



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
January 24, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Tamala Takahashi (Chair); Clint Weirick (Vice Chair); Merl Abel; Joe Amelio; Keri Lynn Baert; Debbie Baker; James Boito; Xouhoa Bowen; Jeremy Bubnick; Janice Cader-Thompson; Elizabeth Calciano; Amanda Carter; Sara Castro; Pedro Chavez; Ruben Chavez; Lara Christensen; Renee Contreras-DeLoach; Christine Engel; Peggy Flynn; Felicia Galindo; Greg Gomez; Jessyka Heredia; Dayna Hunter; Tracy Jensen; Rachel Kertz; Rachel Lang; Latika Malkani; Faye Maloney; Carla Mason; Jenny McAdams; Annie McCary; Peggy McQuaid; Bridgette Moore; Irene Morales; Liz Morris; Brad Olson; Sonya Patterson; Michael Ponce; Kashef Qaadri; Sheila Rossi; Mario Saucedo; Holly Tillman; Anissa Williams; Amy Woolridge

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Advocate  
Serena Scott, Legislative Affairs Analyst

**I. General Briefing**

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing at the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a brief oral update on the latest legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities. Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman and Cal Cities President Gabe Quinto, Mayor of El Cerrito, also provided welcome remarks.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Takahashi and Vice-Chair Weirick welcomed committee members, introduced themselves, and the Cal Cities staff. Then, Chair Takahashi asked all committee members to briefly introduce themselves.

**III. Public Comment**

Chair Takahashi opened the meeting for public comments. There was no public comment.

**IV. Presentation: California Conservation Corps**

Vice-Chair Weirick introduced guest speaker Brandon Chapin, Deputy Director of Legislative and External Affairs at the [California Conservation Corps](#).

Mr. Chapin presented to the committee on the mission, history, benefits, and programs of the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The mission of the is to protect and enhance California's natural resources and communities while empowering young adults through hard work and education. The CCC operates at 25 locations across the state and is made up of more than 1,500 corpsmembers, making it the nation's largest and longest-running corps program. Local communities rely on the CCC to carry out community-based projects, with a primary focus on environmental conservation, disaster response, and infrastructure improvement.

Cities were encouraged to help their residents apply for the CCC and get in touch with regional corps coordinators to bring local programs to their cities. The committee members asked many questions and conveyed their excitement to learn more about connecting young people in their cities with CCC opportunities.

Mr. Chapin asked Cal Cities to pass along this message: "As the CCC celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are looking for partners to help us showcase historical items now and into the future, like a CCC museum. If a city is interested in hosting these materials or knows of a location that would be great to store and host, please reach out, and I will connect them with the CCC Foundation that is spearheading the search for a location for these items".

Brandon Chapin can be reached at (916) 203-8463 or [brandon.chapin@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:brandon.chapin@ccc.ca.gov) and a CCC info sheet can be viewed [here](#).

#### **V. Presentation: Federal Impacts on Medical and Homelessness in California**

Chair Takahashi introduced guest speakers Monica Davalos and Hannah Orbach-Mandel, Policy Analysts at the California Budget and Policy Center. Their presentation provided an overview of H.R. 1 and how federal funding cuts and policy changes may impact local efforts to respond to homelessness across California. They explained that 3.4 million Californians could lose their Medi-Cal coverage, which could also strain county behavioral health departments that lack the capacity to increase patient caseloads. Committee members shared concerns about how this may impact their communities and thanked our two speakers for the information.

Budget and Policy Center slides can be accessed [here](#).

#### **VI. Committee Orientation**

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the committee's schedule and processes. Members were informed of the process for adding items to a policy committee agenda and of the various recommendations on bill positions that policy committees could provide to the Cal Cities Board of Directors. Staff also provided a refresher on parliamentary procedure.

#### **VII. Cal Cities 2026 Advocacy Priorities**

Vice Chair Weirick discussed his experience helping to create the 2026 advocacy priorities at League Leaders in Palm Springs last December. Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the [Cal Cities 2026 Advocacy Priorities](#), which include:

1. Protect and enhance local revenues and expand economic development tools
2. Strengthen partnerships with the state to improve public safety
3. Secure investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing
4. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness

#### **VIII. Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

The Cal Cities Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles are updated every two years to reflect the committee's work. This information is used as a reference tool to advocate for newly adopted issues.

For 2026, in accordance with previous committee action, the proposed policy additions included:

1. "Arts, Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation and Activities": A minor edit based on SB 456 (Ashby) 2025.
2. "Residential Care Facilities" moved from the Housing Community and Economic Development Committee.
3. Community Disaster Preparedness" Renamed.
4. "Natural Disaster Preparation" Moved to Public Safety and Environmental Quality.

Committee members indicated they would like to make technical changes to the senior policy during the March meeting. Cal Cities staff acknowledged this request and committed to building an agenda for March that reflects the suggestions made during the committee meeting.

Staff and Chair Takahashi opened discussion. Following a robust conversation, a motion to approve the changes to the Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document was made, which passed unanimously. You can find the full CS existing policy and guiding principles being sent to the board for approval [here](#).

#### **IX. Adoption of 2025 Work Plan**

To inform the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey selecting their top priorities for the committee to focus on throughout the year.

Staff and Chair Takahashi opened discussion for this segment and provided an overview of the 45 survey responses and the proposed work program based on the survey results. The top four priorities identified in the survey were Homelessness and Behavioral Health; Seniors and Aging; Parks, Recreation, and Access to Open Space; and Early Learning, Childcare, and Youth Programs.

Committee members raised concerns regarding the results, including the challenge of addressing four priorities within the available time left to meet this year. The committee also raised concerns about continuing to focus on homelessness and not spending enough time addressing other important policy issues. A lengthy discussion followed on how to best combine or refine priorities, explore new focus areas, and still keep homelessness part of the broader conversation.

Cal Cities staff and the committee discussed the option of removing homelessness as a standalone priority, noting that it has consistently been a top focus for both the CS Committee and Cal Cities overall. The group ultimately agreed that the remaining three proposed work plan issues are all connected to addressing homelessness. By focusing on these areas in 2026, the committee will reinforce its commitment to reducing homelessness while elevating critical topics that have not been examined in depth in prior years. A motion reflecting this approach was made, seconded, and approved with a majority vote.

The motion passed with 27 aye votes out of 34 members present and voting, confirming the following priorities as the 2026 CS work program:

- Seniors and Aging
- Parks, Recreation, and Access to Open Space
- Early Learning, Childcare, and Youth Programs

Homelessness and behavioral health services will be a theme for conversations on each of these important topics.

#### **X. Budget Update and Legislative Outlook**

Cal Cities staff provided an in-depth budget and legislative update. Mrs. Grinder explained that the Governor's 2026-2027 budget includes \$500 million for round seven of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) grant program promised in last year's budget. This round of funding is contingent on new accountability metrics that will be finalized this year.

Staff then discussed potential 2026 issues related to Community Services were:

- Accountability and transparency for state homelessness funding.
- Addressing encampments.
- Increased focus on interim housing.
- Sober living homes and recovery housing.
- Impacts of federal policy on vulnerable populations; and
- Access and affordability of childcare.

Staff also previewed a bill that Cal Cities plans to sponsor this year. This bill will make it easier for cities with populations under 300,000 to access HHAP as subrecipients.

Finally, the committee received information on other Cal Cities-sponsored bill proposals related to community services, including [SB 569](#) (Blakespear), [SB 490](#) (Umberg), and [SB 329](#) (Blakespear). More information on how to submit letters and support bills such as these through the legislative process can be found in the slides (*Slide: 30 and 31*).

#### **XI. Breakout Group Discussion: Medi-Cal and Cities**

Chair Takahashi instructed the committee to briefly discuss, in their tables, the upcoming HR-1 budget cuts and their implications for health access within cities.

Please fill out this [optional exit survey](#) to record what your group discussed!

#### **XII. Adjourn**

Chair Takahashi thanked committee members and staff for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

#### **XIII. Additional Information**

Here is a link to the [Community Services Slides](#) from the committee meeting. The link to access these slides will expire in a couple of months. They must be downloaded if you do not want to lose access.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 26, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa.