



JUSTICE IN AGING
FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

LeadingAge
California



Senate Bill 37 (Caballero): Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act (as Amended January 18, 2024)

Governor Newsom released California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) in January 2021, calling on our state agencies to develop housing solutions to prevent and end homelessness among older adults and other at-risk populations. Three years later, the need for bold intervention to stop the surge of older adult homelessness is more urgent than ever. By investing state funds in a rental assistance pilot program targeted to severely rent-burdened and other precariously housed older adults and persons with disabilities, we can keep people in the housing they already have and get people into housing that meets their needs. This innovative program will advance the MPA goal of ensuring community living as we age and preventing/ending homelessness among older and disabled adults.

Problem

The rent affordability crisis is hitting older and disabled adults living on fixed incomes especially hard because many live on fixed incomes. Older Californians are facing severe housing cost burdens, with roughly 8 out of 10 extremely low-income older renters paying more than half of their income for rent. Caught in the vice between inadequate income and rapidly rising rents, older adults have become the fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness in California, with 45% of California's homeless individuals now age 50 and older, many of whom have become unhoused for the first time after age 50. Over 56,000 Californians age 55 and older accessed homeless services in 2021. People with disabilities, who are far more likely to live in poverty, make up about 43% of those experiencing homelessness. This risk of homelessness particularly impacts African American/Black households, who are over five times more likely to become homeless than Californians as a whole. An older adult experiencing homelessness is likely to have

health conditions and functional status similar to or worse than someone 10-20 years older. Moreover, as individuals experiencing homelessness age, they are likely to incur much higher health care costs from hospitalization and nursing home placement.

Senate Bill 37

SB 37 would create a targeted rental assistance pilot program in as many as five counties to prevent and end homelessness among older adults and people with disabilities through--

- A competitive grant process administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, which would fund housing subsidies for eligible households. Studies show housing subsidies are highly effective in preventing and ending homelessness.
- Targeting prevention resources to those most at risk of homelessness, using evidence-informed predictive factors.
- Ensuring that people receiving subsidies through the program eventually transition to longer-term federally-funded subsidies.
- Requiring the funding allocation represents geographic diversity and promotes equity.

Sponsors

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Justice in Aging
LeadingAge California
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

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Supporters

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 Grow the Richmond
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 Valley
 Ventura County YIMBY
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