

SUMMARY

AB 2520 will require Continuums of Care (CoCs) to have youth-specific Coordinated Entry System (YCES) processes, including youth-specific entry points, assessment, prioritization scores, youth with lived experience advisory bodies, and youth appropriate housing and services.

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)
Alliance for Children's Rights
Bill Wilson Center
Bright Futures for Youth
California Alliance of Caregivers
Children Now
Family Assistance Program
First Place for Youth
Home Start, Inc.
Larkin Street Youth Services
Los Angeles LGBT Center
National Network for Youth
Orangetown Foundation
PowerCA Action
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
Safe Place for Youth
San Diego Youth Services
YMCA of San Diego County

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