
AB 2547 (Nazarian): Housing Stabilization to Prevent & End Homelessness Among Older Adults & People with Disabilities

In January of 2021, the Newsom Administration released the Master Plan for Aging, which calls on California to develop housing solutions to prevent and end homelessness among older adults and other at risk populations. Assembly Bill 2547 will advance this goal by preventing and ending homelessness for 20,000-25,000 older adults and people living with disabilities each year.

Problem

Older Californians living on fixed incomes face increasing housing cost burdens, with roughly 8 of 10 extremely low-income older renters paying more than half of their monthly income for rent. Caught in the vice between inadequate income and rising housing costs, 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. This disparity 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 chronic 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 increasingly greater health care costs from hospitalization and nursing home placement. Similarly, because people with disabilities are far more likely to live in poverty, about 43% of those experiencing homelessness are living with a disability.

Solution

AB 2547 (Nazarian) will create a targeted housing stabilization program to prevent and solve homelessness for tens of thousands of older adults and people living with disabilities through the following unique approach:

- AB 2547 will fund housing vouchers that meet the specific needs of eligible households, some of whom need only a small subsidy to remain housed or exit homelessness. Studies show housing subsidies are highly effective in preventing and ending homelessness.
- AB 2547 targets prevention resources to those most at risk of homelessness by using California Policy Lab research identifying predictive indicators.
- AB 2547 ensures people receiving subsidies through this program will eventually transition to longer-term federally-funded subsidies through preferences in federal turn-over vouchers.
- AB 2547 will fund strategies that have worked locally, such as partnering with landlords and local aging and disability providers, to ensure people remain stably housed.

As administered through the Department of Aging, the Department responsible for effectuating the Master Plan for Aging, AB 2547 will ensure participants are able to avoid or exit homelessness for good.

Sponsors

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

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