

## **SUMMARY**

---

AB 2520 will require Continuums of Care (CoCs) to have youth-specific Coordinated Entry Systems (YCES) and include youth-specific entry points, assessment, and prioritization scores, and youth appropriate housing and services. Further, the CoC must have housing in their inventory specifically for youth that is a mix of rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.

## **BACKGROUND**

---

The number of homeless youth in California stands at 10,173 and there are another 2,219 parenting youth and their children experiencing homelessness according to the Housing and Urban Development's 2023 Point-In-Time count. Yet, California's K-12 educational system reported 8,537 unaccompanied homeless youth, of which 606 were temporarily unsheltered, in the 2022-23 school year.

Research has found that the average wait time for a youth looking for any type of housing is 4.5 months. Every day of waiting for housing services reduces a youth's chances of staying stably housed by 2%.

Coordinated entry processes are intended to help communities prioritize people who are most in need of assistance. In 2012, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gave notice to CoCs that they would need to use a coordinated entry system. Then, in 2017 HUD mandated the use of CES for all CoCs as a condition of receiving federal funds. Starting in Round 3 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), CoCs were asked to prioritize their funding to create YCES or youth-specific coordinated entry access points, or to improve the coordinated entry assessment tool to ensure that it contemplates the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

## **PROBLEM**

---

Youth are being disadvantaged because they may have had shorter lengths of time experiencing homelessness, and often, vulnerability scores in CES is tied to one's length of homelessness. This means youth will score low on the list when it comes to being offered services. In trying to prevent youth homelessness, we must intervene early to prevent a pipeline into chronic homelessness.

## **SOLUTION**

---

AB 2520 would serve as a developmentally-appropriate fix to the gap in services and ensure Continuums of Care include youth-specific entry points, assessment, and prioritization scores, and youth appropriate housing and services.

Further, the bill would require Continuums of Care to have housing in their inventory specifically for youth that aligns with the needs of youth in the region.

## **SUPPORT**

---

California Coalition for Youth (Sponsor)

## **STAFF CONTACT**

---

Jacob Rivera  
Office of Assemblymember James C. Ramos  
[Jacob.Rivera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Jacob.Rivera@asm.ca.gov)  
(916) 319-2045