% responded with a 3 or higher, and 40% responded with a 4 or higher. This data is supported by respondents' overwhelming sentiment in their comments that the youth set-aside has been instrumental in reaching the youth population.

Figure 2: Effectiveness of HHAP Funding in Reducing the Length of Time to House a Youth



Local jurisdictions support the youth set-aside.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents who provided optional comments in the online survey said that the 8% youth set-aside has helped ensure their jurisdiction has the resources needed to address youth homelessness. Examples of this commentary are provided below.

“HHAP has been critical to providing services to local homeless youth because it is one of the only funding sources that specifically sets aside resources for this population.”

—COC RESPONDENT

“These funds have greatly assisted homeless youth in our city by expanding sheltering and program capacity. We have had a 45% rate of rehousing from these programs, which is better than other sheltering programs.”

—CITY RESPONDENT

“The state-mandated youth set-aside is helpful because youth as a percentage are such a smaller population, and jurisdictions could otherwise de-emphasize youth.”

—COUNTY RESPONDENT

“The fact funding is set aside for our youth ensures this population is included in our efforts to end homelessness.”

—CITY RESPONDENT



Statewide, jurisdictions have invested or intend to invest 8.9% of HHAP round two funding in youth, above the state requirement of 8%.

In the second round of funding, a total of \$285 million in HHAP funding was allocated to 100 jurisdictions—39 CoCs, 49 counties, and 12 large cities—with \$15 million retained for state administration and technical assistance to local jurisdictions. Of this total, jurisdictions have collectively invested or intend to invest more than \$25 million in addressing youth homelessness, representing 8.9% of total allocated round two HHAP funding (Figure 3). This is a slight decrease from the proportion of investment in youth reported during round one, which was 10%, although it continues to exceed the minimum required youth investment of 8%.

Figure 3: Total Round Two HHAP Allocation and Funding Being Invested in Youth by Jurisdiction Type

Jurisdiction Type	Total HHAP Allocation	Amount Being Invested in Youth	% Being Invested in Youth
Continuums of Care	\$81,318,368	\$7,121,393	8.8%
Counties	\$82,371,617	\$7,726,615	9.4%
Large Cities	\$121,301,532	\$10,558,933	8.7%
All Jurisdictions	\$284,991,517	\$25,406,942	8.9%

Counties invested the largest share of funding in youth, followed by large cities, then CoCs.

As also shown in Figure 3, CoCs were allocated \$81.3 million in round two funds and collectively reported investing or intending to invest \$7.1 million (8.8%) in youth. Large cities were allocated \$121.3 million and collectively reported investing or intending to invest \$10.6 million (8.7%) in youth. Counties were allocated \$82.3 million and reported investing or intending to invest \$7.7 million (9.4%) in youth, the highest proportion of the three jurisdiction types.

More than one in five jurisdictions invested more than the required 8% in addressing homelessness among youth.

As shown in Figure 4, a total of 21 jurisdictions (21%) reported investing or intending to invest more than the required minimum set-aside of funding in youth. Seven CoCs (18%), 11 counties (22%), and three cities (25%) exceeded the minimum youth set-aside. Figure 4 lists the jurisdictions that reported investing or intending to invest more than 8% of their HHAP funding in youth. Two jurisdictions, Bakersfield/Kern County CoC and Shasta County CoC, reported investing more than 25% in youth. Kern County had the third-highest investment percentage at 22%. Visit Appendices A, B, and C for a complete list of HHAP allocations and investments in youth by jurisdiction.

Figure 4: Jurisdictions Investing More than 8% of HHAP Round Two Funding in Youth

Jurisdiction		% Being Invested in Youth	\$ Being Invested in Youth	Total HHAP Funding
Continuums of Care	Bakersfield/ Kern County	25.9%	\$192,002	\$741,328
	Redding/Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties	25.9%	\$192,002	\$751,918
	Sacramento City & County	12.8%	\$397,971	\$3,099,643
	Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County	11.9%	\$195,642	\$1,644,856
	San Jose/ Santa Clara City & County	11.3%	\$610,000	\$5,410,022
	Stockton/San Joaquin County	8.3%	\$121,712	\$1,466,492
	Los Angeles City & County	8.1%	\$2,536,885	\$31,357,060
Counties	Kern	21.7%	\$143,909	\$663,533
	San Joaquin	16.3%	\$214,362	\$1,312,598
	Sacramento	16.0%	\$443,000	\$2,774,367
	Colusa	14.3%	\$3,990	\$27,938
	Lassen	10.9%	\$2,500	\$22,949
	Los Angeles	10.2%	\$3,000,000	\$29,403,004
	Santa Clara	9.3%	\$450,000	\$4,842,296
	Shasta	9.3%	\$38,364	\$412,588
	San Mateo	8.8%	\$140,000	\$1,597,106
	Tehama	8.4%	\$12,000	\$143,682
	Siskiyou	8.1%	\$9,200	\$114,247
Large Cities	Bakersfield	19.8%	\$306,400	\$1,543,803
	San Diego	13.4%	\$1,423,817	\$10,632,506
	San Jose	8.9%	\$1,000,000	\$11,266,278

The highlighted jurisdictions received redirected HHAP funds from a partner jurisdiction.

Jurisdictions located in Northern California were more likely to exceed the 8% youth set-aside.

As shown in Figure 5, the California region with the highest proportion of jurisdictions exceeding the 8% youth set-aside was the Northern region. Nearly one in three (30%) jurisdictions in this region exceeded the minimum youth set-aside. This region received the lowest amount (2%) of statewide funding among all regions. More than one in five (23%) jurisdictions in the Central Valley exceeded the minimum youth set-aside, with the region receiving 8% of statewide funding. The Greater Bay Area (comprising 26% of statewide funding) trailed very closely, as 21% of its jurisdictions exceeded the minimum youth set-aside. The Mountain region—which previously had the highest proportion (31%) in round one—this year had 14% of its jurisdictions exceeding the minimum youth set-aside and received 6% of statewide funding. The Southern region received the greatest amount (58%) of statewide funding, with 15% of Southern jurisdictions exceeding the minimum youth set-aside.

Figure 5: Proportion of Jurisdictions by Region That Exceeded the 8% Youth Set-Aside in HHAP Round Two

Region	Counties Included	Proportion of Jurisdictions Exceeding 8% Youth Set-Aside
Greater Bay Area/Coastal	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma	20.8%
Central Valley	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura	22.7%
Northern	Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yuba	30.0%
Mountain	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Tuolumne, Yolo	14.3%
Southern	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	15.0%

Rapid rehousing was the most prevalent use funded by the HHAP youth set-aside.

Of the eight eligible uses, rapid rehousing, which includes rental subsidies and incentives to landlords, was the most common intervention category funded by the round two HHAP youth set-aside, with 31% of jurisdictions investing youth set-aside funding in this intervention. The second most common category in round two was operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers, with 25% of jurisdictions investing youth set-aside funding in this intervention. The third most common category in round two was services coordination, with 21% of jurisdictions investing youth set-aside funding in this intervention. Rapid rehousing was also the most common use of funding during round one, with 59% of jurisdictions investing youth set-aside funding in this intervention. See Figure 6 for a breakdown of how jurisdictions utilized their HHAP youth set-aside funding for both rounds one and two.

Figure 6: Percentage of Jurisdictions Utilizing HHAP Youth Set-Aside Funding for Each Eligible Use, Round Two vs. Round One

Eligible Use	Round Two	Round One
Rapid Rehousing*	31%	59%
Incentives to Landlords*		29%
Operating Subsidies	25%	40%
Services Coordination*	21%	56%
Street Outreach*	12%	
Delivery of Permanent Housing & Innovative Housing Solutions	20%	37%
New Navigation Centers & Emergency Shelters	14%	51%
Prevention & Shelter Diversion	11%	46%
Systems Support	4%	20%

**See footnote for an explanation of how eligible uses differed across rounds one and two.⁶*



EveryOne Home, the Oakland/Alameda County CoC utilized both rounds one and two of HHAP to launch a **youth access point as part of their coordinated entry system**. This fell under the category of prevention and diversion, which funded housing problem solving efforts and flexible financial assistance; and outreach and coordination, which funded targeted outreach and assistance with connections to other services and supports, including employment. The program also has an emphasis on employing peers—at least 50% with lived experience—to provide coordinated entry services. The access point provides drop-in hours at multiple sites across Alameda County for greater access.

⁶ Eligible uses with asterisks were categorized differently across rounds one and two. In round one, rapid rehousing and incentives to landlords were separate categories, whereas in round two, rapid rehousing encompassed both uses. In round one, outreach and coordination were one category, whereas in round two, services coordination and street outreach were two separate categories.

For CoCs and counties, the most common use of round two HHAP youth set-aside funding was rapid rehousing; for large cities it was operating subsidies.

As shown in Figure 7, the most common use of round two HHAP youth set-aside funding for CoCs and counties was rapid rehousing, inclusive of rental subsidies and incentives to landlords. Nearly one in four (38%) CoCs and 29% of counties used their funding for this purpose. This differed from the most common use of funding for large cities, which was operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. A total of 42% of cities used their funding for this purpose. For CoCs, the second most common use was services coordination (26%); for cities it was permanent housing and innovative solutions (25%) and new navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need (25%). The second most common use for counties was operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers (27%).

Figure 7: Percentage of Jurisdictions Utilizing HHAP Round Two Youth Set-Aside Funding for Each Eligible Use by Jurisdiction Type

	Continuums of Care	Counties	Large Cities
Rapid Rehousing	38%	29%	17%
Operating Subsidies	18%	27%	42%
Street Outreach	13%	14%	0%
Services Coordination	26%	20%	8%
Systems Support	8%	2%	0%
Permanent Housing & Innovative Housing Solutions	21%	18%	25%
Prevention & Shelter Diversion	15%	10%	0%
New Navigation Centers & Emergency Shelters	18%	8%	25%

On average, jurisdictions have invested or plan to invest in fewer than two eligible HHAP uses for round two.

As noted previously, there are eight eligible uses for HHAP. On average, counties used round two of HHAP on 1.31 eligible uses; CoCs on 1.45 eligible uses; and cities on 1.67 eligible uses. As illustrated in Figure 8, the majority of jurisdictions utilized HHAP round two for just one eligible use. This differs from round one and may be due in part to the lower level of funding provided to jurisdictions in round two of HHAP: \$300 million versus \$650 million in round one. This suggests that funding provided in round two was used in a targeted way to supplement the larger investments made in round one of HHAP.

Figure 8: Percentage of Jurisdictions Utilizing HHAP Youth Set-Aside Funding for One, Two, Three, and Four Eligible Uses

Jurisdiction	1 Eligible Use	2 Eligible Uses	3 Eligible Uses	4 Eligible Uses
CoCs	69.2%	12.8%	10.3%	7.7%
Counties	73.5%	20.4%	2.0%	2.0%
Cities	83.3%	16.7%	N/A	N/A

A small but notable number of jurisdictions (14%) reported projects funded by the round two HHAP youth set-aside that are targeting college students or include collaboration with a post-secondary educational institution.

Respondents were asked if any of the projects funded by their jurisdictions target college students or include collaboration with a post-secondary educational institution. Fourteen percent of respondents cited some form of funding for this population. Three of these projects are highlighted below:

- ➔ San Francisco CoC’s Transition-Age Youth Navigation Center has a partnership with the Community College of San Francisco and San Francisco State University (SFSU), which includes a youth access point at SFSU.
- ➔ Vallejo/Solano CoC’s youth outreach program is providing services to transition-age youth and supporting them with finishing their GED and/or entering college.
- ➔ Fresno Madera CoC is working with Fresno City College and their Project HOPE to target college students unstably housed to assist with housing assistance and educational assistance.

HHAP round two was funded at a level that is 54% less than round one, despite a consistent level of homelessness in California.

Overall HHAP funding decreased from \$650 million in round one to \$300 million in round two, in large part due to the state's budget swinging from a \$5.6 billion projected surplus to a \$54.3 billion deficit caused by the 2020 recession brought about by the pandemic. Both homelessness and youth homelessness remained mostly steady during this same period. In 2019, 151,278 individuals (13,019 youth) experienced homelessness in California; in 2020, 161,548 individuals (13,299 youth) experienced homelessness. With the state budget now experiencing a surplus, both rounds three and four of HHAP surpass the first two rounds with \$1 billion allocated to each.

Round three of funding will reflect significant programmatic changes to HHAP.

Major changes have been made to HHAP between rounds two and three. Critically, the minimum youth set-aside grew from 8% to 10%. Beginning in round three, jurisdictions are also encountering additional accountability measures, including the requirement to submit a local homelessness action plan as well as the establishment of bonus funding, contingent upon meeting certain performance conditions. Funding for round three of HHAP will be allocated incrementally, starting with an initial base allocation—20–25% of a jurisdiction's total allocation. This allocation may be used to complete the local homelessness action plan or for systems improvement, including improving coordinated entry systems to eliminate racial



bias or create a youth-specific coordinated entry system, among other uses. Lastly, the maximum percentage of program allocation for administrative costs has grown from 5% to 7%.

HHAP continues to promote collaboration and coordination among jurisdictions.

For the purposes of regional coordination, jurisdictions were given the option to redirect their funding to another eligible applicant in the same region, while engaging in joint planning and monitoring. A total of 14 jurisdictions—five CoCs, eight counties, and one city—redirected their funding which totaled \$10.9 million. Ten jurisdictions—five CoCs and five counties—collectively received redirected funding. During round one, 13 jurisdictions redirected their funding, with the city of Long Beach being the additional jurisdiction to do so in round two. Visit Appendices A, B and C to view which jurisdictions redirected their HHAP funding and the recipient jurisdictions.

State-Level Recommendations

Make an ongoing investment in HHAP funding for youth.

Respondents overwhelmingly cited the effectiveness of HHAP funding in helping to address youth homelessness. Similarly, respondents appreciated the HHAP youth set-aside as one of very few sources of funding that helps ensure youth populations are included in homelessness programming. This sentiment underscores what makes HHAP funding for youth distinct from HHAP funding generally—while the adult system of care has multiple funding sources to draw upon, HHAP is the main funding source and one of the only funding sources for addressing youth homelessness.

Permanently funding the HHAP program (inclusive of the set-aside) would help ensure jurisdictions have the resources needed to address homelessness moving forward. Absent a commitment to permanent HHAP funding, the state should permanently fund HHAP for youth only, at the amount of the existing set-aside in rounds three and four (\$100 million). Long-term, youth-centric funding can build upon the infrastructure established through the first two rounds and the forthcoming third and fourth rounds of HHAP to ensure programming remains properly equipped and staffed for the foreseeable future and would help guarantee California does not lose one of the few resources devoted specifically to youth homelessness.

Establish youth set-asides in additional sources of state funding for homelessness, where appropriate.

HHAP's minimum youth set-aside has had a monumental impact on the amount of funding available to serve youth experiencing homelessness in California, investing \$521 million in new funding since 2018. Several respondents identified how critical this set-aside has been in serving this population, as it is one of the few funding sources devoted specifically to youth. This funding will help jurisdictions reach even more youth in the coming years, with the minimum youth set-aside growing in the \$1 billion rounds three and four, which have a 10% (\$100 million) youth set-aside. In response to the success of the HHAP youth set-aside, the second round of Homekey established an 8% youth set-aside in 2021 to help ensure youth needs are addressed.

California has an opportunity to build on this success and momentum to establish similar youth set-asides in applicable homelessness funding sources to ensure a proportionate investment in youth. Examples include future investments in capital infrastructure, and the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program, which administers five-year grants to administrative entities across the state. In addition to establishing youth set-asides, the state could also improve youth access to mainstream homelessness funding by providing technical assistance to jurisdictions on this topic.

Make it a state priority to reach “functional zero” youth homelessness.

In 2021, the Newsom administration announced the goal of functionally ending family homelessness within five years. California can pursue this goal for youth with support through the structure within HHAP. Rounds three and four introduce performance-based bonus funding, an opportunity for the state to establish incentives for jurisdictions that can reach functional zero youth homelessness. When a community achieves functional zero for a population, they have reached a point when the local homeless services system is able to prevent homelessness whenever possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur, it is rare, brief and one-time.

Develop a statewide youth-specific coordinated entry assessment tool that can be adopted by local jurisdictions.

HHAP round three will create a unique opportunity for jurisdictions to invest in coordinated entry systems tailored for youth. The state can propel much of this investment by launching a specialized tool for jurisdictions to assess youth experiencing homelessness. Los Angeles currently utilizes the Next Step Tool, which was designed to be used in place of the Vulnerability Index–Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI–SPDAT) for all youth and young adults under the age of 24 as a more accurate assessment of their vulnerability, considering the distinct aspects of this specific population and to prioritize these clients for youth-specific homeless services and housing. While the tool's critics cite it needing further honing to better-accommodate a wider range of young people, it represents significant progress with respect to coordinated entry for youth. Efforts to hone



this existing tool and recommendations for statewide use could be spearheaded by Cal ICH's soon-to-be-launched Youth and Young Adults working group.

Continue to incentivize collaboration and coordination among jurisdictions.

Jurisdictions continue to collaborate within their regions by redirecting their allocations to another eligible applicant in the same region, while engaging in joint planning and monitoring. This suggests that entities are being creative and communicating to address youth homelessness. Fourteen jurisdictions redirected their funding (\$10.9 million) in round two. Rounds three and four continue to encourage collaboration and coordination. Should there be funding appropriated beyond round four, strategies for how to further incentivize these activities should be considered.

Recommendations for Local Jurisdictions

Use HHAP rounds three and four funding to improve coordinated entry for youth.

HHAP rounds three and four explicitly list systems improvement, including improving coordinated entry systems to eliminate racial bias or create a youth-specific coordinated entry system, as an eligible use of jurisdictions' base HHAP allocations. Coordinated entry is designed to ensure that people with the greatest needs receive priority for any type of housing and homeless assistance in the CoC, but existing systems do not necessarily serve youth effectively. Because youth often do not present as the most "in-need," they are often screened out of housing through coordinated entry. These youth may not have been of age for very long and are therefore not considered chronically homeless.

Making improvements to the coordinated entry assessment tool, implementing a youth-specific tool, or establishing youth-specific coordinated entry access points are investments that could help connect youth efficiently and effectively with appropriate resources and have a lasting impact on reducing the number of youth experiencing homelessness. Select jurisdictions have utilized rounds one and two of HHAP to improve coordinated entry for youth, including Oakland/Alameda County CoC, which established youth-specific coordinated entry access points. Rounds three and four present opportunities to engage in this critical systems improvement for youth.



Apply for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program funding.

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides one-time funding to select communities across the country via local CoCs to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. A portion of a CoC's YHDP award is available for annual renewal. Given respondents' sentiments regarding HHAP being one of the few funding sources with specified funding for youth, securing YHDP funding would provide local jurisdictions with youth-specific funding for comprehensive planning as well as some ongoing funding for programming. YHDP's requisite Coordinated Community Plan would also help inform each CoC's HHAP local homelessness action plan.

Apply for Homekey funding to develop housing for youth.

While HHAP provides a unique opportunity for jurisdictions to fund programming, California's housing crisis presents serious limitations both to individuals seeking housing and to programs providing housing. At least one respondent shared that their jurisdiction plans to utilize HHAP round two youth set-aside funding to provide ongoing support for a proposed Homekey project, which funds capital infrastructure. Jurisdictions across the state can help ensure their HHAP funding is used efficiently by applying for Homekey funding to develop housing for transition-age youth.



Further explore how HHAP can address college student homelessness.

With only 14% of respondents stating that their jurisdictions' projects are targeting college-age students experiencing or at risk of homelessness, the state has an opportunity to utilize HHAP funding to better serve this often overlooked population. Research conducted in 2019 found that 60% of California Community College students were housing insecure and 19% experienced homelessness in the previous year.⁷ Respondents identified programming that partners with local colleges, helping ensure students have the housing and other resources needed to complete their education. HHAP provides jurisdictions the opportunity to explore similar partnerships and establish programming that serves this population.

7 Goldrick-Rab, S., Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., & Looker, E. (2019). California community colleges #realcollege survey. The Hope Center. <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RealCollege-CCCCORreport.pdf>

Appendices

Appendices A, B and C document the investment of HHAP funds in addressing youth homelessness for each of California's CoCs, counties, and large cities. They also identify which jurisdictions received redirected funding from another eligible applicant in their region. For jurisdictions that provided figures that differ from their approved HHAP application to Cal ICH, the reported figures were used. For all other jurisdictions, the figures from their round two HHAP applications were used. The following data is provided:

- ➔ The total round two HHAP funding allocation;
- ➔ The amount of the required minimum eight percent youth set-aside;
- ➔ The actual amount reported being invested in youth interventions; and
- ➔ Whether the jurisdiction exceeded the minimum eight percent youth set-aside.



Appendix A Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Continuums of Care

Continuum of Care	Total HHAP Round Two Funding	Minimum 8% Youth Set-Aside	Actual \$ Dedicated to Youth	Allocation Exceeded Minimum (at least 8.1%)
Alpine, Inyo, Mono County	\$356,764	\$28,541	\$28,541	
Amador/Calaveras/Tuolumne/Mariposa Counties	\$700,487	\$56,039	\$56,039	
Bakersfield/Kern County	\$741,328	\$59,306	\$192,002	✓
Colusa/ Glenn/Trinity County	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$20,015	
Davis/ Woodland/Yolo County	\$365,090	\$29,207	\$29,210	
El Dorado County	\$341,680	\$27,334	\$27,334	
Fresno City & County/Madera County	\$1,397,933	\$111,835	\$111,835	
Glendale	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Humboldt County	\$948,677	\$75,894	\$75,894	
Imperial County	\$787,591	\$63,007	\$63,007	
Lake County	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Long Beach	\$3,254,164	\$260,333	\$260,333	
Los Angeles City & County	\$31,357,060	\$2,508,565	\$2,536,885	✓
Marin County	\$576,341	\$46,107	\$46,108	
Mendocino County	\$437,551	\$35,004	\$35,004	
Merced City & County	\$338,893	\$27,111	\$27,112	
Nevada County	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Oxnard/Ventura County	\$1,762,942	\$141,035	\$141,035	
Pasadena	\$302,105	\$24,168	\$24,168	
Placer County (includes Roseville, Rocklin)	\$343,909	\$27,513	\$27,513	

BUILDING CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: YEAR THREE OF THE YOUTH SET-ASIDE

Redding/Shasta County (includes Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties)	\$751,918	\$60,153	\$119,398	✓
Riverside City & County	\$1,566,822	\$125,346	\$125,346	
Sacramento City & County	\$3,099,643	\$247,971	\$397,971	✓
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties	\$1,507,181	\$120,574	\$120,574	
San Bernadino City & County	\$1,453,114	\$116,249	\$116,249	
San Diego County	\$5,105,688	\$408,455	\$408,455	
San Francisco City & County	\$4,478,625	\$358,290	\$358,290	
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	\$5,410,022	\$432,802	\$610,000	✓
San Luis Obispo	\$826,609	\$66,129	\$66,129	
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County	\$3,823,692	\$305,895	\$305,895	
Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County	\$1,004,973	\$80,398	\$80,398	
Santa Rosa/Petaluma/Sonoma County	\$1,644,856	\$131,588	\$195,642	✓
Stockton/San Joaquin County	\$1,466,492	\$117,319	\$121,712	✓
Tehama County	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Turlock/Modesto/Stanislaus County	\$1,071,860	\$85,749	\$85,749	
Vallejo, Solano	\$641,555	\$51,324	\$51,325	
Visalia, Kings, Tulare Counties	\$593,062	\$47,445	\$47,445	
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County	\$1,207,863	\$96,629	\$96,629	
Yuba City & County/Sutter County	\$401,878	\$32,150	\$32,150	
TOTAL	\$81,318,368	\$6,505,469	\$7,121,393	

Highlighted CoCs received redirected HHAP funds from a partner jurisdiction.

Appendix B Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Large Cities

Large City	Total HHAP Round Two Funding	Minimum 8% Youth Set-Aside	Actual \$ Dedicated to Youth	Allocation Exceeded Minimum (at least 8.1%)
Anaheim	\$3,981,386	\$318,511	\$318,511	
Bakersfield	\$1,543,803	\$123,504	\$306,400	✓
Fresno	\$2,911,171	\$232,894	\$232,894	
Los Angeles	\$55,575,000	\$4,446,000	\$4,446,000	
Oakland	\$9,311,568	\$744,925	\$744,925	
Riverside	\$3,262,879	\$261,030	\$261,030	
Sacramento	\$6,454,953	\$516,396	\$516,397	
San Diego	\$10,632,506	\$850,600	\$1,423,817	✓
San Francisco	\$9,326,658	\$746,133	\$746,133	
San Jose	\$11,266,278	\$901,302	\$1,000,000	✓
Santa Ana	\$3,981,386	\$318,511	\$318,511	
Stockton	\$3,053,944	\$244,316	\$244,316	
TOTAL	\$121,301,532	\$9,704,123	\$10,558,933	

Appendix C Total Round Two HHAP Youth Investments: Counties

County	Total HHAP Round Two Funding	Minimum 8% Youth Set-Aside	Actual \$ Dedicated to Youth	Allocation Exceeded Minimum (at least 8.1%)
Alameda	\$8,473,531	\$677,882	\$677,882	
Butte	\$1,337,259	\$106,981	\$106,981	
Colusa	\$27,938	\$2,235	\$3,990	✓
Contra Costa	\$2,424,178	\$193,934	\$194,000	
Del Norte	\$91,797	\$7,344	\$7,344	
El Dorado	\$305,824	\$24,466	\$24,466	
Fresno	\$1,063,150	\$85,052	\$85,052	
Glenn	\$28,437	\$2,275	\$2,275	
Humboldt	\$849,123	\$67,930	\$67,930	
Imperial	\$704,942	\$56,395	\$56,395	
Kern	\$663,533	\$53,083	\$143,909	✓
Kings	\$124,724	\$9,978	\$9,978	
Lake	\$203,550	\$16,284	\$16,284	
Lassen	\$22,949	\$1,836	\$2,500	✓
Los Angeles	\$29,403,004	\$2,352,240	\$3,000,000	✓
Madera	\$188,084	\$15,047	\$15,047	
Marin	\$515,860	\$41,269	\$41,269	
Mendocino	\$391,634	\$31,331	\$31,331	
Merced	\$303,329	\$24,266	\$24,267	
Monterey	\$1,207,830	\$96,626	\$96,626	
Napa	\$410,645	\$32,852	\$32,852	
Nevada	\$207,042	\$16,563	\$16,563	
Orange	\$3,422,435	\$273,795	\$273,795	
Placer	\$307,820	\$24,626	\$24,625	

BUILDING CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: YEAR THREE OF THE YOUTH SET-ASIDE

Plumas	\$22,949	\$1,836	\$1,836	
Riverside	\$1,402,400	\$112,192	\$112,192	
Sacramento	\$2,774,367	\$221,949	\$443,000	✓
San Benito	\$141,188	\$11,295	\$11,296	
San Bernardino	\$1,300,625	\$104,050	\$104,050	
San Diego	\$4,569,898	\$365,592	\$365,596	
San Francisco	\$4,008,639	\$320,691	\$320,691	
San Joaquin	\$1,312,598	\$105,008	\$214,362	✓
San Luis Obispo	\$739,865	\$59,189	\$59,189	
San Mateo	\$1,597,106	\$127,768	\$140,000	✓
Santa Barbara	\$899,512	\$71,961	\$71,961	
Santa Clara	\$4,842,296	\$387,384	\$450,000	✓
Santa Cruz	\$1,081,110	\$86,489	\$86,489	
Shasta	\$412,588	\$33,007	\$38,364	✓
Siskiyou	\$114,247	\$9,140	\$9,200	✓
Solano	\$574,231	\$45,938	\$45,939	
Sonoma	\$1,472,246	\$117,780	\$117,780	
Stanislaus	\$959,379	\$76,750	\$76,750	
Sutter	\$146,177	\$11,694	\$11,694	
Tehama	\$143,682	\$11,495	\$12,000	✓
Trinity	\$39,413	\$3,153	\$3,153	
Tulare	\$406,102	\$32,488	\$32,488	
Tuolumne	\$192,075	\$15,366	\$0	
Yolo	\$326,778	\$26,142	\$26,142	
Yuba	\$213,528	\$17,082	\$17,082	
TOTAL	\$82,371,617	\$6,589,729	\$7,726,615	

Highlighted counties received redirected HHAP funds from a partner jurisdiction



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