

MOTION

Los Angeles Homeless Prevention Program

While California has 12% of the population, it has a third of the nation's homeless. Even with the influx of hundreds of millions of dollars in new homeless funding, the number of individuals facing homelessness is rising.

In Los Angeles the homeless population increased 16% over the last year. Many Angelenos are living paycheck to paycheck and are at risk of becoming homeless. There are estimates that 600,000 people in the county spend 90% of their income on rent alone.

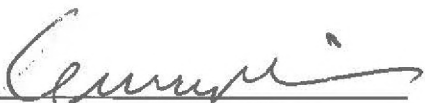
Some cities have enacted policies of one-time cash assistance to individuals that they have identified as being high-risk for becoming homeless. In Chicago, this one-time cash assistance reduced the likelihood of an individual entering a shelter after 6 months by 76%. Chicago's program offers not only rent assistance, but utility bill assistance and supportive services.


In New York the program is called HomeBase, and they offer emergency rental assistance, short-term financial assistance, relocation services, eviction prevention, financial counseling, and assistance with filing for public benefits. Families who participated in this program were 49% less likely to apply to a shelter.

Los Angeles should consider adopting a similar program that would assist individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless with financial assistance and supportive services.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Chief Administrative Officer to report with an analysis of the Chicago Homeless Prevention Program and the New York HomeBase program, with recommendations and cost estimates to implement a similar program in Los Angeles, including one-time cash assistance, utility bill assistance, and supportive services.

PRESENTED BY:


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