

## **A** CCOUNTABILITY



### What Do We Mean by **Accountability** When it Comes to Homelessness?

California's counties have engaged in a multi-year process to create the **AT HOME Plan** to materially address homelessness - built upon a strong foundation of accountability for all levels of government.

#### **SPECIFIC TENETS OF THE AT HOME ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR INCLUDE:**

- Requiring a single collaborative strength-based **Local Homelessness Accountability Plan** with measurable goals in a county or multi-county region developed between counties and cities where **roles and responsibilities are clearly defined** in partnership with Continuums of Care and with input from individuals with lived experience and other stakeholders.
- Requiring **a county or city to be the designated fiscal agent/grantee** for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program funding, thereby ensuring that the funding goes to a transparent local government that is accountable to the voters and that implementation and progress on goals is properly monitored.
- Transforming the temporary HHAP program into an **ongoing source of funding**, so that local governments can plan for, match, and leverage these critical state dollars to create a real system for addressing homelessness that is responsive to unique regional needs. Funding should be tied to responsibility and accountability.
- Creating real **performance bonuses** for jurisdictions reaching their goals in addressing homelessness while establishing corrective action plans and technical assistance for jurisdictions that are not meeting their goals.
- Maintaining **flexibility** for HHAP funding so that local governments can meet the unique needs of their unsheltered populations and communities.
- **Coordinating various state homelessness funding programs** to align timeline and application requirements with the new Local Homeless Accountability Plan to streamline and improve collaboration and timeliness of funding.
- Setting a floor of funding for each direct HHAP recipient of \$500,000 and creating **three-year terms** for HHAP grants.
- Making HHAP grants contingent on counties and cities agreeing to clearly defined responsibilities, as follows:
  - Counties and cities are responsible for siting, funding, and supporting the operation of shelters for unsheltered populations within their jurisdictions.
  - Counties and cities are responsible for siting permanent supportive housing within their jurisdictions.
  - Counties are responsible for health and social safety net programs on behalf of the state, including, but not limited to, serving individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This includes the responsibility to provide Medi-Cal specialty mental health and substance use disorder services statewide.

- Counties and cities shall be responsible for clean-up and sanitation of encampments. State and federal governments also have responsibility for clean-up and sanitation of encampments on state-owned properties and federal lands, respectively.
- Counties and cities shall have clearly delineated responsibilities related to encampment outreach.
- Counties and cities shall have a clearly delineated plan for addressing equity in carrying out the Local Homelessness Accountability Plan, including reducing racial and ethnic disparities identified in HDIS data.

With new levels of collaboration in developing a Local Homeless Accountability Plan with clearly defined roles and sustainable funding, all levels of government can accelerate progress on addressing the homelessness crisis.



Add your voice to the [AT HOME Coalition for Accountability](#) to advocate for these policy changes today!



[Read the AT HOME Accountability draft budget trailer bill language.](#)



Learn more about [AT HOME](#) and the [California State Association of Counties](#).