

CLA MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 2, 2019

TO: Honorable Members Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations
and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 19-0002-S120
Assignment No. 19-06-0700

SUBJECT: Resolution to Support AB 307 (Reyes) Homeless youth grant program.

CLA RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution (O'Farrell-Martinez) to include in the 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 307 (Reyes), which would create a grant program to support young people experiencing homelessness, to be administered by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and awarded to nonprofits and continuum of care (COC) administrative entities.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (O'Farrell-Martinez) states that California lacks a clear commitment to ending and preventing homelessness among young people. Resolution (O'Farrell-Martinez) states that AB 307 (Reyes) seeks to address this legislative gap by establishing a grant program designed to support young people experiencing homelessness and prevent homelessness from affecting young people further.

AB 307 (Reyes) places explicit emphasis on prevention strategies. Homelessness prevention efforts demand a consideration for the long-term precursors to and consequences of homelessness for young people, such as mental illness and substance abuse. Exposure to trauma as a result of homelessness has been shown to be a precursor to substance use disorders.

Finally, AB 307 (Reyes) would account for nuances between counties by investing in low-barrier and diverse housing opportunities so that each county can access an array of options for youth to avoid housing instability. Therefore the Resolution recommends support for AB 307 (Reyes).

BACKGROUND:

The State of California has identified an urgent need to prevent and end homelessness as its homelessness and affordable housing crisis has grown. Governor Newsom signed the FY 2019-2020 State budget on June 27, 2019, which includes a \$2 billion package to fund planning grants, housing-related infrastructure, homelessness services, mixed-income loan programs, and an expansion of the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. However, the State Legislature has yet to establish a source of secure financial support for homeless youth.

Youth homelessness and housing instability is of particular concern to Los Angeles. According to a 2019 LAHSA report on the Greater Los Angeles area homeless count, youth homelessness in

LA County increased 24 percent since last year's point-in-time count. In the City of Los Angeles, over 2,000 youth and young adults experience homelessness on any given night, of which 3.2 percent identify as transgender, 2 percent identify as gender non-conforming, and 48 percent report suffering with a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, chronic illness, physical disability, brain injury, and/or developmental disability. According to LAHSA, 694 homeless youth report being victims of domestic violence and 272 are chronically homeless. An estimated 50 percent of all young adults who age out of foster care end up homeless or incarcerated. There are currently 30,000 children in foster care in Los Angeles County.

As stated in Section 1 of AB 307 (Reyes), it is the intent of the Legislature to prevent or reduce the incidence of substance use disorders among homeless youth and address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth. LGBTQ youth experience substance abuse risk factors and homelessness at rates higher than those of their non-LGBTQ peers.

Under the bill's proposed grant program, Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) would allocate funding to entities with demonstrated records of success and to those that participate in development of a local, youth-centered, coordinated entry system. The bill would require grant recipients to submit data and annual progress reports to the HCFC and agree to meet quality improvement goals, accept technical assistance, and annual site monitoring visits by the HCFC. To ensure further accountability for program quality and effectiveness, the bill would require the HCFC to submit to annual reports to the Legislature on the data received from grant recipients. To fully account for the numerous concerns associated with youth homelessness, the proposed grant program in AB 307 (Reyes) would select grant recipients that provide a wide array of services.

The goals of AB 307 (Reyes) align with those of youth homelessness prevention and reduction strategies currently being improved and implemented in Los Angeles City and County. As described in the Los Angeles City Council's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (CHS), working groups have been established to support efforts to expand access to services for transition-age youth (TAY), including the Homelessness and Higher Education working group and the Homeless Youth Forum in Los Angeles (HYFLA). Furthermore, as a COC administrative entity, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) would be eligible to apply for funding from such a grant program as that proposed in AB 307 (Reyes).

BILL STATUS

01/29/19	Read first time. To print.
01/30/19	From printer. May be heard in committee March 1.
02/07/19	Referred to Com. on HUM. S.
03/13/19	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on HUM. S. Read second time and amended.
03/14/19	Re-referred to Com. on HUM. S.
03/27/19	Coauthors revised.
03/27/19	From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (March 26). Re-referred to Com. on APPR
04/10/19	In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
05/16/19	From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended. (Ayes 16. Noes 1.) (May 16).

05/16/19 Read second time and amended. Ordered returned to second reading.
05/20/19 Read second time. Ordered to third reading.
05/23/19 Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 74. Noes 0. Page 1925.)
05/24/19 In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.
06/06/19 Referred to Coms. on HUMAN S. and HOUSING.
06/25/19 From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on HOUSING. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.)
(June 24). Re-referred to Com. on HOUSING.



Anna Enger
Legislative Analyst

Attachment: Resolution