

Responding to Homelessness

Real progress requires ongoing resources

California cities are working hard to connect residents to the services they need and into safe, stable, and affordable housing. They are doing their part, but the demand for housing and services is outpacing their efforts, straining capacity, and draining resources.

In fact, in the upcoming fiscal year, **one in three** cities anticipate financial difficulties, which could significantly impact homelessness response and services. As the state faces a budget deficit and homelessness rates rise, local resources will continue to be strained. Now more than ever, cities need ongoing, permanent funding to support community-based solutions that get our most vulnerable residents and keep them in their homes.

Cities agree lack of ongoing funding is the top barrier to preventing and reducing homelessness.



Has your city implemented programs to address homelessness?



Does your city have concerns about providing existing homelessness services long term?



Does the number of individuals entering homelessness exceed your city's ability to reach a net reduction in homelessness?



87% have invested **General Fund** revenues to **address homelessness**.



81% say **inconsistent state funding** impacts the ability to address homelessness.

Cal Cities urges the state to invest \$3 billion in ongoing, permanent funding to prevent and reduce homelessness and bolster local government efforts to support vulnerable members of our community.

Cities would increase capacity, resources, and services with ongoing funding to reduce homelessness, such as:

- ▶ Additional supportive services
- ▶ Affordable housing options
- ▶ Increased shelter space
- ▶ Rent subsidy programs
- ▶ Homeless outreach teams
- ▶ Behavioral health programs

*Data and assumptions — The League of California Cities conducted a statewide survey in March 2024 to better understand how cities are responding to the homelessness crisis. In total, 205 cities responded to the survey and represent a diverse group of cities by geography, population, and setting. Collectively, these 205 cities represent 42% of all cities in California. For more information email bmontiel@calcities.org.