

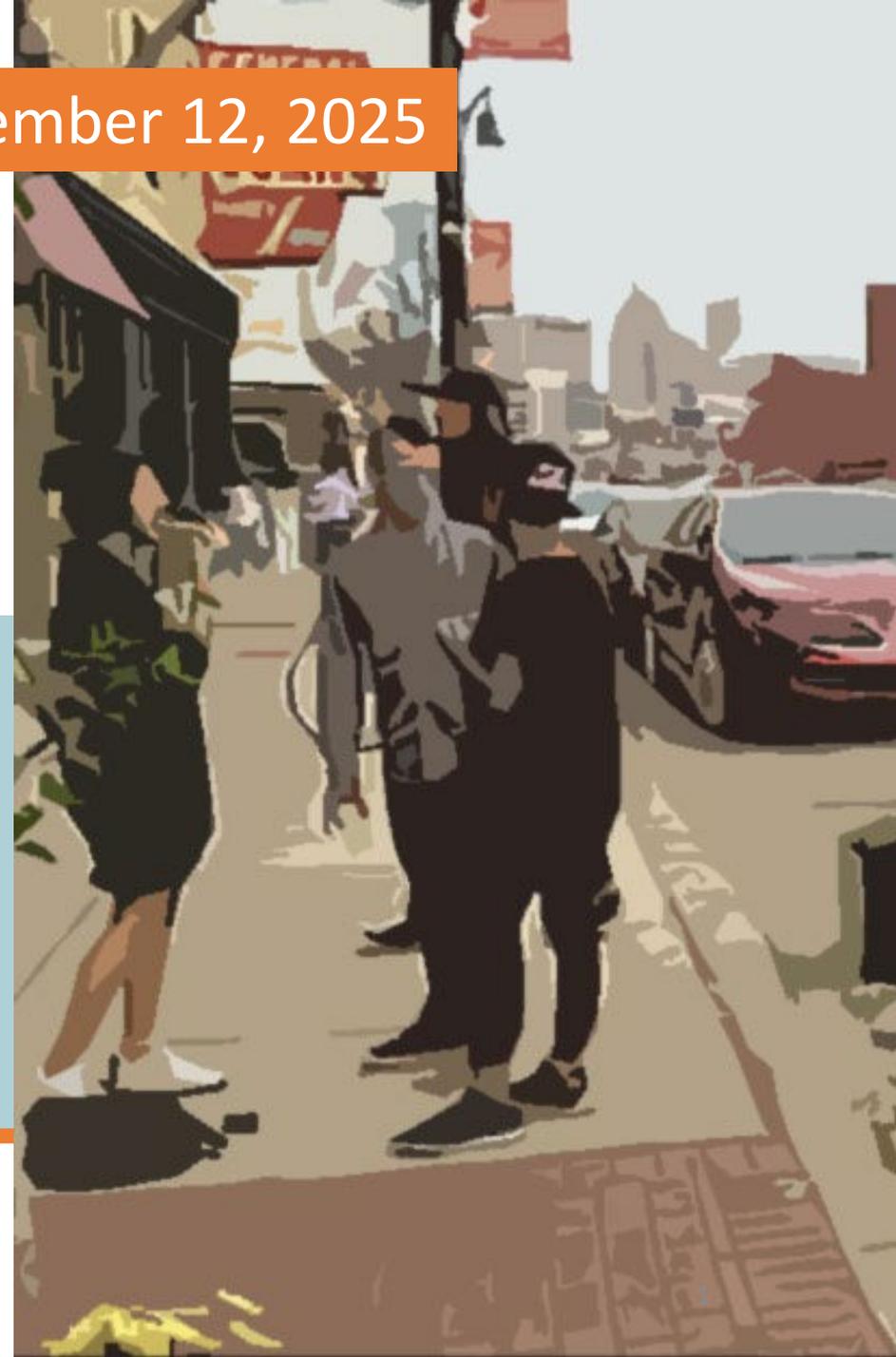


JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

November 12, 2025

INVESTING IN IMPACT:

How State Investment Reduced Youth Homelessness in California



AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Background:
 - a. Youth Homelessness in California
 - b. California's Response
3. Report Released
4. Findings:
 - a. Trends in Youth Homelessness Between 2019 and 2024
 - b. Statewide Analysis of Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans
5. Program Profile:
 - a. 3rd Street Youth
 - b. The Channel Islands YMCA
6. Policy Recommendations
7. Q & A

PRESENTERS



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John Burton Advocates for Youth



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The Channel Islands YMCA



Joi Jackson-Morgan

Chief Executive Officer

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic



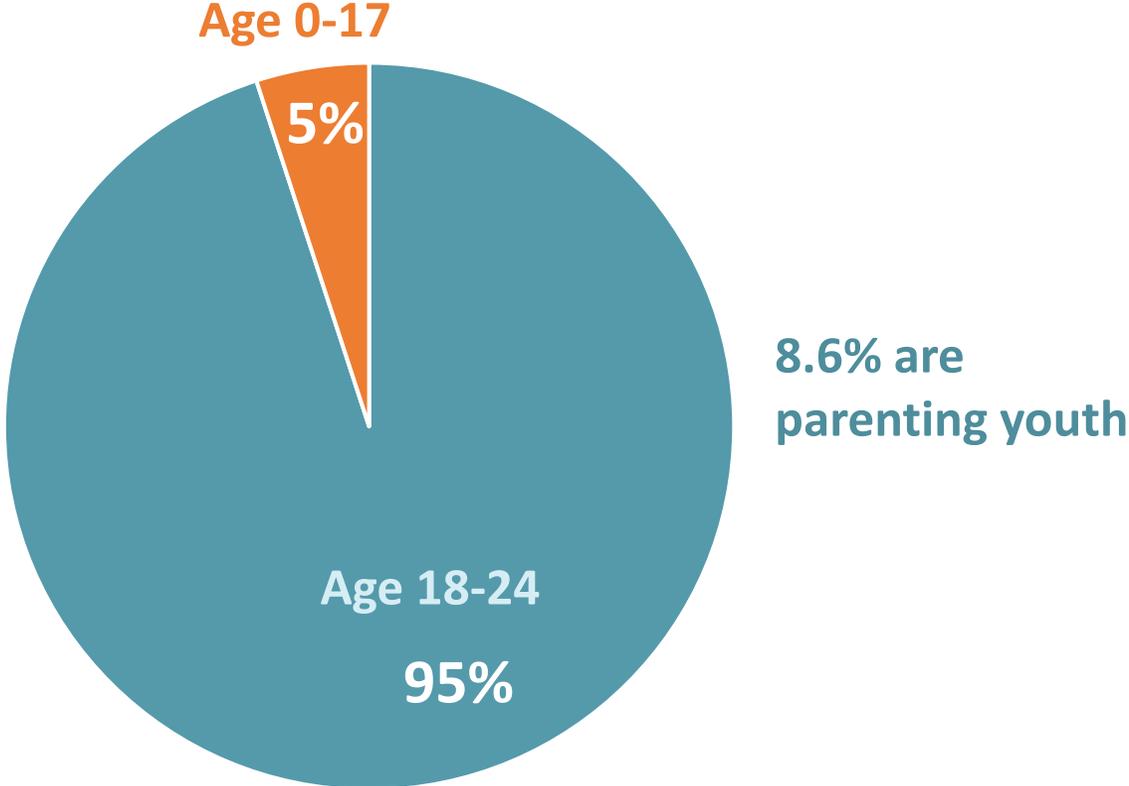
BACKGROUND

Youth Homelessness in California + the State's Response

HOW MANY YOUTH EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA?

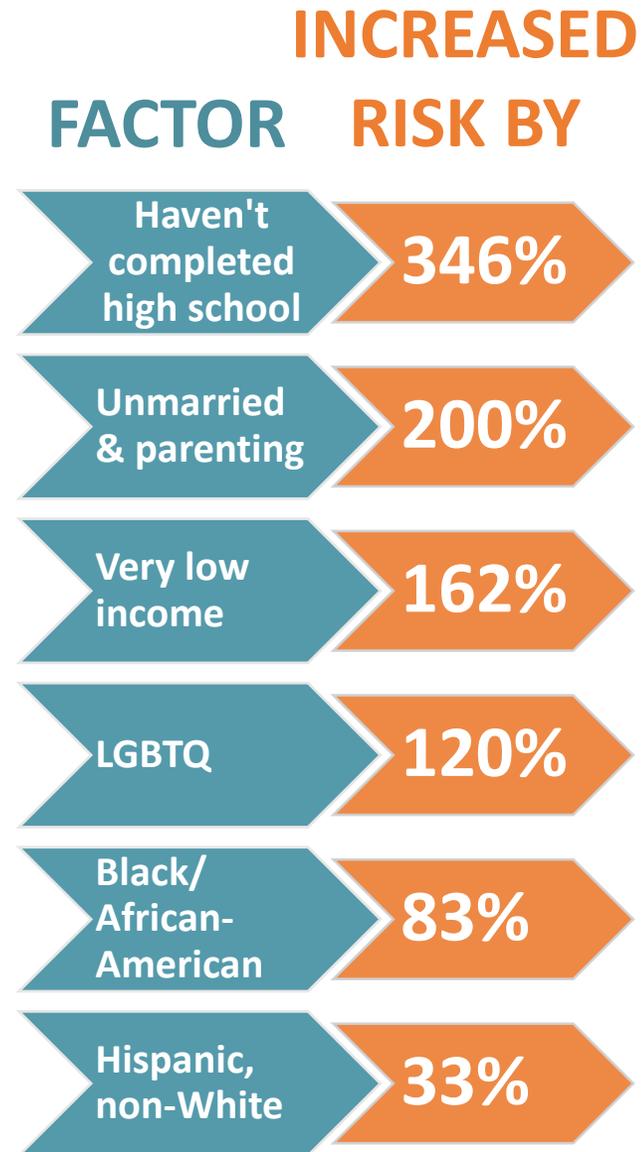
9,902 unaccompanied youth and young adults experience homelessness in California.

*This is **21%** of the nation's 47,347 youth experiencing homelessness.*



WHO IS HOMELESS AS A YOUNG PERSON?

The 2017 Voices of Youth Count study found that certain factors increase a young person's risk of homelessness.



CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE: A *DUAL APPROACH*

TARGETED PREVENTION

Preventing homelessness among foster youth

Extended foster care, “aftercare”
- transitional housing, housing vouchers, housing navigation, independent living skills support

CALIFORNIA'S
RESPONSE TO
YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS

UNIVERSAL SAFETY NET

Identifies youth through coordinated entry system

Interim and permanent housing, rental support, supportive services, housing navigation, connection to benefits

CALIFORNIA'S SAFETY NET FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IS PRIMARILY FUNDED BY HHAP

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program

Administered by the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development to its grantees:

Homeless Continuums of Care, counties, and large cities (populations >300K).



HHAP grantees administer the funding locally, usually to community-based providers.

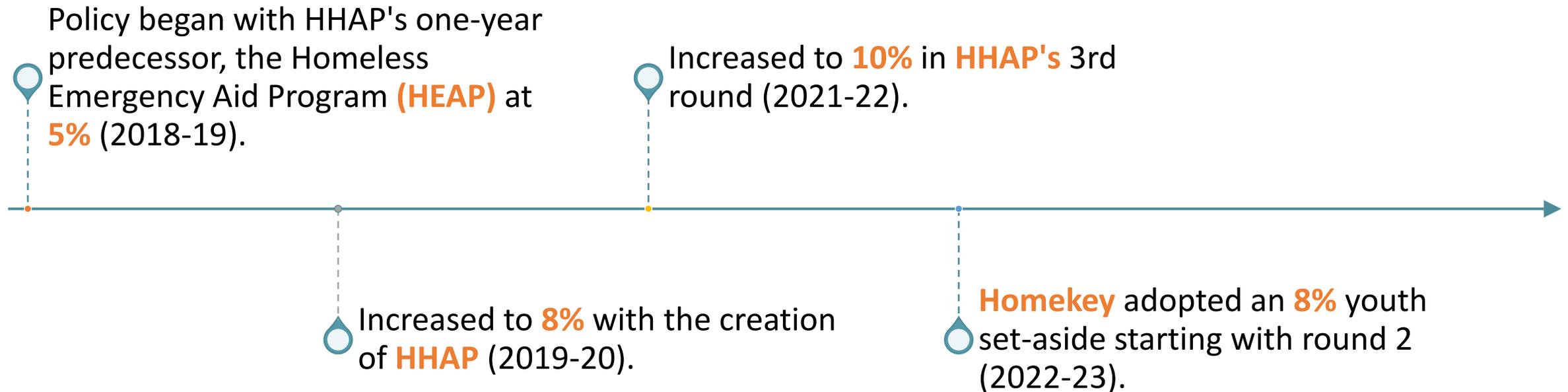


Providers serve people using a range of interventions:

Interim & permanent housing, supportive services, preventive resources

WHAT MAKES HHAP DIFFERENT THAN OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR HOMELESSNESS?

HHAP has a "youth set-aside" policy: HHAP grantees must spend at least **10%** of their HHAP allocations on youth homelessness.



AMOUNT OF HHAP FUNDING, NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED, AND PERCENT EXPENDED

Fiscal Year	Round	HHAP Funding Included in State Budget Homeless	HHAP Funding Allocated to Continuums of Care, Counties & Large Cities	Youth Set-Aside	Number of Youth Served as of 7/31/25	Percent of Total HHAP Funding Expended as of 8/31/25
2019-20	1	\$650,000,000	\$618,000,000	\$49,440,000	11,344	100%
2020-21	2	\$300,000,000	\$284,999,998	\$22,800,000	11,549	90%
2021-22	3	\$1,000,000,000	\$760,000,000	\$76,000,000	13,383	75%
2022-23	4	\$1,000,000,000	\$760,000,000	\$76,000,000	13,595	65%
2023-24	5	\$1,000,000,000	\$869,500,000	\$86,950,000	560	23%
2024-25	6	\$1,000,000,000	\$760,000,000	\$76,000,000	N/A	0%
Total	1-6	\$4,950,000,000	\$4,052,499,998	\$387,190,000	50,431	53%

WHAT PROMPTED CALIFORNIA TO INVEST IN YOUTH-SPECIFIC FUNDING?

Lack of federal investment...

- in homelessness generally (CA doesn't get its "fair share")
- in youth homelessness specifically

An understanding that...

- youth are generally not served through the adult homelessness response system
- homelessness funding does not reach youth unless policy requires it

WHAT FEDERAL FUNDING WAS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE STATE INVESTMENT IN HHAP?

Outside of foster care-focused investments, as of 2018, there were just a few funding streams available for addressing youth homelessness:

Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) (ages 16-21)

- Basic Center Program (shelter)
- Street Outreach
- Transitional Living Program
- Maternity Group Homes

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) (up to age 24)

- Funding for communities to develop a coordinated plan to preventing and ending youth homelessness
- Grant is renewable annually to serve youth, at half the original grant amount

Together were providing less than ~\$10 million to select CA communities.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF HHAP?

- ✓ HHAP was included in every state budget between FY 2019-20 and FY 2024-25.
- ✗ HHAP was NOT included in the FY 2025-26 state budget.
- ? There is a stated intent to fund HHAP in the 2026-27 state budget, contingent upon future legislation to add more accountability measures to the program.
- ? Backfill from federal cuts are dominating state budget priorities.
- ? There will be a new governor in 2027, this person's position on state funding for homelessness and youth homelessness is unknown.

NOVEMBER 2025

INVESTING IN IMPACT

How State Investment
Reduced Youth
Homelessness in
California



Available at:

**[https://jbay.org/resources/
investing-in-impact-2025/](https://jbay.org/resources/investing-in-impact-2025/)**

REPORT RELEASED

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Findings Section 1

- Analyzed Point-in-Time Count data from 2019 to 2024 (U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development).
- “Youth experiencing homelessness:” The sum of unaccompanied youth (minors and nonminors up to 24) and parenting youth.

Findings Section 2

- Analyzed Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plans (RCHAPs) used to apply for round 5 HHAP.
- All 41 RCHAPs were uploaded to Taguette, an open-source qualitative analysis software.

Program Profiles

- JBAY conducted hour-long interviews with staff members of organizations serving youth with HHAP funding.
- All staff were asked the same series of questions regarding the nature of their work and the impact of HHAP funding.



FINDINGS

Trends in Youth Homelessness Between 2019-2024

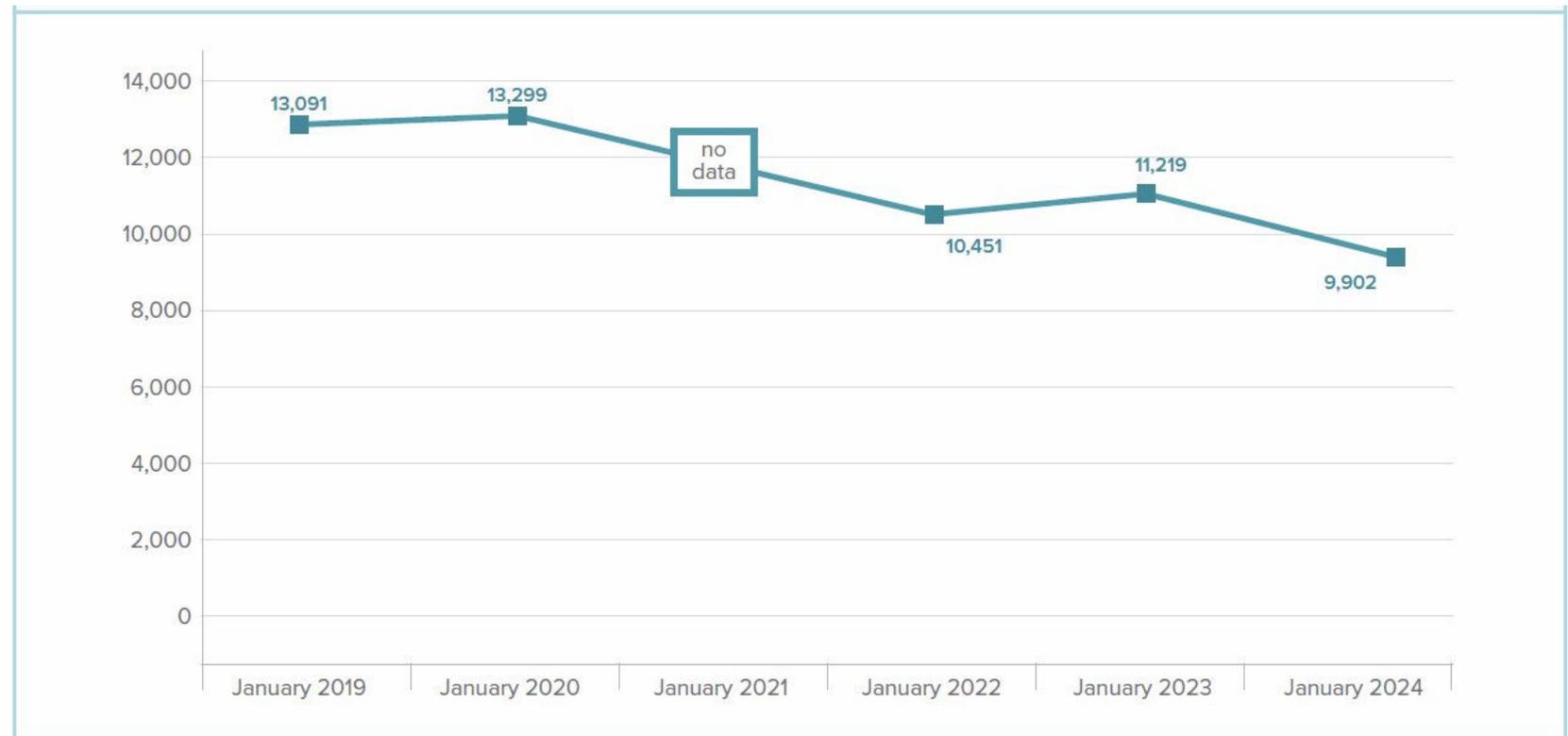
Between Fiscal Year 2018-19 and 2023-24, the number of youth experiencing homelessness in California declined 24%

CA's unsheltered youth homelessness decreased 42%.

During same time period:

- Overall homelessness in CA increased 24%.
- Youth homelessness nationwide increased 11%.

Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in CA (2019-2024)



More than two-thirds (68%) of CA CoCs reported reductions in youth homelessness between 2019-2024

30 of California’s 44 CoCs saw a decline, including 7 that reduced their counts by more than 100 youth.

California CoCs with Reductions of More than 100 Youth, 2019-2024

Continuum of Care	Number of Youth Homeless According to PIT Count		Reduction Amount	
	2019	2024	# of Youth	% Change
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	1,926	821	-1,105	-57%
Los Angeles City & County	3,389	2,776	-613	-18%
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County	666	156	-510	-77%
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County	625	199	-426	-68%
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County	751	427	-324	-43%
Vallejo/Solano County	215	67	-148	-69%
San Luis Obispo County	179	34	-145	-81%

32% of California's CoCs reported an increase in youth homelessness from 2019-2024

California CoCs with Increases in Youth Homelessness (2019-2024)

Continuum of Care	Number of Youth Homeless According to PIT Count		Increase Amount	
	2019	2024	# of Youth	% Change
Lake County	8	28	20	250%
Stockton/San Joaquin County	129	318	189	147%
Daly/San Mateo County	47	88	41	87%
Merced City & County	21	37	16	76%
Fresno City & County/Madera County	119	186	67	56%
Redding/Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Modoc, Sierra Counties	97	146	49	51%
Richmond/Contra Costa County	125	171	46	37%
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties	68	92	24	35%
Mendocino County	48	62	14	29%
Pasadena	31	38	7	23%
San Diego City and County	675	805	130	19%
Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Counties	6	7	1	17%
Marin County	110	111	1	1%
Humboldt County	93	94	1	1%

Of the 14 CoCs that saw increases in youth homelessness, 2 had an increase of more than 100 youth.

8 of the 10 CoCs with the highest numbers of youth experiencing homelessness saw reductions between 2019-2024.

**10 California CoCs with Highest Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in 2024:
Percentage Change in Youth Experiencing Homelessness (2019-2024)**

Continuum of Care	Number of Youth Homeless According to PIT Count		Increase/Decrease Amount	
	2019	2024	# of Youth	% Change
Los Angeles City & County	3,389	2,776	-613	-18%
San Francisco	1,189	1,157	-32	-3%
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	1,926	821	-1,105	-57%
San Diego City and County	675	805	130	19%
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County	751	427	-324	-43%
Sacramento City & County	430	414	-16	-4%
Stockton/San Joaquin County	130	318	188	145%
Riverside City & County	297	289	-8	-3%
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties	333	260	-73	-22%
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County	263	258	-5	-2%

San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC reduced by more than half (57%).

Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC reduced by 43%.

Eleven CoCs reduced their youth homelessness by at least 50% between 2019 and 2024

California CoCs with Reductions in Youth Homelessness by 50% or More (2019-2024)

Continuum of Care	Number of Youth Homeless According to PIT Count		Reduction Amount	
	2019	2024	# of Youth	% Change
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties	30	5	-25	-83%
San Luis Obispo County	179	34	-145	-81%
Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne Counties	57	13	-44	-77%
El Dorado County	117	27	-90	-77%
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County	666	156	-510	-77%
Vallejo/Solano County	215	67	-148	-69%
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County	625	199	-426	-68%
Nevada County	31	12	-19	-61%
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	1,926	821	-1,105	-57%
Davis, Woodland/Yolo County	44	20	-24	-55%
Napa City & County	23	11	-12	-52%

3 were ranked in the top ten in 2019 for number of youth experiencing homelessness.

5 saw reductions of at least 100 youth.

A group of people in a meeting, with one person writing on a whiteboard. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing text.

FINDINGS

Statewide Analysis of Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans

Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans (RCHAPs)

- Beginning in Round 5, HHAP funding required communities to submit applications as a "region," defined as the area served by a county, all large cities and the CoC within it.
- RCHAPs provide detailed funding plans, outlines role and responsibilities of applicants in a region, system performance measures, and what services are being funded to end homelessness.
- In total, 41 RCHAPs were submitted for Round 5 by 79 distinct administrative entities applying for funding.

Statewide, HHAP grantees are collectively investing 10.83% of round 5 funding in addressing youth homelessness



Total HHAP Round 5 Funding	HHAP Funding Invested in Youth	Percent of Total HHAP Funding Invested in Youth
\$869,076,454	\$94,183,840	10.83%

Over one-quarter (27%) of HHAP grantees are investing above the 10% youth set aside minimum.

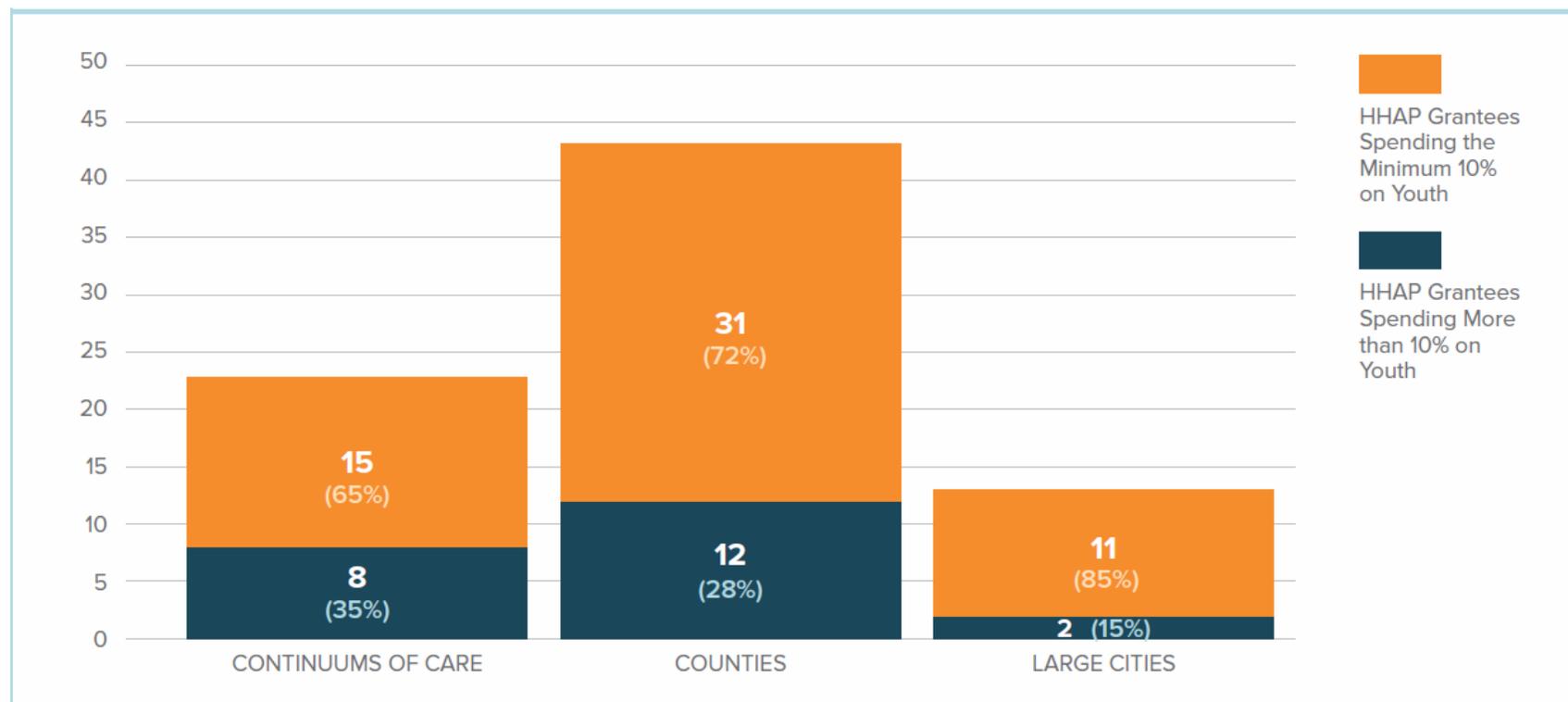
Top 10 HHAP Grantees Investing More Than 10% of Round 5 Funding in Youth Homelessness

Grantee Type	HHAP Grantee	HHAP Funding Being Invested in Youth		Total Round 5 HHAP Allocation
		\$ Amount	% of HHAP Allocation	
Continuums of Care	Sacramento City & CoC	\$2,268,818	17.00%	\$13,345,988
	Santa Rosa/Sonoma CoC	\$487,353	14.96%	\$3,258,485
Counties	Lassen County	\$95,000	51.39%	\$184,870
	Santa Cruz County	\$1,322,404	26.02%	\$5,082,977
	San Diego County	\$3,600,000	25.42%	\$14,160,464
	Yuba County	\$150,379	20.00%	\$751,895
	Fresno County	\$1,875,202	16.00%	\$11,720,018
	Solano County	\$254,533	15.37%	\$1,655,549
	Napa County	\$104,714	15.00%	\$698,090
	Orange County	\$1,252,009	15.00%	\$8,346,727

Compared to counties and cities, a greater share of CoCs are investing above the minimum 10%.

Number and Share of Administrative Entities Investing More than 10% of Round 5 HHAP Funding in Youth

Of the 23 CoCs that submitted RCHAPs (whether individually or jointly), 8 indicated that they would exceed the 10% youth set-aside minimum.



Nearly one-third (31%) of round 5 HHAP funding for youth is being used to fund rapid rehousing

Round 5 HHAP Funding for Youth Allocated to Each Eligible Use Category

HHAP Eligible Use	Youth Funding Allocated in RCHAP	
	\$	%
Rapid Rehousing	\$29,450,849	31%
Interim Housing	\$18,719,488	20%
Operating Subsidies – Interim Housing	\$18,268,548	19%
Prevention & Shelter Diversion	\$9,202,038	10%
Services Coordination	\$6,608,913	7%
Delivery of Permanent Housing and Innovative Solutions	\$4,329,839	5%
Operating Subsidies – Permanent Housing	\$3,381,431	4%
Street Outreach	\$1,963,519	2%
Systems Support	\$1,960,142	2%
Total:	\$93,884,768*	100%

The second highest investment is in Interim Housing (21%).

About half of HHAP grantees are using round 5 youth funding for a single intervention, while the other half are funding multiple approaches.

Amount of Eligible Uses Funded for Youth in Round 5 of HHAP

Type of HHAP Grantee	1 Eligible Use		2 Eligible Uses		3 Eligible Uses		4 Eligible Uses	
	# Grantees	% Grantees	# Grantees	% Grantees	# Grantees	% Grantees	# Grantees	% Grantees
CoC	10	42%	7	29%	5	21%	2	8%
County	21	50%	7	17%	6	14%	8	19%
Large City	8	61%	4	31%	1	8%	0	0%
All HHAP Grantees	39	49%	18	23%	12	15%	10	13%

Large cities are more likely to focus on a single intervention (61% reported this plan).



PROGRAM PROFILES

How Communities Use HHAP to
Respond to Youth Homelessness

HHAP-FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH PROFILED IN REPORT



Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (Sacramento)



On the Move/VOICES (Solano)



3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic (San Francisco)



Bill Wilson Center (Santa Clara)



Kern County Network for Children (Kern)



The Channel Islands YMCA (Santa Barbara)

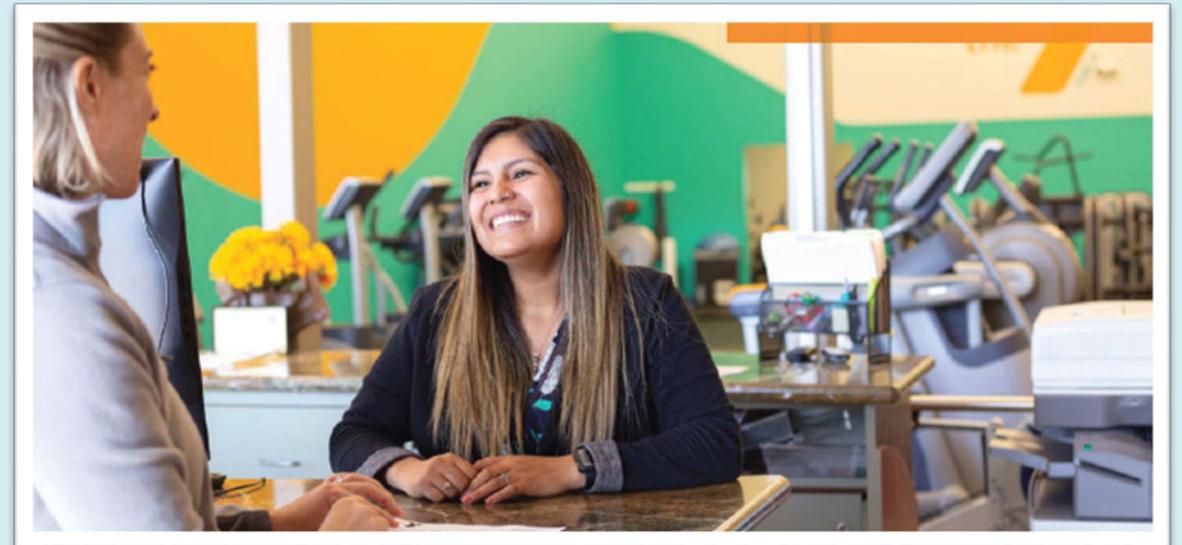


Jovenes, Inc. (Los Angeles)

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS YMCA USES HHAP TO PROVIDE TARGETED SUPPORT AND INCREASE REGIONAL COORDINATION

Amy Tovas

Youth and Family Services (YFS)
Operations Director



3RD STREET YOUTH CENTER & CLINIC USES HHAP TO PROVIDE SAN FRANCISCO'S YOUTH A PATHWAY TO STABILITY



San Francisco
City & County

Joi Jackson-Morgan
Chief Executive Officer



The background of the slide features a stylized illustration of the California State Capitol building on the right and the California state flag on the left. The flag depicts a grizzly bear standing on a rock with the words "CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC" written below it, and a red star in the upper left corner. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Recommendations: State Government

1. Establish an ongoing funding guarantee for youth within the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program.



An ongoing youth funding guarantee of at least **\$80 million** would ensure that even if HHAP is unfunded or reduced in future state budgets, a consistent level of investment remains dedicated to youth homelessness.

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

A "**functional zero**" approach would reform how data is collected and used over time to build a local homeless services system. For this to work, it's key that sustained funding to supporting staffing and infrastructure is in place. **If funding is uncertain, this approach will not work.**



California has taken recent measures to improve housing affordability:

- Enforcing regional housing production targets through RHNA: Since 2021 every region is updating its Housing Element, a process to increase local housing production.
- CEQA reform encouraging dense infill housing in urbanized areas.

Even if these reforms reduce homelessness, we will not see their impact for several years.

3. Utilize HHAP to bridge support for vulnerable youth while housing reforms take effect.



4. Continue to include Continuums of Care, counties and large cities in future rounds of HHAP.



HHAP grantees are meeting the 10% minimum spending requirement on youth, and 27% are spending more than minimally required. This demonstrates they're generally well positioned to deploy local resources to address youth homelessness.

5. Continue to fund a broad range of eligible uses in future rounds of HHAP.

Over half (51%) of HHAP grantees are supporting two or more interventions for youth with their HHAP funding. Maintaining a diverse set of resources is important to meet the varying needs of young people.



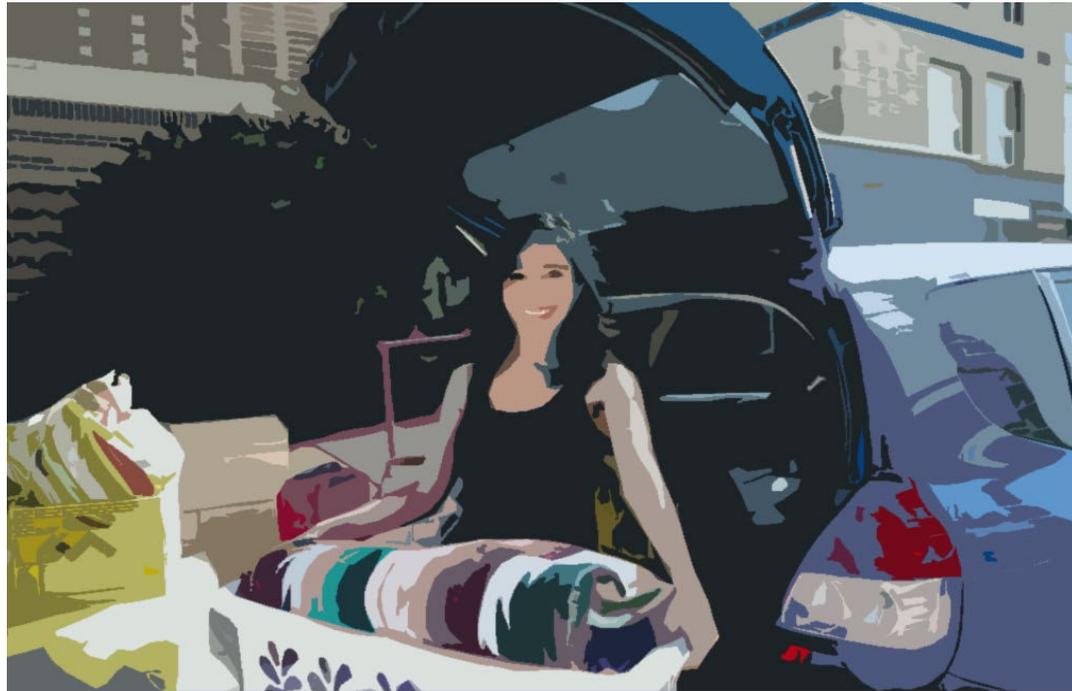
- In California, affordable housing is especially critical for youth who lack family financial support and are working entry-level jobs or attending school.
- Housing development rarely targets tenants ages 18-24.
- **Homekey is the notable exception, due to its 8% youth set-aside.**

6. Adopt a youth set-aside in any state investment in housing development.



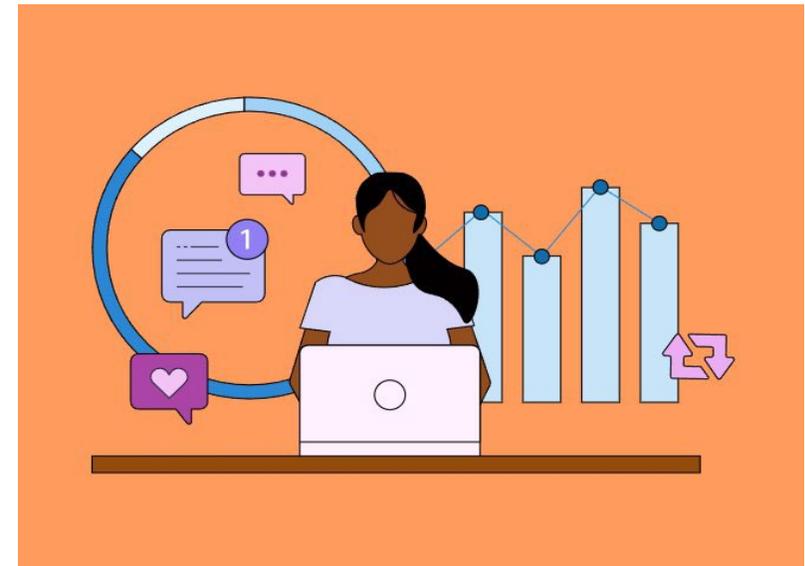
7. Sustain investments in targeted prevention for youth from the foster care system.

Over half (57%) of young adults aged 18-to-24 live with their parents. Youth who have been in foster care do not have this same safety net and face steep challenges in California's housing market.



7. Expand upon the current HHAP Fiscal Dashboard to incorporate more detail on the use of funding for youth.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) HHAP Fiscal Dashboard provides aggregated data on awarded, obligated, expended and unobligated funds. While this dashboard enhances transparency, it lacks detail on how HHAP funds are being used to address youth homelessness.





Recommendations: Local Communities

1. Maximize use of federal funding still available for youth homelessness prevention.



A key federal resource to continue leverage includes the **Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)** initiative, which provides Housing Choice Vouchers to youth leaving foster care. Despite threats to HUD funding, FYI continues to receive federal support.

2. Adopt strategies to improve the accuracy of the youth Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.

- Strengthen partnerships with youth-serving organizations
- Recruit and train youth who have experienced homelessness
- Coordinate with schools
- Use technology (i.e. online mobile surveys, social media) to reach hidden populations
- Conduct count over extended period instead of just one day
- Create dedicated youth count planning committee
- Provide incentives for participation



Stay Connected:

Sign Up to Join a Statewide Coalition
advocating for sustained funding to address
youth homelessness in California:

<https://tinyurl.com/HHAP-Y-2026>



Question & Answer



Please submit questions via the questions box.

For future questions contact

Simone Tureck Lee at simone@jbay.org or

Brandon Torres at brandon@jbay.org