

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-23-20

**WHEREAS** California faces a severe housing crisis that has made housing unaffordable for too many Californians and, in turn, exacerbated the problem of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS** homelessness in California is not confined to urban corridors but is present in urban, suburban, and tribal and rural communities throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS** data released recently by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development based on the 2019 Point-in-Time Count indicated that there were 151,278 individuals who were homeless in California, over 108,000 of whom were unsheltered, and that the homeless population has been steadily increasing; and

**WHEREAS** Californians driven into homelessness often develop significant health issues over time and, often experience significant morbidity and die sooner; and

**WHEREAS** it is estimated that a substantial proportion of individuals who are homeless experience chronic physical and mental health disorders, yet are not receiving regular and consistent medical or psychiatric care; and

**WHEREAS** California's homelessness crisis has put considerable stress on many public services including transportation, libraries, schools, health services and public safety, as well as created public health challenges; and

**WHEREAS** California's homelessness crisis has impacted certain business sectors throughout the state and is a top concern to many residents, businesses, communities, tribal governments, cities, and counties across the state; and

**WHEREAS** unauthorized encampments of people who are homeless are increasing in many areas of the state within the public right of way and near or on private or tribal property, resulting in traffic and fire hazards, crime, risk of injury and death, and other conditions detrimental to public health and safety, both for people who are homeless and people who are not; and

**WHEREAS** since 2018, almost 200 counties and cities have declared a shelter crisis, pursuant to Government Code section 8698 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS** over the past two years, the state has substantially increased its efforts to address street homelessness by providing more than \$2.7 billion in new funding, significantly increasing its support for safety net services, eliminating barriers to getting navigation centers and temporary housing built to allow homeless adults to receive services and stability in

order to find longer-term housing, enacting the most aggressive rent-gouging protections, launching a 100-Day Challenge Initiative to bring counties and cities together to more urgently address homelessness in their communities, and expediting funding allocations to local governments, including allocations to counties to reduce the number of families in the child welfare services system experiencing homelessness; and

**WHEREAS** solutions to homelessness require additional innovation, cooperation and urgency within the public sector, and among the public and private and tribal sectors; and

**WHEREAS** because reducing the population of homeless individuals in California is a matter of critical statewide importance, the state can and needs to do more to help local communities act with urgency to address street homelessness and the society-wide problems associated with the homelessness crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this Order to reduce street homelessness, break down barriers to homeless individuals accessing health care and other critical services, and to increase housing options for those experiencing homelessness. This Order shall become effective immediately.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All state agencies specifically referenced in this Order shall develop by no later than February 28, 2020 accountability metrics for state agencies and for local partners to assess the use of the state resources referenced in the following paragraphs and their impact on reducing street homelessness, breaking down barriers to homeless individuals accessing health care and other critical services, and increasing housing options for those experiencing homelessness. The metrics shall be published online and regularly updated. In carrying out this Order, state agencies shall consider the extent to which local partners regularly and publicly report data based on the local metrics.
2. The Department of Finance, pursuant to its authority under Government Code sections 11005, 11005.1, and 13306, shall immediately establish the California Access to Housing and Services Fund within the Department of Social Services, to receive future state appropriations, as well as donations from philanthropy and the private sector, and to provide much needed dollars for additional affordable housing units, providing rental and operating subsidies, and stabilizing board and care homes;
3. To rapidly increase housing options for those experiencing homelessness, the following actions shall occur by no later than January 31, 2020:

- a. The Department of General Services shall identify all properties from the digitized inventory of excess state land created by EO N-06-19 that can be used by local partners, including tribal governments, counties, cities, or non-profit agencies, on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless, so long as such usage will not delay affordable housing development on those properties.
  - b. The Department of General Services shall conduct an initial assessment of all state facilities to identify facilities that can be used by local partners on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless and in need of health and social services.
  - c. The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) shall develop and share a model lease template to allow counties and cities to use Caltrans property adjacent to highways or state roads in those jurisdictions on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless, building on recent partnerships with the cities of Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Francisco, and consistent with Streets & Highways Code section 104.30. Priority for future partnerships to make state land available to counties and cities for short-term emergency housing shall be given to jurisdictions where a shelter crisis declared pursuant to Government Code section 8698 et seq. is in effect.
  - d. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development shall work with local jurisdictions, tribal communities, and private entities to conduct an initial assessment of the appropriateness and availability of vacant and decommissioned hospitals and health care facilities for use by local partners on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless.
  - e. The Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of General Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and the Office of Emergency Services, shall conduct an initial assessment of fairgrounds in or near jurisdictions where a shelter crisis is currently in effect, and, for those fairgrounds, determine the population capacity and space that would currently be available to local partners on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless.
4. The Department of General Services shall supply 100 travel trailers from the state fleet, and the Emergency Medical Services Authority shall supply complementary modular tent structures, to provide temporary emergency housing and the delivery of health and social services in communities across the state. The Department of General Services and the Emergency Medical Services Authority shall supply trailers and tents immediately and

end by September 30, 2020, unless the secretaries of the Government Operations Agency and the Health and Human Services Agency both concur on a case-by-case basis that the specific circumstances warrant the continued use of the trailers or tent structures. These trailers and tent structures shall only be used where the following criteria have been satisfied:

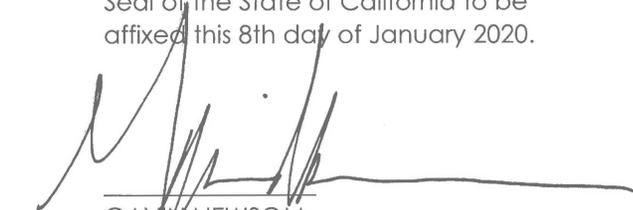
- a. A shelter crisis declared pursuant to Government Code section 8698 et seq. or its equivalent under the applicable laws governing the jurisdiction of a federally recognized tribe in California is in effect.
  - b. Local partners, including counties, cities, and non-profit agencies, have the capacity and resources to deploy, operate, secure, and maintain the trailers or tent structures.
  - c. Local partners make appropriate health, social, housing, and other appropriate services available to support the needs of individuals temporarily housed in the trailers or tent structures and transition them into permanent, safe and stable housing.
  - d. Local partners agree to regularly and publicly report data based on the accountability metrics referenced in paragraph 1.
5. To further assist local jurisdictions in addressing street homelessness, there shall be a multi-agency state strike team comprised of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency; the Government Operations Agency; the Health and Human Services Agency; the Labor and Workforce Development Agency; and the Transportation Agency. The strike team shall be coordinated by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and provide technical assistance and targeted direct support to counties, cities, and public transit agencies seeking to bring individuals experiencing homelessness indoors and connect them with appropriate health, human, and social services and benefits.

**FURTHERMORE**, all counties, cities, public transit agencies, special districts, school districts, tribal governments, and non-governmental actors, including businesses, faith-based organizations, and other non-profit agencies, are requested to examine their own ability to provide shelter and house homeless individuals on a short-term emergency basis and coordinate with local authorities to provide shelter and house individuals.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given to this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto  
set my hand and caused the Great  
Seal of the State of California to be  
affixed this 8th day of January 2020.



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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State