



# CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Gavin Newsom, Governor | Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 11, 2020

**Contact:** Russ Heimerich  
(916) 651-1385

## **\$100 Million in Emergency Funding Distributed to Local Jurisdictions to Help People Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19 Pandemic**

SACRAMENTO – California has distributed all \$100 million in emergency grant funding allocated to cities, counties and Continuums of Care by Governor Gavin Newsom’s Administration to help protect people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom signed SB 89, which was approved unanimously by the state Legislature and authorized up to \$1 billion to provide assistance to help fight the spread of COVID-19. On March 18, Governor Newsom’s Administration allocated \$100 million in emergency funding from SB 89 to California counties, Continuums of Care, and the state’s 13 largest cities. Award letters were sent out by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council on March 23.

“Our strong partnership with local communities enabled us to get these resources to them in a timely and expedited manner,” said Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency and Chair of the Council. “As a result, communities were able to move swiftly to protect those people experiencing homelessness who are most at risk from COVID-19 and mitigate the public health challenges related to the pandemic.”

In the City of Oakland, the funding provided immediate help.

“Thanks to the state’s COVID-19 homeless emergency funding, the City of Oakland has opened a 67-trailer program for up to 130 vulnerable unsheltered Oaklanders, providing comfortable respite, three meals a day, and services to avoid COVID-19 now and return to permanent housing as soon as possible,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “We are grateful to the State of California for its leadership in service to our most vulnerable neighbors.”

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In Los Angeles County, the funding provided valuable assistance at keeping individuals safe during the pandemic.

“Project Roomkey has successfully given over 2,000 of the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County a safe place to stay in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Heid Marson, Interim Executive Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. “This triumph and victories to come would not be possible without the critical funding provided the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.”

Riverside County used its funding to house people experiencing homeless in Project Roomkey facilities, hotel and motel rooms acquired to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by providing shelter for the most vulnerable.

“As the first large county in the nation to end veteran homelessness, the County of Riverside has a track record of working with partners to solve the issue of homelessness,” said V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. “On behalf of Riverside County, we are extremely grateful for the Governor’s allocation of resources for Project Roomkey as we believe our actions and those of the state prevented COVID-19 infections within this vulnerable population. Thus far, 450 high-risk individuals have been assisted through Project Roomkey, and we stand ready to work with the state and other partner organizations to transition these families into permanent housing and break the cycle of homelessness.”

California’s 13 largest cities, or cities that are also a county, received \$42,968,750, while the state’s 58 counties received \$27,343,750 and California’s 44 Continuums of Care (CoCs) received \$29,687,500. Allocations can be found [here](#).

Additional funding is also on the way.

The [Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention \(HHAP\) Program](#) was signed into law on July 31, 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom and provides \$650 million in one-time block grant funding to help local jurisdictions address their immediate homelessness challenges.

Award letters have been sent to the state’s 44 CoCs, the 13 largest cities or cities that are also a county, and to the state’s 58 counties, with over 25% of funding already dispersed. An allocation table for the HHAP program can be found [here](#).

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