



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

July 2, 2025 – 7:00 PM

North Berkeley Senior Center, Poppy Room
1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709

Mayor Ishii:
Carole Marasovic –
Vice Chair

Rashi Kesarwani:
Vacant

Terry Taplin:
Denah S. Bookstein

Ben Bartlett:
Paul Kealoha-Blake

Igor Tregub:
Mary Ann Meany

Shoshana O’Keefe:
Vacant

Brent Blackaby:
Steven Segal

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Donnell Jones - Chair

Mark Humbert:
Alan Levy

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Staff Secretary, jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov, 510.225.8035

All items are for discussion and possible action.

1. Roll call.
2. Reading of the land acknowledgment.
3. Public comment for items not on the agenda.

Action Items:

4. Approval of the agenda. Discussion and possible action.
5. Approval of minutes from June 4, 2025. Discussion and possible action.
6. Discussion and possible presentation regarding Latino population and homeless services. Discussion and possible action.
7. Possibly reschedule September meeting from September 3, 2025 to September 10, 2025 or September 17, 2025. Discussion and possible action.
8. City budget update, including status of County W funding, by Carole Marasovic, Vice-Chair. Discussion and possible action.
9. Data and accountability in homeless programs. Discussion and possible action.
10. Policies and building requirements for new permanent supportive housing. Discussion and possible action.
11. Adjourn.

Attachments:

1. June 4, 2025 Minutes.
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement.

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3. Approved Mid-Year City Budget.
4. Recommendations for County Measure W Funding.
5. HSPE Letter Regarding Measure P Allocations.
6. Berkeley's Latino General Population and Homeless Population from the Latest Point-in-Time Count.
7. Toward Equity: Latine Experiences of Homelessness.

Correspondence and Notice of Decision Requests:

Deadlines for Receipt:

- A) Supplemental Materials must be received by 5 PM the day before the meeting.
- B) Supplemental Communications must be received no later than noon the day of the meeting.

Procedures for Distribution:

- A) Staff will compile all Supplemental Materials and Supplemental Communications received by the deadlines above into a Supplemental Packet, and will print 15 copies of this packet for the Commission meeting.
- B) For any Supplemental Material or Communication from a Commissioner received after these deadlines, it is the Commissioner's responsibility to ensure that 15 printed copies are available at the meeting. Commissioners will not be reimbursed for any printing or materials expenses.
- C) Staff will neither print nor distribute Supplemental Communications or Materials for subcommittee meetings.

Procedures for Consideration:

- A) The Commission must make a successful motion to accept and receive all Supplemental Materials and Communications into the record. This includes the Supplemental Packet compiled by staff.
- B) Each additional Supplemental Material or Communication received by or before the meeting that is not included in the Supplemental packet (i.e., those items received after the respective deadlines above) must be individually voted upon to be considered by the full Commission.
- C) Supplemental Materials subject to a Commission vote that are not accepted by motion of the Commission, or for which there are not at least 15 paper copies (9 for each Commission seat, one for staff records, and 5 for the public) available by the scheduled start of the meeting, may not be considered by the Commission.

****Supplemental Materials*** are defined as any items authored by one or more Commissioners, pertaining to an agenda item but available after the agenda and packet for the meeting has been distributed, on which the Commission is asked to take vote at the meeting. This includes any letter to Council, proposed Council report, or other correspondence on behalf of the Commission for which a full vote of the Commission is required.

*****Supplemental Communications*** are defined as written emails or letters from members of the public or from one or more Commissioners, the intended audience of which is the full Commission. Supplemental Communications cannot be acted upon by the Commission, and they may or may not pertain to agenda items.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Health, Housing & Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

Public Comment Policy:

Members of the public may speak on any items on the Agenda and items not on the Agenda during the initial Public Comment period. Members of the public may not speak more than once on any given item. The Chair may limit public comments to 3 minutes or less.

COMMUNITY ACCESS INFORMATION

ADA Disclaimer "This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the ADA Program Coordinator at 510-981-6418 (V) or 510-981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting."

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. The Health, Housing & Community Services Department does not take a position as to the content.



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2025

1. **Roll Call:** 7:00 PM

Present: Marasovic, Levy, Meany, Segal, & Kealoha-Blake.

Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Staff: Jacobs.

Council: None.

Public: 1.

2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda

Action: M/S/C Meany/Kealoha-Blake move to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Levy, Segal, & Kealoha-Blake.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* Segal. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

4. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2025

Action: M/S/C Segel/Marasovic move to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy & Kealoha-Blake.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* Meany. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (up to 2 min. per speaker to make comments or present questions regarding items not on the agenda. No discussion from the panel is permitted at this time)

- Comments from the public: 0

Action Items:

6. Discussion and recommendation on Measure P allocations. Discussion and possible action.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Segal HSPE recommends to Council to refer to the City Manager a request to reevaluate the funding approved for homeless services providers in the FY24-28 community agency allocation funding

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process and review current performance data based on the HUD Annual Performance Report. HUD Annual Performance Reports, inclusive of de-identified individual-level data, should be submitted from each recipient organization and evaluated in order that funding can be allocated based on maximum efficiency and effectiveness for addressing homeless services and to insure that all allocations were used, in full, for the purposes intended.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Meany HSPE moves to accept the staff Measure P recommendations except for funding the 5150 Transport.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that the 5150 transport come from another source other than Measure P.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: Segal. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that City Council refer to the City Manager to direct homeless service providers to bill Cal-AIM in order to save monies that would otherwise be funded through Measure P or the community agency allocation funding process, so that the City can use the monies towards housing people who are homeless.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that City Council refer the City Manager to explore private-public and public-public partnerships that would reduce the cost of Measure P funding.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Meany/Kealoha-Blake HSPE authorizes Carole Marasovic to write the report to the Council Budget and Finance Committee and Council on Measure P funding recommendations based on the discussion at tonight's meeting.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein.

- 7. Recommendation on prioritization of Housing Retention monies through some revenue source whether P, U-1, General Fund or other stream of funding to meet critical need to prevent further tenant displacement. Discussion and possible action.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends to City Council that it identify a source of funding for Housing Retention monies, whether that be through Measure P, U1 (also intended for homeless prevention) or the General fund.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

- 8. Discussion and possible recommendation on Council prioritizing funding for a Horizon-type model for an alternative housing site. Discussion and possible recommendation on shifting of monies from other City sources for Council to allocate funding for another site. Discussion and possible

Action: Marasovic/Kealoha-Blake HSPE recommends to City Council to reaffirm the City's commitment to identify a Horizon-type model, formerly at 742 Grayson, by urgently prioritizing various sources of revenue to fund the project. HSPE also recommends that the City of Berkeley continue to explore and collaborate on establishing a Tiny Homes model as an additional housing option.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Updates:

- 9. Public Comment on Agenda Items (*up to 2 minutes per speaker to present concerns or questions regarding items on the agenda. No discussion permitted*)

- Comments from the public: 1

- 10. Commissioner Reports (*up to 5 minutes allotted to each commissioner to speak about updates, concerns, projects, questions, or to request items to be added to the next meeting's agenda. No discussion permitted*)

- 11. Chair Report (*up to 5 minutes for chair to provide general updates and relay communication from city council or other committees*)

- 12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes Approved on: _____

Public

Homeless Services Panel of Experts
June 4, 2025

Josh Jacobs, Commission Secretary: _____

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704 Tel: 510.225.8035 TDD: 510.981.6903 Fax: 510.981.5450
E-mail: hspe@cityofberkeley.info | [Homeless Services Panel of Experts](#)

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

24.-FY 2026 Proposed Budget Update Adoption

[Supplemental agenda material \(Mayor\) \(Supp 2\)](#)

[Revised agenda material \(City Manager\) \(Supp 2\)](#)

[Revised agenda material \(Kesarwani/Humbert\) \(Supp 2\)](#)

[Revised agenda material \(City Manager\) \(Supp 3\)](#)

[Presentation](#)

From: City Manager

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion adopt a Resolution adopting the FY 2026 Proposed Budget Update ("FY 26 Proposed Budget") as presented to Council on May 20, 2025, and as amended by subsequent Council action.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Shana Amenaghawon, City Manager's Office, (510) 981-7000

Action Calendar – New Business

25.-FY 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance

[Revised agenda material \(Supp 2\)](#)

From: City Manager

Recommendation: Adopt first reading of an Ordinance adopting the FY 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance (AAO) in the amount of \$781,761,995 (gross appropriations) and \$670,920,315 (net appropriations).

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, (510) 981-7000



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 24, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Recommendations for County Measure W Funding

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors outlining the City Council’s priorities for initial rounds of funding from Measure W, a half-cent sales tax increase passed by Alameda County voters in November 2020.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no costs associated with adopting this recommendation. However, the letter outlines a specified array of Berkeley homelessness and supportive housing programs that will require millions of dollars in County general fund (Measure W funding).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This report responds in part to the City Council’s referral from May 20, 2025, directing the City Manager as follows:

1. Direct the City Manager to identify any additional funding opportunities available through 2024 Measure W and affirm the City Council's position that local jurisdictions such as Berkeley that are heavily impacted by the housing and mental health crisis should be considered for an equitable share and speedy receipt of 2024 Proposition 1 funding from Alameda County.
2. Further, direct the City Manager to affirm that the City Council’s position is that, to the extent possible, Measure W and any other locally sourced funds should be used to support Berkeley-specific homelessness services needs.

Staff are currently compiling recommendations for programs and opportunities to include in a letter to be submitted to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Because City staff only recently became aware that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will be discussing Measure W resource allocations at its meeting scheduled for July 8, 2025, a proposed letter for the Board of Supervisors is still being developed. The letter will be made available to the City Council as a supplemental item leading up to the June 24, 2025 City Council meeting. Once adopted by the City Council, the letter

will be promptly submitted to the County and serve as a framework to advocate for Measure W resources that are needed to address homelessness in our community.

BACKGROUND

In November 2020, Alameda County voters approved Measure W, a half-cent general fund sales tax increase. The Measure was tied up in litigation for several years but in April, 2025 this litigation was resolved. In anticipation of this resolution, on December 12, 2024, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to spend an initial \$390 million in Measure W funds on a variety of efforts to support homelessness.

On May 20, 2025, the City Council approved a referral to the City Manager as follows:

1. Direct the City Manager to identify any additional funding opportunities available through 2024 Measure W and affirm the City Council's position that local jurisdictions such as Berkeley that are heavily impacted by the housing and mental health crisis should be considered for an equitable share and speedy receipt of 2024 Proposition 1 funding from Alameda County.
2. Further, direct the City Manager to affirm that the City Council's position is that, to the extent possible, Measure W and any other locally sourced funds should be used to support Berkeley-specific homelessness services needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental impacts associated with this report or recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The items recommended for funding in this report are largely based on recommendations from the formal gaps and needs analysis performed by city staff and presented to the City Council on July 9, 2024.¹ This report provided recommendations to guide future funding opportunities, specifically that the City should prioritize:

- Accelerating the transition to non-congregate shelter
- Funding permanent supportive housing
- Investing in targeted homelessness prevention

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

¹ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07-09%20Item%2016%20Referral%20Response%20%20Gap%20Analysis%20of%20Berkeley%E2%80%99s%20Homelessness.pdf> and <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Revised%20Agenda%20Material%20-%20Item%2016.pdf>

Recommendations for County Measure W funding

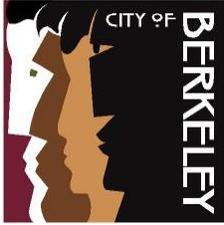
CONSENT CALENDAR
June 24, 2025

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager, 510 981-7045

Attachments:

1: Letter to Alameda County Board of Supervisors



Office of the City Manager

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Item Number: 3

Item Description: Recommendations for County Measure W Funding

Submitted by: Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager

This supplemental submission includes the final draft of the letter (referenced as an attachment in the staff report, “Recommendations for County Measure W Funding”). Staff recommends that the City Council vote to approve and send this letter to the County Board of Supervisors.

June 25, 2025

Dear President Haubert, Vice President Lam, and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in addressing homelessness throughout Alameda County in general and in Berkeley specifically. We know that significantly reducing homelessness requires collaboration and we look forward to amplifying our work together. The magnitude of the homeless crisis will require an equal magnitude of effort, and the Berkeley City Council strongly supports the County Board of Supervisors allocating all of the Measure W funds for homeless services and solutions.

Berkeley has been meaningfully focused on homelessness, allocating generous general fund contributions to leverage over \$45M in State funding in the last three years. This has helped reduce unsheltered homelessness by 45% and homelessness overall by 20% between 2022 and 2024. It has been gratifying to see significant numbers of people living on our streets move into housing with this strategy of local funding leveraging external sources to create a result bigger than what would have been possible acting alone. As the Board of Supervisors considers an expenditure plan for Measure W, a half-cent sales tax that was passed in 2020 to generate resources to address homelessness, Berkeley has identified the following opportunities as critical investments to continue our momentum to solve homelessness:

- ***“Shovel-Ready” Programs in Need of Immediate Funding:***
 - **North Berkeley BART BRIDGE Insight Permanent Supportive Housing:** 85 units of PSH at the North Berkeley BART station site could start construction in 2026 if they are successful in securing the remaining project financing. **Cost:** \$3M in capitalized operating reserves needed as soon as possible.
 - **Continue 24/7 operations at Insight Housing’s Men’s and Women’s shelter program.** HHAP funding ends December 31, 2025; **Annual Cost:** \$603k, which returns funding to FY25 levels.
 - **Continue operations at two noncongregate, motel-based shelters.** These programs have been essential components of Berkeley’s 45% decrease in unsheltered homelessness.
 - ***Beyond the Horizon:*** funding ends June 30, 2027; **Annual Cost:** \$1.94M, which covers lease and shelter operations with Dorothy Day House.
 - ***Campus Motel:*** funding ends June 30, 2027; **Annual Cost:** \$2.54M, which covers lease and shelter operations with Insight Housing.
 - **Expand targeted homelessness prevention:**
 - ***Expand shallow subsidies:*** Berkeley’s shallow subsidy program has helped 54 severely cost-burdened families stay housed since 2022 by providing a modest amount of monthly rental support. **Cost:** \$405k annually starting 2026, and \$810,000 annually starting 2028, will double the families served.
 - ***Expand Housing Retention Program:*** Additional funding increases the households stabilized from 80 to 100 annually. **Cost:** \$715k ensures

long-term sustainability and aligns the program with the Alameda County Homelessness Prevention Framework.

- **Prevent displacement with small sites acquisition:** The City does not have the resources to continue this program, targeted for the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-family projects consisting of affordable housing up to 25 units. **Anticipated Need:** Up to \$3.6 M in FY26 to support new small sites projects.
- *Future Opportunities:*
 - Berkeley offers a wide range of additional opportunities in the mid-term (2028 and beyond), totaling over \$6M in annual need and addressed in detail in this letter.
 - In addition, On May 20, 2025, the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously to direct the City Manager to identify any suitable properties (both city- and privately-owned) that could be used to expand interim housing capacity. While the search for sites is ongoing, Berkeley's robust network of nonprofit providers have identified a number of suitable projects that could be quickly opened if and when a property is identified. An estimated \$7.5M in FY26 enables up to 4 years of new interim programming once a site is located.

All of these opportunities are detailed in the attached document, "City of Berkeley Measure W Funding Request and in a summarized and attached table."

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in addressing homelessness, perhaps the most pressing and most challenging social issue facing our County today. The City of Berkeley is ready for the challenge and looks forward to working together as your partners in tackling it.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Berkeley City Council,

Paul Buddenhagen

Berkeley City Manager

City of Berkeley Measure W Funding Request

Why Invest in Berkeley?

In November 2020, Alameda County voters passed Measure W, a general fund sales tax increase, with the expectation that these funds be used to address our County's homelessness crisis. On behalf of the City Council of the City of Berkeley, I am sending this letter to urge you to honor this expectation and commit to allocating resources generated by Measure W to interventions designed to prevent homelessness, shelter people living on our streets, and increase permanently affordable housing with supportive services. You have already made tremendous efforts towards these goals; Berkeley applauds your efforts and looks forward to continue working as your partner to amplify them.

Berkeley allocated \$25.3M in FY25 to fund a wide range of homelessness programs. Our voters have consistently taxed themselves for this effort, passing Measure U1 (a tax on commercial landlords) in 2016, Measures P (a real estate transfer tax) and O (an affordable housing bond) in 2018, and Measure W (expanding and making permanent 2018's Measure P) in 2024. Thanks to Measures O, P and U1, Berkeley has been able to open more than 650 interim housing beds and permanent housing units, together serving over 2,000 residents. Moreover, these funds have helped leverage over \$45M in State Homekey and Encampment Resolution Funding grants since 2022. All of this contributed to an incredible 45% decrease in unsheltered homelessness and a 20% reduction in homelessness overall between 2022 and 2024.

Put simply, Berkeley has proven itself capable of measurably reducing homelessness when our generous local funding leverages reliable external sources. This letter, supported by a vote of the City Council at their June 24, 2025 meeting, identifies a list of specific programs and future opportunities we believe are most amenable to successful Measure W funding, and we respectfully request your consideration of them when making funding decisions for this source.

Role of the City and the County in Addressing Homelessness: Achieving Synergy

We acknowledge and appreciate the leadership role that Alameda County – as the seat of the social safety net in our community – must play in leading the effort to solve the regional, inter-jurisdictional problem of homelessness. We are aligned, and share as a priority, that there are certain functions performed by the County, including and especially the use of CalAIM and BHSA resources, that are best funded by and continued at the level of the County. We therefore fully support and urge the County to dedicate Measure W and other funding to help maintain and/or expand enhanced care management (ECM) and other supports with the goal of continuing and strengthening supportive services and navigation, for both for permanent and interim housing programs. Our homeless population in Berkeley, according to the 2024 PIT County, is more chronically homeless and more likely to suffer from serious mental illness than the average homeless resident in Alameda County, and our homeless service providers have noted anecdotally that the level of behavioral health acuity among the people they serve has increased greatly in recent years. More robust supportive services, especially those that take into account behavioral health challenges, for our providers of interim and permanent supportive

housing are increasingly critical if we are to permanently stabilize our hardest-to-serve neighbors.

In turn, the City of Berkeley asserts that we are in the best position to provide the programs at which these critical supportive services can be deployed, as well as work with the County to co-identify the people most in need of intervention and support. The funding opportunities identified below represent three categories of specific programs—guided by local data-informed systems modeling—that Berkeley is ready to operate or build *now*, as well as emerging opportunities that can be catalyzed by future Measure W investments.

Current Funding Opportunities, Guided by Local Systems Modeling

In July, 2024, a data-driven performance and gaps analysis of Berkeley’s homeless services system,¹ utilizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, was presented to the City Council. The data confirm that while Berkeley has made measurable improvements in increasing the supply of interim noncongregate and permanent supportive housing, resulting in higher program uptake rates among those who have been outside for years, many vulnerable and disabled people still remain stuck in a permanent supportive housing bottleneck: a dramatic decrease in homelessness (on the order of 75% from 2022 levels) would require an additional \$300 million over five years, largely for new affordable housing. Alarming, a disproportionate number of those stuck on our streets or in our shelters are Black or Indigenous. The report provided recommendations to guide future funding opportunities, specifically that the City should prioritize:

- Accelerating the transition to non-congregate shelter
- Funding permanent supportive housing
- Investing in targeted homelessness prevention

1. Accelerating the transition to non-congregate shelter

Berkeley’s non-congregate shelters have been effective at sheltering people who otherwise decline offers of traditional congregate shelter. We are always looking for opportunities to expand non-congregate shelter, including supporting and partnering with Episcopal Community Services on their application to the recently announced County Measure W contract opportunity for encampment resolution-focused interim shelter. This is significant not only because the program would have a meaningful impact on reducing homelessness, but it also brings a new and experienced nonprofit to Berkeley to help with much needed services.

Unfortunately, the many existing noncongregate shelter beds Berkeley opened since 2022 are at risk of closing without an identified source of funding to continue operations. These programs are described below. Annual costs represent the annual cost at the time funding ends; true costs will likely be subject to renegotiated contracts and leases, and therefore slightly higher:

- **Beyond the Horizon:** a non-congregate shelter that provides 27 motel rooms to encampment residents through a master lease with the Berkeley Inn at 1720 San Pablo Avenue. This non-congregate shelter has been integral in addressing

¹ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07-09%20Item%2016%20Referral%20Response%20%20Gap%20Analysis%20of%20Berkeley%E2%80%99s%20Homelessness.pdf>

homeless encampments by providing low-barrier private rooms to individuals referred by the Homeless Response Team.

- **Funding committed through:** June 30, 2027
- **Annual Cost:** \$1.94M, which covers lease and shelter operations with Dorothy Day House

- **Campus Motel:** is a non-congregate shelter that provides 23 motel rooms to encampment residents through a master lease with the Campus Motel at 1619 University Avenue. This non-congregate shelter has been integral in addressing the needs of our hardest to serve encampment residents, including those living along 8th/Harrison St. While this program is initially being paid by the state's Encampment Resolution Funding 2 Program, funds from Berkeley's Measure P will be used in FY26.
 - **Funding committed through:** June 30, 2027
 - **Annual Cost:** \$2.54M, which covers lease and shelter operations with Insight Housing

- **Capri Motel:** is a non-congregate shelter that provides 23 motel rooms to encampment residents through a master lease with the Howard Johnson Motel at 1619 University Avenue. This non-congregate shelter has allowed the city to successfully resolve one of its largest and longest-standing encampments along 2nd St in early 2025. While this program is initially being paid by the state's Encampment Resolution Funding 3 Program, Measure P will be used as leverage beginning in FY27.
 - **Funding committed through:** December 31, 2028
 - **Annual Cost:** \$2.68M, which covers lease and shelter operations with Insight Housing

Total Annual Noncongregate shelter fiscal cliff by 2028: \$6.85M

We are also concerned that this year's State budget contains no funding to continue the HHAP program in FY25-26. While Berkeley is not a direct recipient of HHAP funding, Insight Housing's Men's and Women's Shelter programs received \$457,647 in the most recent round of HHAP to continue that program's 24/7 operations. For comparison, in FY 24/25 Insight Housing received \$412K for the women's shelter and \$191K for the men's shelter (totaling \$603k), the ideal level of support needed to sustain both programs effectively. Reducing barriers to shelter access, such as 24/7 operations, is a shared goal of the City and County and should continue to be prioritized for investment. In order to sust

- **Funding committed through:** December 31, 2025
- **Annual Cost:** \$603,000 to maintain 24/7 operations

2. Funding permanent supportive housing

Berkeley voters in 2018 passed Measure O, a \$135M affordable housing bond that has resulted in the creation of over 240 new units of affordable housing since its passage. Altogether, Berkeley supported 620 beds of permanent supportive housing (PSH) as of the 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC). The permanent supportive housing available in 2024 represents an increase of nearly 130 beds from the 2022 HIC. In 2022, the City added both the HOPE Center in downtown Berkeley, providing 53 units of PSH, and the Homekey-funded Golden Bear Homes, providing 44 units of PSH; in 2024 the City added the Homekey-funded Rodeway Inn

(now called University Homes), converting a former noncongregate interim site to 43 new units of PSH, and the Maudelle Miller Shirek community, providing 12 units of PSH. However, these latter two programs face an impending fiscal cliff:

- **Golden Bear Homes:** This project received \$7.3 million in Measure P funding in FY22, leveraging \$16.2M in HomeKey funds to convert the Golden Bear Inn to new permanent supportive housing with 44 units for formerly homeless adults.
 - **Funding committed through:** December 31, 2029
 - **Annual Cost:** \$825k in operating subsidy needed, starting in 2030
- **Rodeway Inn/University Homes:** This project received \$8.5 million in Measure U1 funding in FY24 to acquire the Rodeway Inn as a new permanent supportive housing site with 43 units for formerly homeless adults.
 - **Funding committed through:** December 31, 2032
 - **Annual Cost:** \$600k in operating subsidy needed, excluding services costs, starting in 2033

In addition, the City has two new construction projects in the pipeline, poised to add additional PSH units with the identification of additional funding:

- **North Berkeley BART BRIDGE Insight Permanent Supportive Housing:** The City has allocated \$9M to the project, which includes funds from Measure O and the Housing Trust Fund for 85 units of PSH at the North Berkeley BART station site. The development team (BRIDGE Housing and Insight Housing) secured 50 project-based vouchers through the Berkeley Housing Authority, but indicated that they'll need an additional \$3M from the City or another source for a capitalized reserve to support operations through the initial 15-year tax credit compliance period. BRIDGE and Insight are pursuing state funding this year, and construction could start in 2026 if they are successful in securing the remaining project financing.
 - **Anticipated Need:** \$3M for capitalized operating reserve in FY26
- **Supportive Housing in People's Park:** The City approved \$14.4M in Measure O and Housing Trust Funds, which includes \$9.9M in development funding and \$3.5M in operating subsidy to support the development of PSH on land owned by the University of California. The City partnered on a No Place Like Home application and leveraged \$16.7M in capital and operating funds from the state to support 46 PSH units in the project. The University is in the process of selecting a nonprofit partner to develop the PSH so the total number of units including PSH will be determined by the new developer based on what's feasible. The project is ineligible for vouchers through the Berkeley Housing Authority and will require ongoing operating support in order to serve formerly homeless households.
 - **Anticipated Need:** Up to \$2M per year for operating support starting in FY29

3. Investing in targeted homelessness prevention

The most cost-effective way to address homelessness is targeted interventions that stop it before it starts. Berkeley's current housing retention programs have been successful at preventing evictions, but are not necessarily targeted to the people most likely to become homeless. Berkeley has been a leader in housing retention efforts and has launched one of the

County's first shallow subsidy programs for unstably housed individuals with very high rent burdens. To enhance our ability to prevent further housing instability in a more targeted way, we recommend investments in the following:

- **Housing Retention Program:** To strengthen and scale the Housing Retention Program, we are requesting \$715,000 in annual Measure W funding, allowing us to expand the program's total annual budget to \$1.2 million. With this increase, we could grow capacity from serving 80 to 100 households annually, invest in wraparound services for tenants with persistent housing challenges, develop a tenant-facing web-based application to streamline intake and tracking, and bring program administration in-house. This funding will ensure long-term sustainability and align the program with the Alameda County Homelessness Prevention Framework.
 - **Annual Request:** \$715k annually starting in FY 26

- **Shallow Subsidy Program (rental assistance):** The shallow subsidy program has helped 54 families stay housed since 2022 by providing a modest amount of monthly rental support for up to 36 months for eligible households. Eligibility for this type of assistance includes the following criteria: the participant must reside in Alameda County, have an Annual Median Income (AMI) of 30% or below, be rent-burdened at or above 50%, and have had previous experiences with homelessness or been referred by the Eviction Defense Center. The goal of the program is to support participants in achieving housing stability, enabling them to afford their rent comfortably. The subsidy amount is determined based on income and rent but is capped at \$1,800. The program has an annual budget of \$405,000, and continuing this program would be a great benefit to residents at risk of losing their housing and/or those who are rent-burdened.
 - **Funding needed:** as soon as possible to expand; June 30, 2028 to maintain current levels
 - **Annual Cost:** \$405k annually in operating subsidy and personnel costs will match Berkeley's commitment and double the capacity of this critical prevention program.

- **Small Sites Program:** The City established a Small Sites Program in 2018 to support the acquisition and renovation of smaller multifamily rental properties (up to 25 units). One of the primary goals of the program is to prevent the displacement of long term, low- or extremely low-income Berkeley residents who would be at risk of homelessness if displaced. The City projected allocating \$5M to the program in FY26. However, the full allocation can no longer be committed due to the broader City budget deficit, so the City has approximately \$1.4M of the projected \$5M available for FY26.
 - **Anticipated Need:** Up to \$3.6M in FY26 to support new projects

Future Funding Opportunities

On May 20, 2025, the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously to direct the City Manager to identify any suitable properties (both city- and privately-owned) that could be used to expand interim housing capacity. This search is underway, and the unusually robust network of nonprofit providers operating in Berkeley have identified a number of new programs that could

be opened rapidly with a suitable location and adequate budget. Such programming includes a shelter specific for seniors experiencing homelessness; a semi-congregate, “indoor campsite” shelter (in the vein of Berkeley’s successful Horizon Transitional Village Program in 2021-2022); and more. While the search for sites is ongoing, Berkeley is severely constrained by a lack of identified funding for any new programming at this time. However, the City believes that a Measure W contribution of up to \$7.5M will enable us to open a new interim program for up to 4 years as soon as a feasible site is identified.

- **Anticipated Need:** up to \$7.5M starting in FY2026.

Berkeley City Council
Homeless Services Priorities for Measure W
June 24, 2025

Shelter (congregate)	Description	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Future Annual 2028 and Beyond
Insight Housing Men & Women Shelter Program	Loss of HHAP funding 12/31/2025	\$603,000	\$603,000	\$603,000	
Emergency Alternative Housing sites	City is seeking sites and funding for lease(s) for alternatives to encampments & RV Street Parking. Programming is ready for seniors, families LGBTQ+, general pop	To be determined by site location	To be determined by site location		
Shelter (non-congregate)					
Beyond the Horizon Motel (Dorothy Day House)	27 Motel rooms - Secured w/ State encampment resolution funding	covered	covered	\$1.94M	\$1.94M Annual
Campus Motel (Insight Housing)	23 Motel rooms - Secured w/ State encampment resolution funding	covered	covered	\$2.54M	
Capri (Insight Housing)	23 Motel rooms - Secured w/ State encampment resolution funding	covered	covered	\$2.68M starting 12/21/2028	

Berkeley City Council
Homeless Services Priorities for Measure W
June 24, 2025

PSH	Description	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Future Annual 2028 and Beyond
NB BART Bridge/Insight Housing	85 Units	\$3M (capitalize operating reserve needed for financing)			
Golden Bear Homes	44 Units				\$825K Operating Subsidy starting January 2030
Rodeway Inn/University Homes	43 Unites				\$600K Operating starting January 2033
Supportive Housing People's Park					Up to \$2M starting in FY2028-2029

Supportive Services	Description	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Future Annual 2028 and Beyond
Enhanced Care Management	CalAIM ECM is at risk with Federal Budget and with State Waiver	Maintain existing level of services and if possible, expand to non-congregate settings			
Mental Health Services	Transition of MHSA to BHSA impacts early intervention and prevention	Maintain existing level of services and if possible expand to meet needs			

Berkeley City Council
Homeless Services Priorities for Measure W
June 24, 2025

Prevention	Description	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Future Annual 2028 and Beyond
Shallow Subsidy Program Expansion	Rental support for 54 cost-burdened families to stay housed since 2022; will double in 2028	\$405K	\$405K	\$810K	\$810K Annual
Housing Retention Program	Expand program from 80 households to 100 and ensure long-term sustainability and alignment w/AC Homeless Prevention Framework	\$715K	\$715K	\$715K	\$715K Annual
Prevent Displacement thru Small Site Aquisition	Partnership with Bay Area and Nor Cal Community Land Trusts to acquire small multi-family complexes of us to 25 units to prevent evictions and displacement	\$3.6M	\$2.5M	\$2.5M	\$2.5M

**Future dollars are not calculated to include COLA or CPI adjustments*



Homeless Services Panel of Experts

June 24, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE)

Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Vice Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts,
Submitted on behalf of Donnell Jones, Chair, Homeless Services Panel of
Experts

Subject: Measure P Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) recommendations to allocate Measure P revenue providing homeless services consistent with the availability of 9.1 million in Measure P revenue for the 2026-2027 budget year as detailed in Attachment 1, Exhibit A.

That Council consider that the HSPE recommendations, while generally aligned with staff recommendations, exempt funding for the allocation of the 5150 transports from P monies, a position which HSPE has traditionally opposed as being funded in full as earlier statistics show that at least half of the 5150 transports are housed persons not unhoused persons. HSPE continues to contend that transport money should come from another funding source so that those monies can be allocated towards homeless services needs.

That other homeless services needs not addressed under P revenue require being urgently addressed through some other source of funding, despite that the City currently faces a General Fund deficit projected at about \$19 million and the looming cuts of as much as \$30 million from the Trump administration. That addressing those needs could be met through shifting other sources of revenue; requiring homeless service providers to bill through Cal-AIM; utilizing public-private partnerships and public-public partnerships; and reevaluation of last year's community agency allocation process funding, to agencies based on performance data and funding provided that may not have been used for the purposes intended.

Recommendations were made through a series of motions as follows:

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Segal HSPE recommends to Council to refer to the City Manager a request to reevaluate the funding approved for homeless services providers in the FY24-28 community agency allocation funding process and review current

performance data based on the HUD Annual Performance Report. HUD Annual Performance Reports, inclusive of de-identified individual-level data, should be submitted from each recipient organization and evaluated in order that funding can be allocated based on maximum efficiency and effectiveness for addressing homeless services and to insure that all allocations were used, in full, for the purposes intended.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Meany HSPE moves to accept the staff Measure P recommendations except for funding the 5150 Transport.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that the 5150 transport come from another source other than Measure P.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: Segal. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that City Council refer to the City Manager to direct homeless service providers to bill Cal-AIM in order to save monies that would otherwise be funded through Measure P or the community agency allocation funding process, so that the City can use the monies towards housing people who are homeless.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends that City Council refer the City Manager to explore private-public and public-public partnerships that would reduce the cost of Measure P funding.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Meany/Kealoha-Blake HSPE authorizes Carole Marasovic to write the report to the Council Budget and Finance Committee and Council on Measure P funding recommendations based on the discussion at tonight's meeting.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Meany HSPE recommends to City Council that it identify a source of funding for Housing Retention monies, whether that be through Measure P, U1 (also intended for homeless prevention) or the General fund.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein.

Action: Marasovic/Kealoha-Blake HSPE recommends to City Council to reaffirm the City's commitment to identify a Horizon-type model, formerly at 742 Grayson, by urgently prioritizing various sources of revenue to fund the project. HSPE also recommends that the City of Berkeley continue to explore and collaborate on establishing a Tiny Homes model as an additional housing option.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, Meany, & Kealoha-Blake.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Bookstein

HSPE continued to stand in support of the motel conversions, and collaboration with the state through encampment resolution monies, which reduced the numbers of persons in homelessness and transitioned persons from the motels into permanent housing. HSPE also supported the expansion of the RV buy-back program accompanied by placing persons in motel conversions until permanent housing is achieved. Both the motel conversions and the RV buy-back program have been largely successful.

Although not formally a recommendation, HSPE had deep discussion about monies allocated for staff training and evaluation as well as staff positions for which Measure P monies are recommended by staff. Staff training and evaluation monies had not been used in past years. However, sufficient information was not available for HSPE to identify if a motion could be made for savings in this respect so that P monies could be directed to other homeless services needs.

Deep discussion was also had about staff positions to be allocated from Measure P. It was believed that some of the staff positions listed, under the staff budget recommendations, might be currently vacant or staff on leave and if so, that savings under the staff recommendations could be found to be otherwise directed to homeless services. Not allocating the money for vacant staff positions would likely be the outcome of a current hiring freeze under Council consideration. However, a motion could not be made because there was insufficient information for HSPE to know whether or not the positions listed were indeed, vacant.

SUMMARY

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) recommends that the City Council allocate \$9.1 million in Measure P funds for FY 2026–2027 to homeless services, as outlined in Exhibit A. Key positions include:

1. Rejecting funding for 5150 mental health transports with Measure P, arguing that many served are not unhoused; HSPE urges that another funding source be used.
2. Recommending a reevaluation of last year's community agency allocations using HUD performance data and utilizing contract monitors including site visits to identify vacancies, if any, in agencies and to scrutinize that funds were used effectively and as intended.
3. Recommending providers bill Cal-AIM, freeing up Measure P funds for housing.
4. Encouraging new funding strategies, including public-private/public-public partnerships.
5. Urging support for additional motel conversions, expansion of the RV buy-back program, housing based on the Horizon model and a tiny homes project.
6. Prioritizing funding of Housing Retention monies, for homeless prevention, through an available source of funding whether U-1 or the General Fund.
7. Raising concerns about using Measure P to fund staff positions and training without clear data on current and projected vacancies, spending effectiveness or history of training monies going unspent.

Despite projected shortfalls and fiscal crisis (e.g., a \$3.4 million deficit and broader city/federal cuts), HSPE emphasizes the need for creative funding solutions to maintain essential housing and services. The report also notes that other expected funding sources (e.g., City Measure W, County Measure W and Proposition 1 (MHSA/BHSA)) are highly unlikely to bring significant resources to Berkeley in the short term.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

With 9.1 million available in P revenue this year, much of which has already been committed, necessities were recommended.

Moving forward, Measure P expenditures exceed revenue with a 3.4 million shortfall. Adjustments have to be made to continue to honor encampment resolution funding commitments and to meet homeless service programs, particularly housing, needs.

In these interests, HSPE began discussions of shifting of revenue sources; reevaluation of community agency allocation funding based on data and identifying monies previously allocated unused for the purposes intended; and other strategizing around alternate funding approaches not previously explored including private-public partnerships and public-public partnerships, and homeless services providers billing Cal-AIM, in order to meet homeless services needs given the City deficit and projected federal funding cuts.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Detailed above, we are in critical times where we need to adopt new strategies to address homeless services and housing needs.

With current projected P revenue insufficient to meet City ongoing P commitments less address other homeless housing or services needs, HSPE considered whether other sources of revenue as in City Measure W, County Measure W and Prop. 1 (MHSA to become the BHSA) would be available to meet some of those needs.

With City Measure W not taking effect until January, 2027, Measure W revenue will not be available until 2028. Following the settlement of the County Measure W litigation, about 700 million in monies could be made available County-wide. However, with County Measure W having been passed as a general tax, that revenue can potentially be allocated for general expenditure purposes rather than expressly for housing or services to address homelessness. Given the current federal administration's impending cuts, the County could potentially use County W monies to fill those gaps.

While HSPE hopes that the City of Berkeley will be able to secure a substantial amount of those monies through Council and the City Manager's advocacy, it recognizes that even if some of the County monies are not used for general fund expenditures, monies will also be allocated towards other jurisdictions not only Berkeley.

As to the passage of Proposition 1 (MHSA/BHSA), there is a common misperception that with 30 percent of the monies intended for homeless housing, that will bring a substantial amount of homeless housing monies to Berkeley. It will not.

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, MHSA monies have been projected at about 5.7 million. 30 percent of those monies would equate to about 1.7 million.

That 30 percent towards homeless housing under the BHSA would not go into effect until 2027. About half of that projected 1.7 million would most likely be used to meet pre-existing commitments to sustain housing for persons with mental health issues through commitments made to Insight Housing (Russell Street Residence), McKinley House and Lakehurst.

These projections come from the state, with monies disbursed monthly, with revenue projected to decline in future years.

BACKGROUND

On June 4, 2025, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts voted for the aforementioned recommendations with the analysis and votes incorporated above.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental impacts except that whenever unhoused persons are housed in Berkeley, it leads to a greatly improved, healthier environment for the general community as well as the unhoused persons.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Detailed above.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

HSPE could have concurred on transports but adopted its standing objection to funding a service that only in part, transports homeless persons when so many other homeless services, housing and homeless prevention are needed.

Further discussion and action on alternative strategies to fund homeless housing and services are needed moving forward.

Attachments:

1. Exhibit A: Measure P Forecast

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Marasovic
Vice-Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts

TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P FORECAST

		FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate
1	***Beginning Fund Balance	\$6,193,998	\$6,193,998	\$6,104,668	\$6,104,668	\$2,167,425	-\$3,040,876
2	Measure P Revenues*	\$6,199,580	\$9,105,870	\$6,509,559	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000
3	Total Revenues and Balance of Funds	\$12,393,578	\$15,299,868	\$12,614,227	\$15,204,668	\$11,267,425	\$6,059,124
4	LESS: Total Expenses	\$9,427,345	\$9,195,200	\$13,102,872	\$13,037,243	\$14,308,301	\$11,343,510
5	Personnel Costs	\$780,206	\$700,977	\$698,423	\$1,040,960	\$911,710	\$957,295
6	CMO: Homeless Services Coordinator	\$219,131	\$399,086	\$202,590	\$215,918	\$226,714	\$238,050
7	CMO: Social Service Specialists			\$180,893	\$337,832	\$354,724	\$372,460
8	Finance Accountant II	\$208,916		\$39	\$191,938	\$201,535	\$211,612
9	HHCS: 50% Senior Management Analyst	\$125,885	\$129,502	\$120,368	\$122,607	\$128,737	\$135,174
10	HHCS: 2 Year Limited Term Community Services Specialist II	\$226,274	\$172,389	\$194,533	\$172,665		
11	Program Expenses	\$8,647,139	\$8,494,224	\$12,404,449	\$11,996,283	\$13,396,591	\$10,386,214
12	Fire: 5150 Response & Transport**	\$814,302	\$814,302	\$814,302	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
13	Dorothy Day House Shelter	\$580,150	\$580,150	\$594,654	\$580,150	\$580,150	\$580,150
14	Dorothy Day House Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (Winter Shelter)	\$358,750	\$358,750	\$367,719	\$358,750	\$358,750	\$358,750
15	Dorothy Day House - Beyond Horizon	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	
16	Beyond Horizon Shelter Lease	\$935,160	\$935,160	\$962,315	\$962,315	\$990,284	
17	BACS Pathways STAIR Center	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768	\$1,765,295	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768
18	BACS Coordinated Entry System (BACS HRC & Shallow Subsidies)	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411
19	No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services						\$105,000
20	No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services					\$138,000	\$138,000
21	LifeLong Medical - Maudelle Shirek Affordable Housing (NPLH)	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200
22	LifeLong Medical Care - Berkeley Trust Clinic	\$525,000	\$170,000	\$582,791	\$880,000	\$525,000	\$525,000

TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P FORECAST

		FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate
23	DBA- Homeless Outreach Worker	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
24	Downtown Streets Team	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
25	BOSS/BOSS Step Up Housing Project - 1367 University Avenue*		\$202,085	\$1,066,027	\$1,014,660	\$1,039,408	\$1,064,759
26	Training and Evaluation	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334
27	Homeless Response Team-Neighborhood Services	\$690,064	\$690,064	\$690,064	\$96,021	\$346,021	\$346,021
28	Homeless Response Team-Public Works				\$278,666	\$278,666	\$278,666
29	Homeless Response Team-PRW				\$65,377	\$65,377	\$65,377
30	Homeless Response Team - RV Buy Back expansion				\$250,000		
31	Portable Toilets	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000
32	Insight Housing Campus Hotel - Supportive Services (ERF match)			\$2,582,864	\$1,456,627	\$1,468,050	
33	Campus Hotel - Lease (ERF Match)				\$1,047,477	\$1,067,136	
34	Dorothy Day House Capri Motel Supportive Services					\$650,967	\$1,301,935
35	Capri Motel Lease					\$645,069	\$1,328,843
36	<i>Fiscal Year Surplus (Shortfall)</i>	<i>-\$3,227,765</i>	<i>-\$89,330</i>	<i>-\$6,593,313</i>	<i>-\$3,937,243</i>	<i>-\$5,208,301</i>	<i>-\$2,243,510</i>
37	***Ending Fund Balance	\$2,966,233	\$6,104,668	-\$488,645	\$2,167,425	-\$3,040,876	-\$5,284,385

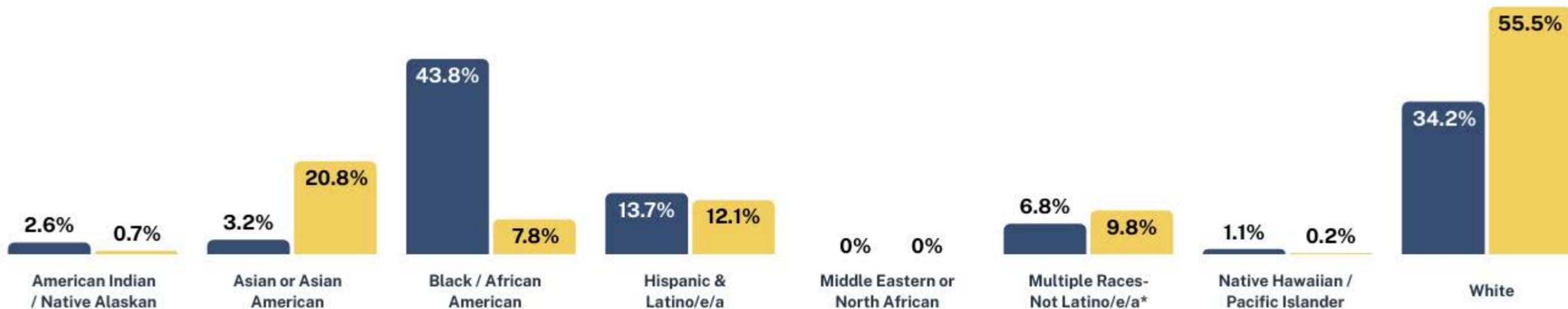
*Revenue projection does not reflect passage of Measure W that becomes effective on 1/1/27.

**Fire - 5150 Response & Transport vendors have delayed billing of approximately 6 months which may cause proposed and estimated costs to increase or decrease.

***Fund Balances are estimates and will be refined over the next fiscal year.

RACE IDENTITIES COMPARED TO GENERAL POPULATION

 PIT  General Population



**Census data does not currently differentiate between Hispanic/Latino/a/e status for Multiple Races*

Toward Equity: Latine Experiences of Homelessness

Findings from the California Statewide Study
of People Experiencing Homelessness

Benioff Homelessness
and Housing Initiative

UCSF

University of California
San Francisco

Introduction

Over the past ten years, the number of Latine¹ individuals and families experiencing homelessness has risen sharply in the United States.^{2,3} The trend in California is similar. To place homelessness in Latine communities in context, it is important to understand the history of systemic anti-Latine discrimination in the United States.

Structural anti-Latine racism paired with the chronic shortage of affordable housing in California make Latine Californians vulnerable to homelessness.

The term Latine refers to a diverse group of people who trace their origins to one of 20 Spanish-speaking countries across Central and South America.⁴ Some Latine families trace their ancestral roots to the first Spanish settlements in present-day California, almost a century before the formation of the first English colony.⁵ Many others have just arrived. According to the 2020 US Census, 67% of Latine Americans were born in the United States.⁶ The majority of Latine immigration to the United States occurred after World War II; 90% of Latine Americans living in the United States trace their roots to Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador.⁷ People of Mexican ancestry are the largest Latine group in the United States; the majority of those with Mexican American heritage live in the West and Southwest (primarily California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas). In California, people with Mexican heritage make up the majority of the Latine population.⁸ Other large Latine

communities in the United States include Puerto Rican and Dominican communities in New York City and Cuban communities in Florida and the greater New York City area.⁹ Different nationalities of origin, levels of English-proficiency, immigration patterns, legal status, and number of generations in the United States shape Latine Americans' diverse experiences.



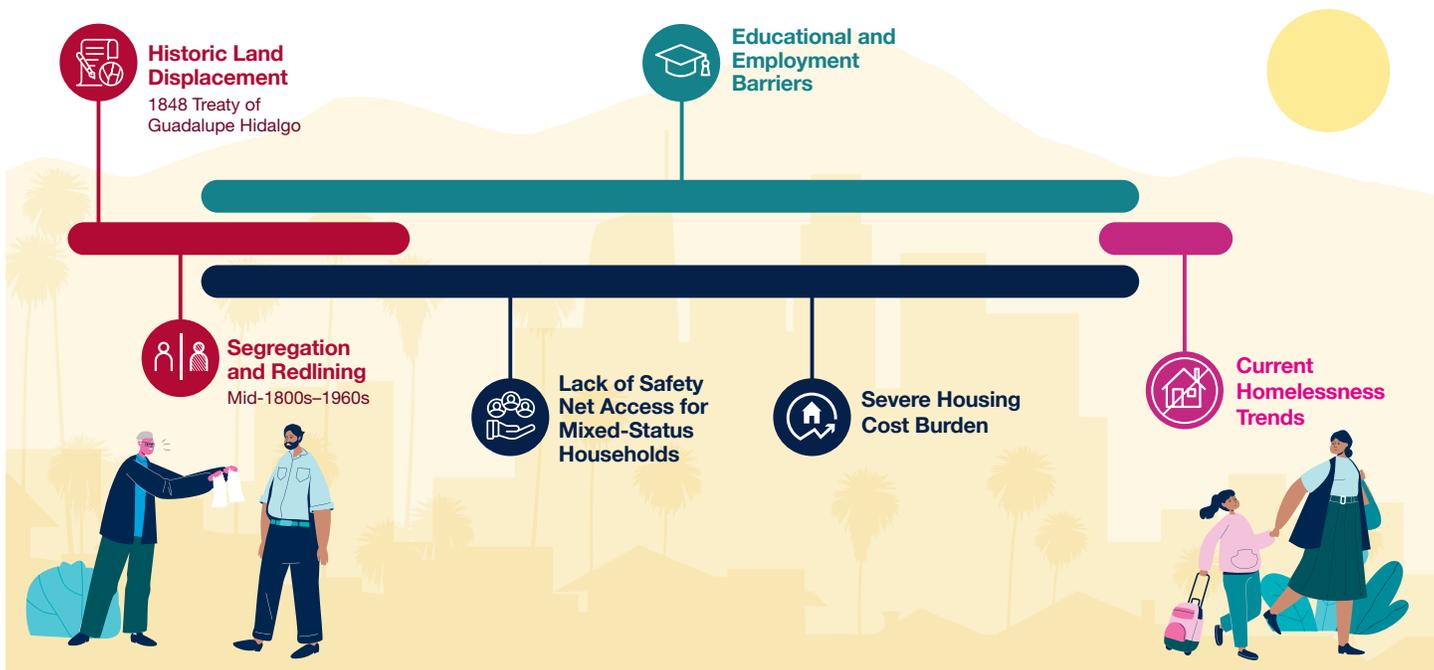
Latine Americans have faced structural racism and anti-Latine discrimination in policies, practices, and social norms designed to keep them in segregated spaces with limited access to public resources or opportunities available to white Americans.^{10,11}

The first instances of homelessness in Latine communities came as the result of the annexation of the Southwestern part of the country (then belonging to Mexico) to the United States after the Mexican American War in the 19th century. As part of the resulting Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Mexican government signed over 500,000 square acres of land to the United States. This resulted in thousands of

Mexicans being displaced from their land and source of livelihood.¹² Although Mexicans who had been living there prior to the war were granted American

Suggested Citation: Young-Ponder, K., Dones, M., Coronado, Z.K., Perry, E., Kushel, M. (2025). Latine Experiences of Homelessness in the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness. UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative.

Structural Drivers of Homelessness in Latine Communities



Systemic discrimination, combined with the chronic shortage of affordable housing, places Latine Californians at risk of homelessness—even without personal vulnerabilities like mental health or substance use problems.

citizenship as part of the treaty, they faced anti-Latine discrimination in economic and social life.¹³

From the mid-1800s through the 1960s, Latine American communities across the United States were subject to state-sanctioned violence (e.g., lynchings, mob violence, and deportations) and segregation in economic and social life fueled by widespread fears and stereotypes that shape immigration policy today.^{14,15,16} Then and now, the frame of anti-immigrant, anti-Latine sentiment has been shaped by antiblackness.¹⁷ Black and Latine communities in the United States are subject to the same underlying logics of racialization -- systemic othering in social, political, and economic life built upon a belief that Black and Latine communities are biologically inferior with the potential to contaminate white American institutions and morals.¹⁸ These underlying racial logics are articulated through different frames for Black and Latine communities, but with similar material

consequences. Like Black Americans, Latine communities were subject to Jim Crow segregation laws specifically targeting “Spanish” and “Hispanic” individuals. Under these laws, Latine communities were forced to live, work, and conduct social life in subpar institutions and public spaces, and were denied access to “white only” places. Like Black Americans, Latine Americans were subject to redlining practices, denied mortgages and pushed into the substandard and crowded housing in under-resourced neighborhoods.¹⁹ Latine Americans were segregated into low-resource public schools, denying educational opportunities; they faced barriers to higher education.²⁰

The effects of systemic discrimination and segregation of the Latine community are felt today. Many Latine Californians experience economic precarity, structural vulnerabilities, discrimination, and the absence of social safety net support which increases the

likelihood of homelessness. New immigrants face additional challenges to economic and housing stability. Latine households are more likely than non-Latine households to live in poverty.²¹ They are more likely to work in low wage jobs,²² reporting lower hourly and annual wages of any racial group.²³

Many in California face severe housing cost burden—defined as paying more than 50% of their household's income on rent. A higher proportion of Latine Californians face severe housing cost burden than other Californians.²⁴ Latine communities have long faced institutional and interpersonal discrimination in the education system, the carceral system, employment, and housing. Due to harsh disciplinary policies in schools serving primarily Black and Latine students, Latine youth are more likely than their white peers to face suspensions, expulsions, and forced transfer from schools into carceral institutions.²⁵

Undocumented immigrants and monolingual Spanish speakers face additional vulnerabilities, with language barriers and lack of citizenship documents creating additional barriers to jobs, education, healthcare, and housing. Undocumented immigrants do not qualify for many federal programs and services.^{26,27} Since 2024, Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) has been available to all Californians regardless of immigration status; prior to the recent phased expansion, undocumented Californians were ineligible for Medi-Cal (other than limited emergency access in select circumstances).²⁸

Barriers to federal funding create additional barriers to resolving episodes of homelessness.²⁹ Thirty percent of Latine Californians live in mixed-status housing, meaning families where U.S. citizens or permanent residents live with undocumented immigrants.³⁰ Both documented and undocumented members of mixed-status households report avoiding public services that they qualify for under public charge laws for fear of deportation or jeopardizing family members' citizenship status.^{31,32} When a member of a mixed-status family is deported, it reduces median household income by 47%, driving households further into poverty.³³

Taken together, Latine communities face structural

vulnerabilities within a context of racism and xenophobia and racialized poverty, the dehumanization and dispensability of Latine populations across generations, and policies that underscore these practices. Many live with precarious citizenship status and find that their social safety nets are taxed and extremely low-income.

In this report, we review data from the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH) to understand the Latine community's experiences of homelessness in California.

These structural inequalities, paired with the chronic shortage of affordable housing in California today, make Latine Californians vulnerable to homelessness—even absent individual vulnerabilities such as having mental health or substance use problems.

Key Findings

Who in the Latine community experiences homelessness?

35% of all California adults experiencing homelessness identified as Latine; 26% as their sole identity and 9% as one of their identities.

Fourteen percent of Latine participants elected to take the survey in Spanish, suggesting that this was their preferred language.

Latine homeless adults are younger than homeless adults from other racial groups; those born outside the US are more likely to be adults in homeless families. The median age of Latine Californian adults experiencing homelessness is 42 (range 18-87), lower than members of other racial groups. Sixty-two percent were between the ages of 25-49.

Thirty-three percent of Latine Californians shared that they had minor children who were not currently staying with them (36% of those born in the United States and 26% of those not born in the United States). Among

Latine adults who had minor children not currently staying with them, 24% reported being separated from their minor children due to their homelessness.

Twelve percent of Latine adults experiencing homelessness were adults in homeless families, but this varied by nativity. Ten percent of Latine adults born in the US and 19% of those born outside were adults in homeless families.

Roughly one quarter (24%) of Latine adults were born outside the United States, a higher proportion than other racial groups.

Like other homeless Californians, 93% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness lost their last stable housing in California and 78% are living in the same county as they were when they last lost their housing. Almost half (48%) of Latine Californians were in their first episode of homelessness. Among those who took the survey in Spanish, 71% were in their first episode.

Pathways to homelessness for Latine Californians:

Immediately prior to homelessness, 52% of Latine adults experiencing homelessness lived in housing for which they did not have legal rights (“non-leaseholder” housing); 29% lived in housing for which they held a lease or owned; and 19% came directly from an institutional setting, primarily long-term jail or prison stays.

Latine adults born outside the United States were more likely to have lived in a non-leaseholder setting than those born within the U.S. (70% versus 46%).

In the six months prior to homelessness, the median monthly household income amongst Latine Californians was \$1000. Among non-leaseholder Latine Californians, the median monthly household income was \$950; they reported a median housing cost of \$200. Among leaseholders, the median income of Latine Californians was \$2,000; they reported median housing costs of \$600

Among Latine adults experiencing homelessness, the median warning prior to losing housing was 2 days (1 day for non-leaseholders; 3 for leaseholders). One third, or 31% of Latine Californians reached out for help prior to losing their housing, most

commonly from family or friends or non-profit and religious institutions.

Eighty-two percent of Latine adults thought that a one-time subsidy of \$5,000 to \$10,000 would have prevented their homelessness; 73% believed that a monthly shallow subsidy of \$300-\$500 would have. Ninety percent thought that a housing voucher that limits their rent to 30% of their income (such as a Housing Choice Voucher) would have prevented their homelessness.

Experiences of Homelessness for Latine Californians

Seventy-nine percent of Latine respondents spent most of their nights in unsheltered locations; either outdoors (54%) or in vehicles (26%). Nearly half (47%) of Latine Californians reported that there was a time that they had wanted shelter but been unable to access it. Twenty-one percent reported that they slept most often in a sheltered setting, including short stays with families or friends. Latine Californians described brief stays with family or friends (i.e. “couch-surfing”) interspersed with other forms of homelessness.

Among Latine Californians, the median length of this episode of homelessness was 22 months.

Nearly half (48%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness rated their health as fair or poor. Almost one third (32%) of Latine Californians reported having a difficulty with one of the five main activities of daily living (ADLs) bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, or eating. Fifteen percent of Latine Californians reported having difficulty with three or more ADLs.

Over a quarter (27%) of Latine people capable of pregnancy between the ages of 18 and 44 reported experiencing a pregnancy during their episode of homelessness.

Almost two thirds (63%) of Latine respondents reported that they had experienced mental health symptoms in the prior month. Similar to those of non-Latine Californians, the most common mental health symptoms were depression and anxiety symptoms. Similar to other racial groups, 35% reported regular illicit drug use of either

methamphetamine, non-prescribed opioids, or cocaine three times a week or more. Among Latine Californians experiencing homelessness, 33% reported using methamphetamine regularly; 11% reported regular use of non-prescribed opioids and 1% reported regular use of cocaine. Over one in ten (11%) reported heavy drinking weekly or more often.

More than one third (37%) of Latine Californians reported experiencing physical or sexual violence during this episode of homelessness:

37% experienced physical violence and 13% experienced sexual violence. Latine cisgender women were more likely to report experiences of sexual violence (22%) compared to Latine cisgender males (9%).

In the prior six months, 35% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had their belongings taken at least once by the police or other government workers in a forced displacement.³⁴

Almost half (45%) of Latine Californians reported being roughed up by the police during this episode of homelessness, similar to other racial groups.

Almost two thirds (62%) of Latine Californians mentioned not receiving help from a case manager or housing navigator as a major barrier to regaining housing.

Several barriers to housing were more commonly cited by Latine Californians than white Californians, including lacking documents and facing discrimination. Sixty percent of Latine Californians cited lacking documents (e.g., proof of identification or income) as a major barrier, slightly higher than Black non-Latine Californians (48%), non-white non-Latine Californians (47%), and white non-Latine Californians (50%).

Eighty-one percent of Latine respondents reported that they experienced any discrimination in their daily lives: 30% said it was due to ancestry or national origin and 28% said it was due to the color of their skin.

Forty-six percent of Latine respondents indicated that discrimination they faced while attempting to regain housing was a major barrier to regaining housing, compared to 50% of Black Californians but only 31% of white non-Latine Californians.

Latine Californians born outside the United States had several differences from those born in the United States.

They were more likely to be an adult in a homeless family, be in their first episode of homelessness, and have entered homelessness from a non-leaseholder housing status. Those born outside of the United States were less likely to report having health insurance, were less likely to report mental health symptoms, and were less likely to have experienced a jail stay during this episode of homelessness. They were less likely to have received assistance from a case manager or housing navigator.

Recommendations

- The Latine population experiencing homelessness is younger than the general population experiencing homelessness, with a higher proportion between the ages of 25-49. This population may benefit from housing assistance coupled with workforce development, legal assistance, and anti-discrimination efforts.
- A high proportion of Latine Californians were adults living in homeless families or reported being separated from minor children. In addition to a focus on housing and services for homeless families and supports and services for children, there needs to be a focus on efforts that promote family reunification.
- Nearly half (48%) of Latine Californians reported being in their first episode of homelessness. There should be an expansion of homeless prevention efforts focused on the Latine population including eviction prevention and evidence-based culturally tailored homelessness prevention services. Due to the short window between notification and eviction in Latine populations, eviction prevention efforts should be proactive, providing Latine communities with information about their housing rights, legal services and financial support. Policymakers should consider requiring connections to programs (including eviction prevention funds) as a mandatory part of eviction proceedings. As a high proportion of Latine adults enter homelessness from non-leaseholder housing situations, non-leaseholders should be eligible for homelessness prevention services.

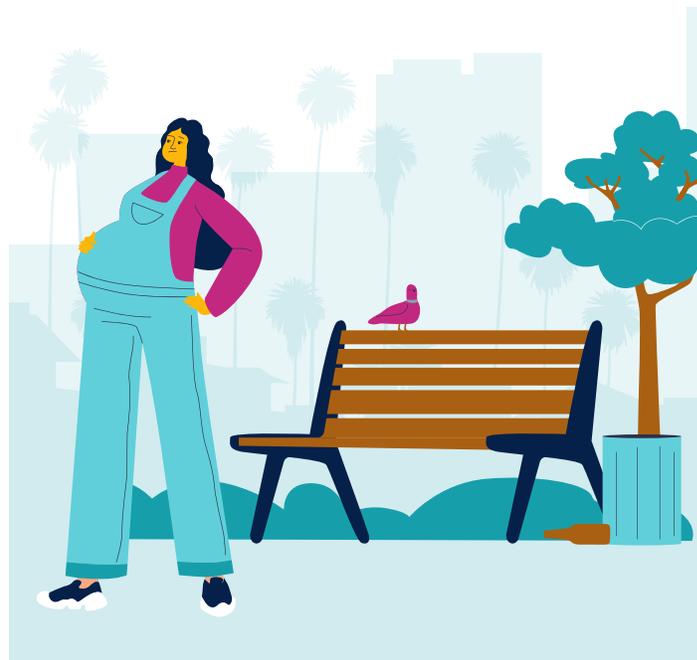
■ Roughly one third (31%) of Latine Californians reached out for help prior to housing; the majority who did so reached out to family or friends (63%) or religious institutions (52%). Programs should partner with community-based organizations that can identify people who would benefit from prevention resources. Programs and policymakers should create flexible prevention funds that can be used to create monthly stipends to support households that take in additional community members who are at risk of homelessness. These can be modeled after kinship placement programs used for child welfare placements.

■ Seventy-nine percent of Latine respondents spent most of their nights in unsheltered locations; either outdoors (54%) or in vehicles (26%). Continuum of Care leadership should look at using state-level flexibility created through 1115 waivers and other mechanisms to integrate Medicaid models of behavioral health support, particularly peer navigation and other peer support services, which can provide more support than traditionally funded outreach. These should provide services that are linguistically and culturally appropriate for Latine populations.

■ A high proportion of Latine Californians reported unmet physical or behavioral health needs. There is a need for culturally tailored programs to meet these needs. These should be available at all points of a person's housing journey (i.e., while housed, during either sheltered or unsheltered homelessness, or after regaining housing).

■ Nearly half (48%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness rated their health as either fair or poor and roughly one-third (32%) reported difficulty with one activity of daily living (ADL). Over a third (41%) of Latine Californians born outside of the United States were uninsured, in part reflecting the lack of eligibility at the time of the study. As undocumented Californians are currently eligible, homeless providers who work with the Latine population should assist clients to enroll in Medi-Cal. Enrollment provides access to healthcare, support for health related social needs through CalAIM, and long term services and supports, including help with ADLs. Given the volatility of the policy landscape surrounding Medicaid and documentation status service providers should also partner with local street

medicine programs to help people access care regardless of Medi-Cal enrollment.



■ Over a quarter (27%) of Latine people capable of pregnancy between the ages of 18 and 44 reported experiencing a pregnancy during their current episode of homelessness. Programs serving this population should be integrated with pregnancy supports. Continuum of Care (CoC) and program leaders should ensure that staff at any shelters, drop-in programs, or transitional housing programs support Latine people to connect to full spectrum reproductive health services. Medi-Cal now covers doula care and can support access to other forms of culturally specific care. Street medicine teams and mobile clinics should integrate care for pregnant people.

■ More than one third (37%) of Latine Californians experienced physical or sexual violence during their current episode of homelessness. CoC leaders and local homelessness system leadership should work to integrate violence screening and support into homelessness service settings. CoC leadership should create culturally connected violence intervention supports, including ensuring that these supports are offered in Spanish.

■ Almost two thirds (63%) of Latine respondents reported that they had experienced mental health symptoms in the prior month. Thirty-three percent reported using methamphetamine regularly; 11% reported regular use of non-prescribed opioids and 1% reported regular use of cocaine. Policymakers and program leaders should design and fund programs to respond to the high prevalence of anxiety and depression and invest in low-barrier, evidence-based substance use treatment programs, with a focus on treatment for methamphetamine use and polysubstance use of methamphetamine and opioids.

■ Behavioral health programs serving Latine Californians and other historically marginalized communities should be culturally and linguistically responsive. Services should be available in Spanish, incorporate culturally specific models of care, and, where appropriate, include peer support. Community members should be directly involved in both the design and implementation of programs to ensure they reflect the lived experiences and needs of the populations they serve.

■ IN CALIFORNIA: Medi-Cal is currently available to cover traditional healthcare practices. State and local leadership responsible for the implementation of Prop 1 Behavioral Health Services Act dollars and other behavioral health initiatives should invest in programs that can provide cultural and language specific care for all communities.

■ Latine Californians born outside the United States had several differences from those born in the United States. They were more likely to be an adult in a homeless family, be in their first episode of homelessness, and have entered homelessness from a non-leaseholder housing status. CoC leadership should ensure that programs supporting Latine Californians born outside the United States should focus on providing support for families and supporting households in stabilizing in housing with formal tenancy.

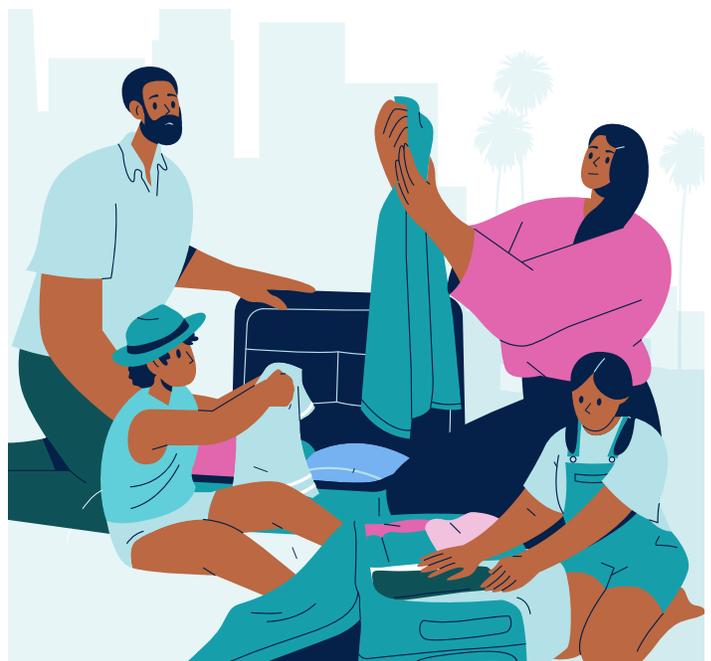
■ Latine Californians born outside the United States were less likely to have received assistance from a case manager or housing navigator. Program leadership should ensure that case management staff are culturally and linguistically equipped to connect with and support this population. Programs should

expand peer supports with these characteristics wherever possible. Program leadership should integrate Medi-Cal enrollment and billing where possible, as these supports are available through Medi-Cal.

Latine Homelessness: A Deeper Look

Study Overview

The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH) is the largest representative study of homelessness in the United States since the mid-1990s. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (UCSF BHII) recruited a representative sample of adults experiencing homelessness; all respondents (3,200) completed an administered questionnaire. A subset participated in in-depth interviews. UCSF BHII has released a series of reports, including a [comprehensive report](#), a report on [intimate partner violence and homelessness](#), [racial equity](#) and Black people experiencing homelessness, [older adults](#) experiencing homelessness and [behavioral health](#). BHII released several shorter topic briefs, including one on [pregnancy](#) and homelessness and [unsheltered homelessness](#). This report looks at Latine Californians' experiences of homelessness.



To measure the lived experience of race for CASPEH respondents, our team used a different race and ethnicity measure than used in the United States Census or the biennial homelessness Point-in-Time Demographic Survey. The US Census and the Point-In-Time Demographic Survey ask two separate questions about race and Hispanic origin: a five-category measure of race ([1] White, [2] Black or African American, [3] American Indian or Alaska Native, [4] Asian, and [5] Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) and a two-category measure of Hispanic origin ([1] Hispanic or [2] Non-Hispanic.) However, scholars note that Latino/Latina/Latine, Hispanic, or Latin American are ways that people racially identify and differentiate themselves from other racial groups. Therefore, we used a single nine-measure race domain that treats those who identify as Latine/Hispanic as a racial group and includes expanded racial categories.³⁵ While these changes make it difficult to compare our race data one-to-one with the Point-In-Time Count, we believe it reflects the daily lived experience of race in California and elsewhere more accurately.

While this report focuses on Latine Californians' experiences of homelessness, we note where their experience may differ from members of other racial identities. To do so, we compared those who are Latine to those who are Black non-Latine, white non-Latine and non-white non-Latine.

Due to concerns about placing participants at legal risk and concerns about decreasing participant's willingness to participate, we did not ask any participants in CASPEH about their immigration or legal status (e.g., permanent residency, citizenship, asylee, visa holder, DACA). We did ask participants whether they were born in, or outside of, the United States. Many who were born outside of the United States have legal immigration status, but not all do. In qualitative interviews, some participants self-disclosed their lack of legal status and how that has impacted them. When relevant, we share this information.

Who in the Latine Community Experiences Homelessness?

Race

In this report, we include both those who identify Latine as their sole racial identity (26% of homeless Californians) and those who identify Latine as one of their racial identities (9% of homeless Californians); 35% of Californians experiencing homelessness do so. Fourteen percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness elected to take the CASPEH survey in Spanish, suggesting that this was their preferred language.

TABLE 1. Racial Identities of People Experiencing Homelessness in California (4 Categories)³⁶

Latine	35%
Black Non-Latine	25%
White Non-Latine	27%
Non-White Non-Latine	13%

Gender and Sexual Orientation

Sixty-eight percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness identified as cisgender men, 31% identified as cisgender women and 1% as transgender, non-binary, or gender expansive like those of other racial identities. Seven percent identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, queer, or another non-heterosexual sexual identity.

Age

Latine Californians experiencing homelessness ranged in age from 18 to 87.³⁷ The median age of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness was 42. This is younger than other groups: the median age of both Black non-Latine and white non-Latine Californians experiencing homelessness is 50 years. Five percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were between the ages of 18 and 24, 62% were between the ages of 25 and 49 (compared to 43% of Black non-Latine and 48% of white non-Latine Californians experiencing homelessness), and 33% were 50 years or older. Among Latine homeless

Californians 50 or older, 43% first experienced homelessness after the age of 50.

Family Structure

Eighty-five percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were single adults (i.e. adults 25 years of age and older not living with minor children), 12% were adults in families (i.e. adults currently living with minor children).³⁸ Latine Californians experiencing homelessness who were born outside of the United States were more likely than those born within the US to report being an adult in a homeless family (19% versus 10%).

TABLE 2. Family Structure, Latine Californians Experiencing Homelessness by Country of Origin

	Single Adults	Adults in Families
All	85%	12%
US Born	86%	10%
Non-US Born	79%	19%

Thirty-three percent of Latine Californians had minor children who were not staying with them currently (36% of those born in the United States and 26% of those not born in the United States). There are several reasons why someone might not be living with their minor children. They may have had a child removed by Child Protective Services (CPS), they may have asked friends or family to take over custody of a child out of fear of CPS involvement or impending homelessness, or they may not be the child’s custodial parent. Among Latine adults who reported that their children weren’t staying with them. Twenty-four percent reported being separated from their children voluntarily because of their homelessness.

Education

Latine Californians had the lowest high school completion rate among homeless Californians. Half of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had not completed a high school degree or a GED, compared with 32% for Black non-Latine, 24% of white non-Latine, and 36% of non-white non-Latine

Californians experiencing homelessness. An additional 26% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had a high school diploma or GED; 16% had some college education and 8% had attained a college degree.

Birthplace, Language and Where People Lived Prior to Homelessness

Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were more likely than other racial groups to be born outside of the United States. Twenty-four percent of Latine Californians reported being born outside of the United States compared to 3% of Black non-Latine, 5% of white non-Latine, and 16% of non-white non-Latine Californians experiencing homelessness. Two thirds (68%) of Latine Californians were born in California, similar to other racial groups. Ninety-three percent of Latine Californians reported that they were last housed in California; 78% were interviewed in the same county where they were last housed.

Prior Experiences of Homelessness

A higher proportion of Latine Californians (48%) than Black non-Latine (28%), white non-Latine (38%), or non-white non-Latine (39%) reported that this episode was their first episode of homelessness. Latine Californians who took the survey in Spanish were more likely to be in their first episode (71%) than those who took it in English (44%).

Pathways to Homelessness for Latine Californians

To better understand the pathways to homelessness for everyday Californians, we asked CASPEH respondents to reflect on their lives during the six months before they lost their last stable housing.

Immediately before this episode of homelessness, 52% of Latine Californians were housed in the community without the legal protections of a lease, such as living with friends, family, or acquaintances. This is a similar proportion as found in other racial groups. Latine respondents who were born outside the United States were more likely to enter homelessness from a non-leaseholder arrangement (70%) than those born in the United States (46%). As one Latine participant described, “Before 2008 I rented a house

with some friends, but the house was foreclosed, and we had to leave. The county didn't want anyone to live there anymore and so we had to go out. And they knocked down the house. And we were left outside... the house was in bad conditions. It wasn't for people to live in there... About 10 people [lived there]. We did not live comfortably."

Non-leaseholders lack legal protection and live, for the most part, in overcrowded and stressful situations with others who face similar economic pressures. In these situations, tensions may rise, and situations become untenable quickly. One Latine participant shared with us, "[I received] very little notice, I had to leave quickly. That was not nice, but what could I do. A little unfair but I had no choice. That's when I moved to my car... The problem is that everything is very expensive here. The rent for a small room is \$850... Too much. There is no way to pay for that if you don't have a job."

Twenty-nine percent of Latine Californians were on a lease, mortgage or other formal written agreement prior to losing their housing. Nineteen percent entered homelessness directly from an institutional setting, similar to those in other racial groups. Most of these institutional entrances were from carceral settings including prisons or long-term jail stays.

Latine Californians had extremely low incomes. In the six months prior to losing their last housing, Latine Californians experiencing homelessness reported a median monthly household income of \$1,000 and median housing costs of \$400, similar to other homeless Californians. Latine Californians who were not on a lease prior to homelessness reported a median monthly household income of \$950 and median housing costs of \$200. Latine Californians who were leaseholders prior to homelessness reported a median monthly household income of \$2,000 and median housing costs of \$600.

At the time of the study, the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,767.³⁹ Once Latine Californians lost housing, they did not make enough money to re-enter the housing market. This mismatch between income and housing costs was a major precipitant to homelessness. Latine respondents were given a median warning time of two days before losing their housing. For those on a lease,

the median warning time was three days, shorter than the median for Black non-Latine and white non-Latine Californian leaseholders, who reported a median warning time of seven days. For those not on a lease, it was one day, similar to other homeless Californians. In California, most leaseholders have rental protections that should lead to more warning time prior to leaving. But many renters are either unaware of these protections, lack legal protections to exercise their rights, or are understandably concerned about having an eviction on their record and leave when threatened with an eviction.

TABLE 3. Median Monthly Household Income, Housing Costs, Warning Before Housing Loss, by Leaseholder Status Among Latine Participants

	All Latine	Latine Non-Leaseholders	Latine Leaseholders
Median Monthly Income	\$1,000	\$950	\$2,000
Median Housing Costs	\$400	\$200	\$600
Median Warning	2 days	1 day	3 days

We asked CASPEH respondents to share what they considered to be the primary reason that they left their last stable housing. Among Latine Californians experiencing homelessness, the most frequent primary reasons for leaving their last housing included lost or reduced income (12%), wanting their own space or not wanting to impose on others (10%), conflict between residents (7%), and conflict with a landlord or property owner (7%). Among non-leaseholders, the primary reasons for leaving last housing included wanting their own space or not wanting to impose on others (14%), experiencing conflict between residents (10%), experiencing conflict with a landlord or property owner (8%), being asked or encouraged to leave (8%), and leaving due to their own substance use or drinking (8%). Among leaseholders, the most frequent primary reasons for leaving their last housing were lost or reduced income (22%), moving or leaving the area

(10%), experiencing violence or abuse in the household (10%), and someone else becoming sick or disabled or dying (9%).

In in-depth interviews, Latine participants described situations in which they had to leave their housing. One participant described having to vacate their home due to the home being sold after their grandmother died. “I was under the impression that we had a year from my grandmother's death to the house being cleared. But, you know, when money comes into the picture, family can get really crazy. So we ended up having to be out in six months. And we didn't know that until four months had already passed. So we had two months [to] get rid of everything in the house, get all of your stuff out, and you have to be gone. And, at the end of that two months, the house was already sold.”

Others reported losing their housing due to falling behind on rent because either they or someone else had lost a job or become ill, or someone else had been incarcerated, became sick, or died. As one Latine participant explained, “(In) 2019 I had a pacemaker put in. That slowed me down for a long time and then I got...liver cancer. And they're still watching that, and I had to go and get chemo treatments. That knocked me down for a long time. I had no income. I worked for IHSS⁴⁰ the last sixteen years taking care of my mother. And before that I worked for [a furniture store] for ten years, and before that I worked for my mother[s] cleaning company from high school. There's no way I can work [now]. I walk a little ways, sometimes I walk to the bathroom, and I have to lay down. I can feel my heart pounding in my throat.”

Latine men who were employed prior to homelessness discussed having worked in construction, landscaping, farmwork, and the service sector, without having received any employment related health insurance. Some discussed having experienced work-related injuries but did not receive workers compensation. A few participants discussed having lost their jobs due to their injuries, which led to a cascade resulting in homelessness. Other Latine workers reported having been employed in the service sector, working in restaurants, retail establishments, or as delivery drivers, and then losing their jobs related to the

COVID-19 pandemic, either because of COVID-19-related closures or because they left their job due to fear of contracting COVID-19.

Latine farmworkers, who are an essential workforce across California's more than 63,000 farms, faced particular housing challenges throughout the year as farm work was only available during growing seasons. One Latine farmworker shared how the absence of work during farming “off-season” had detrimental effects on his housing, resulting in bouts of homelessness:

TABLE 4. Primary Reason for Leaving Last Housing for Latine Californians Experiencing Homelessness

All	Non-Leaseholders	Leaseholders
Lost or reduced income (12%)	Wanting their own space or not wanting to impose on others (14%)	Lost or reduced income (22%)
Wanting their own space or not wanting to impose on others (10%)	Conflict between residents (10%)	Left the area (10%)
Conflict between residents (7%)	Conflict with a landlord or property owner (8%)	Violence or abuse in the household (10%)
Conflict with a landlord or property owner (7%)	Imposing, asked/ encouraged to leave (8%) / Own substance use or drinking (8%)	Someone else was sick, disabled or died (9%)

Approximately one third (31%) of Latine Californians reached out for help prior to losing their housing. We asked those who had reached out for help whom they reached out to; among those who had reached out, the most common sources were family and friends (63%) or non-profit institutions and religious organizations (52%). Twenty-one percent of Latine Californians received any help to stave off homelessness; 58% of them from family or friends and 47% from non-profit institutions or religious organizations. Only 16% of those who received help

received it from a government agency. This help was not enough to keep them in housing. However, Latine Californians discussed their social networks as an important source of both emotional and spiritual support. They discussed receiving support from family, friends, and their church communities. One participant shared how his church community provided needed emotional support. “We have to go back to church because when we were in church, we had support there. It's like family. And they know what's up. Sometimes they call and they check on us to see how we're doing.” This support helped keep Latine Californians going during hard times even if it couldn't prevent them from becoming homeless. As we spoke only to those who were experiencing homelessness, it is possible that those who had received help did not become homeless.

Latine Californians indicated that financial support could have prevented homelessness by either allowing them to stay in their current housing situation or moving into other housing.

Eighty-two percent thought that a one-time subsidy of \$5,000 to \$10,000 would have prevented their homelessness and 73% believed that a monthly shallow subsidy of \$300-\$500 would have. Ninety percent thought that a housing voucher that limits their rent to 30% of their income (such as a Housing Choice Voucher) would have prevented their homelessness. These were similar to adults experiencing homelessness from other racial groups.

Experiences of Homelessness for Latine Californians

In this section, we focus on Latine Californians' experiences while homeless. We discuss where people stayed, access to shelter, length of homelessness, physical health and use of healthcare systems, behavioral health, experiences of violence, interactions with carceral systems, experiences of discrimination, and barriers to finding housing.

Where Did People Stay?

People experience homelessness in a variety of unsheltered and sheltered settings. Unsheltered locations include vehicles and places not meant for

human habitation such as public parks and abandoned buildings. Sheltered locations include emergency shelters, friends' or family members' homes, treatment programs, hotels or motels. We asked respondents where they had slept most often during homelessness. Similar to all Californians experiencing homelessness,⁴¹ most (79%) Latine respondents slept most frequently in unsheltered locations either outdoors (54%) or in vehicles (26%). In in-depth interviews, Latine Californians described a variety of unsheltered locations, including staying outdoors, in abandoned buildings, or in unfurnished garages without electricity or running water. Nineteen percent reported that they slept most often in a sheltered setting, including short stays with families or friends. Latine Californians described brief stays with family or friends (i.e. “couch-surfing”) interspersed with other forms of homelessness. These brief stays were marked by overcrowded conditions, with the participants reporting that they slept on the floor or a couch. They reported that the stays were short due either to the lack of feasibility of their staying there, overcrowding, or by the risks their stays posed to their hosts, whose landlords did not allow guests. As one Latine participant shared,

“ My friend brought me [to the shelter]. I told her I didn't want to sleep on the street because I was pregnant and because it was cold during that time. I stayed with her for one week, but the owner of that place told her I couldn't stay there.”

Shelter Access

Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were more likely than white Californians to report that there was a time during their current episode when they wanted shelter but were unable to access it: 47% of Latine respondents reported this compared to 35% of white non-Latine Californians and 37% of non-White, non-Latine Californians. Forty three percent of Black Californians reported this, similar to that of Latine Californians. We found that Latine Californians who were born in the United States (50%) were more likely than those who were not born in the United States (36%) to report this. Latine interview participants reported encountering long wait times for shelter beds.

As one participant explained, “When I first experienced needing shelter in the area that I was in, there just wasn't – unless you were domestic violence, there wasn't shelter available. And then if there was a shelter available, if you had anything on your record, some places you couldn't stay there because of a felony or whatever. A lot of places are just crowded, and they just couldn't – they couldn't take you.”

Length of Homelessness

Similar to other groups, Latine Californians reported lengthy episodes of homelessness. The median length of their current episode was 22 months. Chronic homelessness is defined as both (1) experiencing homelessness for at least 12 months or having four or more episodes of homelessness in the prior three years that together total more than 12 months and (2) having a disabling condition. Twenty-eight percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness met the criteria for chronic homelessness; a further 41% met the time criteria but did not meet the disability criterion.



Health

Similar to the overall homeless population, nearly half (48%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness rated their health as fair or poor. This finding is significantly higher than would be expected in the general population.⁴² Almost one third (32%) of Latine Californians reported having a difficulty with one of the five main activities of daily living (bathing,

dressing, toileting, transferring, or eating); this was similar to our findings in other racial groups. Latine Californians 50 and older were more likely to have an ADL difficulty (44%) than those 18-49 (26%). Fifteen percent of Latine Californians reported having difficulty with three or more ADLs; 25% of those 50 and over and 9% of those 18-49.

Fifty-eight percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were living with one or more chronic health condition; 8% reported three or more. Latine Californians 50 years of age and older were more likely to report at least one chronic health condition (69%) compared to those ages 18 to 49 years (53%). The most common chronic health conditions among Latine Californians experiencing homelessness were hypertension, lung conditions (asthma or COPD), and diabetes. We asked Latine Californians experiencing homelessness whether they had health insurance. Eighty-one percent reported that they had a form of health insurance, mostly through California’s Medicaid program known as Medi-Cal (74% received Medi-Cal – similar to Californians experiencing homelessness overall). Almost one in five (19%) reported that they were uninsured. Latine respondents who were born outside the United States were more likely to be uninsured (41%) compared to those born in the United States (12%).

Half (50%) reported having a regular source of health care other than the Emergency Department (ED); 36% reported having a primary care provider. Nineteen percent of Latine Californians reported that they had an unmet medical need and 23% said that they were unable to access a medication that had been prescribed to them. Similar to other racial groups, 36% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had visited the emergency department (ED) in the last 6 months but were not admitted and 21% reported an in-patient hospitalization for a physical health reason in the prior six months.

Latine in-depth interview participants found the healthcare system difficult to navigate while experiencing homelessness. They noted barriers including finding transportation and identifying physicians. One Latine Californian shared: “I’m not [doing any teaching now or working or anything]. I’m sick right now. My liver is doing something. I got blood

clot[s]. I'm taking three medicines. I don't see a doctor because I don't know who my primary doctor is. And I haven't seen a doctor for five years. And I keep asking my social worker who my primary doctor is and they don't tell me anything." Waiting to get connected to care, some participants told us that they used the ED as a place to get care. Another Latine Californian explained how their difficulties accessing primary care impacted other facets of their life. As one said, "to get SSI, I have to have your doctor's paperwork. I haven't been able to go see the doctor yet. My primary doctor doesn't start until the 8th of this month [because that's when my appointment is]. So you just keep going back to the hospital. They're going to say, "Well, we can't do nothing for you. You got to go to your primary doctor for that." So, I said I'll wait."

Pregnancy

Over a quarter (27%) of Latine women between the ages of 18 and 44 reported experiencing a pregnancy during their episode of homelessness. This is similar to Black non-Latine women (26%) but higher than white non-Latine women (18%). As we reported in the Topic Brief on Pregnancy,⁴³ pregnancy increases the risk of homelessness and the conditions of homelessness create increased risks of having pregnancy complications.

Behavioral Health

Almost two thirds (63%) of Latine respondents reported that they had experienced mental health symptoms in the prior month. Similar to those of non-Latine Californians, the most common mental health symptoms were depression and anxiety symptoms. Fifty percent noted having had severe depressive symptoms and 47% reported anxiety symptoms, 11% reported experiencing hallucinations and 35% reported trouble concentrating or remembering. Latine Californians experiencing homelessness who were born in the United States were more likely to note any mental health symptoms than those who were not born in the United States (66% for those born in the United States; 52% for those born elsewhere). While fifty-four percent of Latine respondents born in the United States reported symptoms of depression, 38% of those born elsewhere did; 50% of Latine Californians born in the United States reported anxiety, 36% of those not born in the United States did.

In the prior six months, 5% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had a psychiatric hospitalization.



Similar to other racial groups, thirty-five percent reported regular illicit drug use of either methamphetamine, non-prescribed opioids, or cocaine three times a week or more. One third (33%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness reported regular use of methamphetamine; 11% reported regular use of non-prescribed opioids and 1% of cocaine. These were similar to other racial groups. Over one in ten (11%) reported heavy drinking weekly or more often. Among those who either used drugs regularly or had weekly heavy drinking, twenty-seven percent reported that there was a time during this current episode of homelessness when they sought out substance use treatment but were unable to access it.

As we reported in the Behavioral Health Report, many Latine Californians began using substances after they became homeless to manage the challenges of homelessness, including helping them stay awake at night or assuaging symptoms including pain or despair. As one Latine Californian shared, "In 2017, I had my own place, and at that time a truck hit me, and they put two bars on my neck and six pins. So, from that point on, everything went downhill, and I lost everything. I started using [meth] when I became homeless. I would do it by myself in the streets to stay awake at night. It just kept me awake and I would go

look to make money, to get aluminum cans, collect money, so I could support me to get something to eat or whatever. Not to go buy more drugs or nothing but if I collect enough for three days of aluminum cans and I can get my food and a room for a day, you know.”

Other Latine participants revealed how they started to use substances as a way to cope with the stress of becoming homeless. Through tears, a Latina participant shared how she started using fentanyl after becoming homeless: "now I do a drug that I've never done in my life - [Fentanyl]. I started using it a month after I became homeless. Now I've been using for a year [multiple times throughout the day]. I feel like my days pass much faster because I sleep a lot more. I don't have to think about what I'm going through and just stress about it. It makes it easier for me to numb what I feel or anything I'm going through and less things for me to feel emotionally. I feel like that's how I have been able to go through everything I've been through in this past year because before that I was not a user at all. I would barely even smoke weed.”

To estimate the proportion of Californians experiencing homelessness who likely need enhanced behavioral health supports to thrive, we designed a measure indicating complex behavioral health needs. We defined this as having any one of these four criteria: regular illicit drug use, heavy episodic alcohol use at least weekly, a recent psychiatric hospitalization, or hallucinations. Over half (51%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness meet these criteria, similar to that of non-Latine Californians.

Experiences of Violence

Latine Californians experienced high rates of interpersonal violence during homelessness. More than one third (37%) reported physical or sexual violence during this episode: 37% experienced physical violence and 13% experienced sexual violence. Of those who experienced physical violence, over half (55%) reported that the violence was perpetrated by a stranger and 17% reported that it was perpetrated by an intimate partner. Latine cisgender women were more likely to report experiences of sexual violence (22%) compared to Latine cisgender men (9%). Of those who reported sexual violence, 60% reported that the violence

was perpetrated by a stranger and 15% by an intimate partner.

“ They treat us like we're nothing, like dirt. We're already down in the dumps. And they think, by giving us a ticket and kicking us in the gut one more time, it's going to help us.”

Criminalization

In the previous six months, 35% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness had their belongings taken at least once by the police or other government workers in a forced displacement.⁴⁴ Almost half (45%) of Latine Californians reported being roughed up by the police during this episode of homelessness, similar to other racial groups. In in depth interviews, Latine participants explained that they encountered police harassment based on being both homeless and Latine. As one Latine participant said: "The police is always harassing – 'Oh, you can't park here.' I mean they'll try to find anything to get you out and harass you, especially if you're Hispanic." Experiences with law enforcement were stressful and dehumanizing. As another Latine Californian shared, "The cops were all day long sitting across the way. And like they knew what they were going to do. And I knew what they were going to do... And, at 2:00 in the morning, they blocked us in. And then, all these parking enforcement ladies just started putting tickets on everybody's car. The next day, everybody had tickets.

Similar to members of other racial groups, one third (33%) of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness spent time in jail during this episode of homelessness, this was more common amongst those born in the United States: 35% of those born in the United States and 27% of those not born in the United States reported a jail stay.

Attempts to Exit Homelessness

The vast majority of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness (91%) named affordability as a major barrier to exiting homelessness, like other homeless Californians. In in-depth interviews, Latine Californians described the disconnect between their potential income and housing costs. As one Latine participant explained, "I mean the biggest thing is just like the pay

that everybody gets is just – it's not possible to live off of. I mean, for me, personally, I have about \$10,000 in savings, which could pay for first/last rent and the deposit. But my monthly income is not enough to maintain a one-bedroom apartment, often not even enough to maintain a studio.”

Similar to other homeless Californians, almost two thirds (62%) mentioned not receiving help from a case manager or housing navigator as a major barrier to regaining housing. Several barriers to housing were more commonly cited by Latine Californians than white Californians, including lacking documents and facing discrimination. Sixty percent of Latine Californians cited lacking documents (e.g., proof of identification or income) as a major barrier, higher than Black non-Latine Californians (48%), non-white non-Latine Californians (47%), and white non-Latine Californians (50%). Forty-six percent of Latine Californians indicated that discrimination that they faced while attempting to regain housing was a major barrier, similar to Black Californians (50%) but higher than white non-Latine Californians (31%). Over half of Latine

respondents noted distance or safety of affordable housing (52%) and the long waitlists for housing (51%) as being major barriers to exiting homelessness. One in-depth interview participant described the process of waiting for housing. “[At the shelter] they're supposed to be [helping me get housing]. I’m just waiting for my name to come up [with] Section 8. [I’ve been waiting] about three years. I've been homeless since 2017. I don’t have a navigator.”

Language Access

In-depth interview participants reported that language barriers and the complicated process of applying for housing and housing subsidies made it challenging to access and use services successfully. Some participants experienced challenges accessing housing related services due to limited English language skills. "I don’t speak the language, I am unable to understand and explain things,” one Latine participant explained “I understand and speak some but not enough, and sometimes people assume I am undocumented.” This was particularly true for older Latine participants. Others found it challenging to

TABLE 5. Barriers to Housing

	Latine	Black Non-Latine	White Non-Latine	Non-White Non-Latine
I can't afford any housing.	91%	82%	91%	89%
I don't have enough help from an organization, such as a case manager or housing navigator, to help me navigate paperwork or find housing.	62%	62%	64%	65%
I don't have the documents I need to apply for housing.	60%	48%	50%	47%
I experience discrimination when I try to rent a place.	46%	50%	31%	47%
The housing I can afford is too far away or unsafe.	52%	58%	64%	52%
I am on a waitlist for housing and it's taking a long time.	51%	59%	48%	44%

navigate online housing applications or did not know where to apply. One Latine participant shared how language acted as a barrier to obtaining assistance identifying housing opportunities: “there was a person who was speaking with me...but I couldn’t manage the language, English. A person was contacting me [to tell me] that the government offers housing for homeless people. But that person gave up because of how we talked.”

Help Finding Housing

Forty-one percent of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness reported that a housing navigator or case manager had tried to help them find housing at any time during their current episode: 59% of Black non-Latine and 45% of White non-Latine respondents reported this. Those born outside of the United States were less likely to report help from a housing navigator or case manager (31%). Only 16% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness said that they received help from a housing navigator at least once per month in the prior six months, the same as the overall population. Many Latine in-depth interview participants who received help from a housing navigator or case manager reported positive experiences. They shared that their housing navigator or case manager helped them to secure documents needed to secure housing and employment, and motivated them to apply for housing, housing subsidies, and other social services. Others reported that housing navigators or case workers were too busy to provide adequate support, which created barriers to returning to housing and securing services. Participants reported signing up wait lists for housing choice voucher (sometimes referred to as a Section 8 voucher) either on their own or with the help of a case manager. However, many of these participants experienced long wait times. As one participant shared, “I signed up for Section-8 and it's a mandatory two year wait, waiting list back then. I don't know if it's worse now or what, but. I was on there two years right before we lost, lost the house I came off the two-year waiting list and I was eligible for three apartment complexes. But before I could go look at them somebody raided our, our carport, took a bunch of our boxes of stuff, including my paperwork, so they threw me back on the waiting list.”

Latine Californians experiencing homelessness discussed their hesitancy to reach out to family or friends for help. They expressed that they felt a sense of shame for being homeless and felt that they needed to resolve it on their own without burdening their families. One participant shared: “I'm very closed about what I'm going through. None of my family knows I'm homeless, none of my friends. I just don't want to tell anyone. I want to be able to get out of this alone. It feels like I'm stuck in this, and it sucks.”



Benefits Utilization

Similar to other racial groups, 68% of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness received California’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) CalFresh. Despite high enrollment in CalFresh, Latine Californians’ enrollment in other social safety net benefit programs was low. This could be due to factors such as language barriers, immigration status, and the younger age of Latine Californians experiencing homelessness compared to other groups.⁴⁵ Only 7% received SSI, 3% received SSDI and 5% received Social Security. Twenty-seven percent of Latine Californians aged 62 years and older reported that they received SSI.

Lack of citizenship status created barriers for receiving eligible public benefits, including SNAP, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, and Housing Choice Vouchers. One Latine Californian explained how without having a permanent resident card, they could not get a job that issues a paystub, which they need to

get on a waiting list for Section 8 housing. They explained, “I applied for Section 8, and I received the voucher, but I can’t go because they want a paystub to charge me 30% or something like that, but since I don’t have my green card I still can’t get paid with a check. [The woman] from Social Services called, and they told her it can take up to three months to send the green card. If someone else hires me to do work, like the people from the church, it is not enough, just small assignments.” Those with immigration status that made them eligible for public benefits faced other barriers to secure housing. Many reported losing or being unable

to renew documents needed to secure housing, such as permanent resident cards or other forms of identification, due to their homelessness. They experienced long wait times to receive replacements.

Discrimination

Due to structural racism and prejudice against perceived immigrant communities, Latine Californians experience high levels of discrimination in their everyday lives. Eighty-one percent of Latine respondents reported that they experienced any discrimination in their daily lives: 30% said it was due

**Compounding Challenges:
Structural Drivers of Homelessness for Latine Californians**



Latine Californians face a compounding set of structural challenges—beginning with unaffordable housing and low wages, and deepened by discrimination, language and immigration barriers, and lack of shelter access. These interconnected barriers increase the risk of homelessness.

to ancestry or national origin and 28% said it was due to the color of their skin. As noted above, nearly half of Latine Californians (46%) reported that they had faced discrimination when trying to return to housing—a significantly higher proportion of Latine Californians reported this than white non-Latine Californians. In in-depth interviews, Latine Californians spoke of discrimination in trying to obtain housing or services, during interactions with police, and when talking to others in their community. Like Black Californians experiencing homelessness, Latine Californians shared how they experienced an intersectional, compounding type of discrimination based on being both Latine and homeless. One Latine Californian shared about her experiences of discrimination when trying to rent an apartment. "I thought it was going to be easier. I thought I would just be able to save some money and knock on the front door of a place and ask, 'Can I rent this place?' But no, it is hard. I have gone around, asking for places to rent but they tell me 'No Spanish' and I wonder 'Do they really not speak Spanish or are they discriminating against me?'. I think 'Do I need to put on makeup and dress well, so they treat me well?'" Another Latine Californian shared their experience: "It is hard sometimes. They treat you like they are assuming you won't pay the rent, like you are irresponsible... When you ask them for a place to rent, they look at you and ask you, how are you going to pay for this place? How am I going to pay if I don't have a job? But I can work, I can make money and pay. But the answer is no, we are full."

Conclusion

Homelessness among Latine populations is rising. Latine Californians' experience of homelessness is similar, in many ways, to those of all Californians experiencing homelessness—high housing costs coupled with low incomes set Californians up to become homeless, and once homeless—everything else falls apart. Like other Californians experiencing homelessness, most Latine Californians experience homelessness in unsheltered settings. Many sought shelter, but were unable to access it. Latine Californians experiencing homelessness, despite being younger than other homeless Californians, experience similarly serious health challenges. Latine Californians experience additional barriers not faced

by all homeless Californians, including barriers created by anti-Latine discrimination, by lack of language access, and by lack of access to services due to either undocumented or mixed-status households. Those born outside the United States—with or without legal status—experience different challenges than those born in the United States. Like other Californians experiencing homelessness, Latine adults report cost as the main barrier to re-entering housing, but they note additional discrimination barriers in the housing market and lack of access to key benefits. As homelessness among Latine populations increases in tandem with increased political hostility toward those who are immigrants or perceived to be, there must be renewed efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the Latine community. While Latine Californians facing homelessness share many experiences with others who experience homelessness, there is a need for increased recognition of the specific challenges faced by the Latine community and responses that meet these challenges. Doing so will allow all to enjoy the safety and security of home.

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36. For the purpose of this report, we define Latine as those who identify "Latino/Latina/Latinx, Hispanic, or Latin American" as their sole or one of their racial identities. Black non-Latine category includes those who identify "Black, African-American, African" as their sole or one of the racial identities, with the exception of those who identify as Black and Latine. These respondents are placed in the Latine category. The white non-Latine category includes those who identify "white, Caucasian, or European-American" as their sole racial identity. The non-white non-Latine category includes those who identified as "Native American, or Alaskan Native", "Pacific Islander, Samoan, or Hawaiian", Indigenous from Mexico/Central/South America", "Mixed/Multiracial", or "other".
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