



COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, March 28, 2025

Slides can be found [here](#).

ATTENDANCE

Members: Tamala Takahashi (Vice Chair); Tess Albin-Smith; Pam Allen; Sonja Brunner; Jeremy Bubnick; Valerie Candever; Shana Charles; Ruben Chavez; Ashlee DePhillippo; Ken Domer; Christine Engel; Nicole Fernandez; Eddie Flores; Kelly Fujio; Jose Garcia; Rachel Hernandez; Benjamin Jones; Rachel Kertz; Mina Layba; Daniel LeBlang; Caity Maple; Jenny McAdams; Anie McCary; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Lisa Murphy; Carmen Nichols; Brad Olson; Michael Ponce; Kashaf Qaadri; Molly Rattigan; Natalie Rogers; Christina Rudsell; Mario Saucedo; Clint Weirick; Anissa Williams; Stephen Zollman

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist

I. **General Briefing**

Prior to the convening of the policy committees, members gathered for a general briefing where Cal Cities staff provided high-level legislative and budgetary updates. The session served as an opportunity to align all policy committees on major state developments and cross-cutting issues impacting cities.

II. **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Tamala Takahashi provided opening remarks and welcomed committee members.

III. **Public Comment**

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

IV. **Presentation: Governor's Homelessness Initiatives**

Guest speaker Hafsa Kaka, Senior Advisor on Homelessness for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, gave a presentation on [homelessness funding](#) available to cities. The committee received information about the state's flagship grant programs on homelessness, including the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) and the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF). The committee learned about the new [homelessness accountability dashboard](#) and other resources available on the Department of Housing and Community Development's website. Hafsa also discussed the Care Court program and how cities could tap into these programs to address homelessness in their communities.

V. **Presentation: Home Again Los Angeles**

Guest speaker Albert Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer of [Home Again Los Angeles](#), provided an overview of his organization, which assists families experiencing homelessness by providing opportunities for placement into transitional housing and employment. Albert discussed a variety of services and programs to help families experiencing first-time, situational homelessness. Home Again Los Angeles offers five core programs, including shelter, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, transitional

housing, and outreach and education. Albert provided information about how cities can partner with community groups to provide interim housing, transportation services, meals, and dedicated case management.

VI. Update: City of Napa Senate Budget Sub-Committee Testimony

Committee member Molly Rattigan, Deputy City Manager for the City of Napa, provided an update on her recent testimony before a Senate Budget Subcommittee. She highlighted the city's North Napa Center, a transitional housing project that converted 54 motel rooms into shelter space with intensive case management services. Molly shared an overview of the project with state legislators to demonstrate how cities are utilizing ERF funds and to emphasize the importance of ongoing funding to address homelessness.

VII. Legislative Agenda

Cal Cities staff, Caroline Grinder, provided an overview of street medicine programs and [AB 543](#) (Gonzalez). The measure would enable street medicine providers to more effectively utilize Medi-Cal to deliver healthcare services to individuals experiencing homelessness. AB 543 would allow Medi-Cal providers to grant immediate, full-scope benefits to individuals experiencing homelessness and would require data sharing on the status of applicants for better service coordination. Members were informed that this bill aligns with Cal Cities' existing policy that supports expanding access to behavioral health services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Ultimately, the committee voted 30-2 to support the bill. The committee also directed staff to bring future Medi-Cal expansion legislation back to the committee for consideration.

VIII. Legislative and Budget Update

Caroline provided an overview of key legislative and budget deadlines pertaining to community services. Members were informed that this year's state budget does not include any new funding to address homelessness. She also provided an overview of the Cal Cities Budget letter to the Governor, which urges the state to invest ongoing, permanent funding to prevent and reduce homelessness and bolster local government efforts to support vulnerable residents across the state.

Staff discussed Cal Cities' engagement on several bills this year. A list of Cal Cities Community Services sponsored bills can be found [here](#).

IX. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting - Virtually: Friday, June 13, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.