



FACT SHEET:

Governor Newsom Increasing Oversight of Homelessness Funds

Governor Newsom has taken strong action against cities and counties that fail to build more housing. **Today, the Governor is proposing increased enforcement and oversight to hold cities and counties accountable** when they fail to adequately address homelessness.

WHY THIS MATTERS: Lack of affordable housing, quality mental health and addiction services, and homelessness are all part of the same problem. Much of the responsibility — and money — to address these problems falls on local jurisdictions. New accountability and more enforcement are needed to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively.

NEW UNIT FOR ACCOUNTABILITY: Effective immediately, Governor Newsom is directing California's Housing Accountability Unit to increase its oversight to include more aggressive enforcement of existing housing laws to also address homelessness, doubling down on an aggressive strategy to build more homes and get more people into housing. As part of the budget process, Governor Newsom has proposed statutory changes to move personnel and functions into this expanded unit — now called the Housing and Homelessness Accountability Results and Partnership (HHARP) within the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) — to bolster their capacity.

MORE OVERSIGHT: The state will monitor how cities and counties use state homeless funds — ensuring taxpayer dollars are used according to grant terms to produce real, measurable results. And when they aren't, the state can provide technical assistance and pursue consequences.

ENFORCING THE LAW: The increased oversight will help ensure that local governments are following state law to combat homelessness, including Housing First, meeting commitments in their Housing Elements, and following state law around Fair Housing and the Housing Accountability Act.

PLANNING FOR MORE HOUSING: The Governor will also work with the Legislature this year to include homelessness in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, ensuring that local jurisdictions meaningfully account for the needs of the homeless populations in planning their fair share of housing.

A MODEL THAT WORKS: Since its inception, the Housing Accountability Unit has worked with, cajoled, and forced local governments to plan for thousands of additional units in their communities. The unit has taken nearly 400 accountability actions, including filing multiple lawsuits. These efforts, including efforts to implement the Surplus Lands Act, resulted in the development of 20,000 units that otherwise would not have been built. Now the state will take a similar approach to produce real results with homelessness dollars.

“Many California cities and counties have worked tirelessly on ending homelessness. Many have not. We want real accountability at all levels, so taxpayers see measurable results.”

— GOVERNOR NEWSOM