

# Housing: Homelessness Program and Affordable Housing (SB 912)

## NPH 2018 Affordable Housing Legislative Agenda



**SB 912 (Beall and Skinner) addresses our state's affordable housing and homelessness crises by making a one-time general fund allocation of \$2 billion to immediately house and help thousands of Californians experiencing homelessness, as well as hard working low- income families most at risk of homelessness.**

California's housing crisis **impacts 39 million people**, our health, education and employment opportunities, as well as families' preservation and reunification chances.

Across the state, and in the Bay Area especially, housing has become voters' top issue. The Legislature must continue to build momentum on solutions and create more affordable housing opportunities and options for our seniors, veterans, and most vulnerable community members.

## Housing: Homelessness Program and Affordable Housing

The Bay Area is facing a housing emergency. While we believe that everyone should have access to a safe and affordable home, our region has fallen behind on creating these opportunities: Between 2007 and 2014 the region permitted just 29% of its low and very-low income housing need. Most of our families struggle to afford the cost of living in their local communities, including 50% of our moderate-income families. The most vulnerable of them risk joining the over 134,000 Californians who are already experiencing homelessness on any given night.

This crisis takes a toll on our economy as well. California loses \$140 billion per year in output (or 6 percent of state GDP) due to the lack of affordable housing. Rents and mortgages within the reach of working families are critical to maintaining California's business competitiveness. Prominent business groups across the state including the Bay Area Council agree that California needs to increase affordable housing options, so companies can compete for the talent that drives California's economy.

Furthermore, our state's homelessness crisis not only takes a mental and physical toll on Californians directly experiencing homelessness but also drains our State's resources. Many



people experiencing homelessness are already sick (57.1 of all personal bankruptcies are due to medical expenses) and homelessness only makes them sicker even if they get medical care. Research shows that permanent housing solutions make good economic sense and save taxpayers money. According to the most comprehensive homelessness cost study in the US, the average pre-housing public cost of homelessness was \$62,000 and the average post-housing cost was \$20,000, a nearly 43,000 or 68% annual reduction.

## HOW SB 912 WORKS

**SB 912 provides critical resources to house tens of thousands of our most vulnerable Californians.** SB 912 seeks to off-set actions taken at the federal level, as well as fill existing state funding gaps at the state level by allocating \$2 billion in one-time general fund revenues for cities, counties, and non-profits to immediately house and help people experiencing homelessness, and families most at risk of homelessness. More specifically, SB 912 proposes to provide critical resources to existing housing programs to quickly house our most vulnerable residents including:

- ✓ \$1 billion to the Multifamily Housing Program to build more homes affordable to low-income families, and
- ✓ \$1 billion for various existing long-term investments to prevent and end homelessness among vulnerable populations

## WHY SB 912 IS THE RIGHT SOLUTION

**SB 912 will ensure that the most vulnerable Californians can have a roof over their heads.** At a time of growing wealth and continued economic growth, California must respond to its homeless by investing some of its surplus revenue into housing its most vulnerable residents.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Contact Your Lawmaker.** Visit our Action Center for opportunities to share your support for AB 2923 with lawmakers and the bill sponsor: [www.nonprofithousing.org/ActionCenter](http://www.nonprofithousing.org/ActionCenter)
- Join NPH's **Legislative Issues Working Group** to discuss affordable housing policy and the Legislature: [michael@nonprofithousing.org](mailto:michael@nonprofithousing.org)
- Endorse our efforts and join our coalition: [jr@nonprofithousing.org](mailto:jr@nonprofithousing.org)

**SB 912 is an NPH Sponsored Bill for the 2018 legislative session.**

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