

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2019

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\$500 Million in Emergency Homeless Funding Awarded

SACRAMENTO – \$500 million in block grants to address homelessness in California has been awarded to the 43 Continuums of Care (CoCs) and 11 large cities eligible for Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding from the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.

The grants are designed to help CoCs and California’s 11 largest cities provide immediate assistance to people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. To receive the money, each city or county had to declare a shelter crisis and use five percent of all grants for emergency assistance for homeless youth.

“We have moved very quickly to put money on the front lines of addressing California’s homelessness problem,” said Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency Secretary Alexis Podesta, who also chairs the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. “We look forward to partnering with our local jurisdictions to help them make the best use possible of these funds.”

HEAP was created by SB 850, which took effect July 1, 2018 and provided \$350 million to California’s 43 CoCs and another \$150 million to California’s 11 largest cities, with the amount of funding for each based on their homeless populations.

In his Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget, Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed an additional \$500 million for a second round of funding to help jurisdictions build emergency shelters, navigation centers or supportive housing for the homeless. Of that, \$300 million would go to jurisdictions that establish joint regional plans to address homelessness, with another \$200 million for jurisdictions that show progress in addressing homelessness. Eligible recipients would include all CoCs and the 13 California cities that had populations above 300,000 on January 1, 2018 as estimated by the Department of Finance. In addition, the Governor’s proposed budget calls for an investment of \$100 million for Whole Person Care Pilot programs that provide housing services.

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