

HOUSING & DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HDAP)

BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY:

The California Commission on Aging requests \$150 million in one-time General Fund support for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) to maintain critical housing and benefits advocacy services for older adults and individuals with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

SPONSOR:



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PROBLEM:

According to the California Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), 48% of individuals experiencing homelessness and accessing services have a disabling condition, and 19.5% are over the age of 55. Additionally, older adults are the fastest growing population accessing homelessness services in the state.

HDAP's success points to the need to provide housing supports that are person-centered and designed with an understanding of the needs of older adults and people with disabilities – who often face unique challenges and can be subject to inequities in service delivery systems. 28-30% of HDAP participants are aged 55 and older.*

The Budget Act of 2024 reduced HDAP's FY 22/23 one-time funding from \$150M to \$100M for expenditure through June 2026. Without additional funding, HDAP will only be able to operate on the \$25M in ongoing funding it receives – an amount far below the expenditures the program needs to provide its critical services.

Without additional funding, CDSS projects HDAP will serve only 9,472 participants in FY 2025-26, a 41.06% decrease from FY 2023-24.

SOLUTION:

Provide \$150M in one-time funding for expenditure through June 30, 2028, to maintain the current level of service and retain the significant investment in infrastructure and staffing to assist a population of homeless individuals with unique needs in a proven successful program.

BACKGROUND: (next page)



HOUSING & DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HDAP)

BACKGROUND:

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) serves individuals likely eligible for disability benefit programs who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with a focus on those who experience chronic homelessness. The program offers outreach, case management, benefits advocacy, and housing-related financial assistance, utilizing highly trained staff skilled in working with an often challenging population.

HDAP was established as part of the 2017 Budget Act which appropriated an initial \$45M over three years and received \$25M in ongoing funding beginning in FY 2020. HDAP expanded significantly in the last few years as a result of appropriations of one-time spending of \$150M in both the Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022. This funding allowed the program to grow to include 57 county grantees and 17 Tribal grantees and serve over 30,000 clients since its inception.

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HDAP Launch	# of County Grantees		# of Tribal Grantees		Total People Served
	FY 19-20	FY 23-24	FY 19-20	FY 23-24	FY 23-24
2017	40	57	2	17	16,071

A uniquely successful program. From 2017 through June 2024, HDAP served 30,258 individuals and permanently housed 8,230. In FY 2023-24, 50% of HDAP participants exited to permanent housing in comparison to 35% of participants who receive services through local homeless response systems in California.

The program is instrumental not only in placing participants in housing but helping them achieve housing stability by connecting clients to benefits – a critical component to the program’s success. HDAP grantees report that 92% of individuals retained permanent housing 6 months after being approved for disability benefits while 82% retained housing after 12 months. HDAP also achieved a 77% approval rate for disposed disability application compared to the 35% nationwide average rate of approval for initial SSI or SSDI benefits.



*HDAP serves 48-50% of adults 50+. Unhoused individuals age 10 years faster on average.



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