



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Autumn Burke

DISTRICT 62

FACT SHEET

AB 22 – Right to Housing for Families and Children

SUMMARY

AB 22 establishes the right to housing for families and children in California and codifies the best practices for addressing homelessness.

BACKGROUND

The homelessness crisis has reached unprecedented levels in California with the latest numbers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development¹ (HUD) showing that the homeless population has reached over 150,000; a total that accounts for over one-quarter of the nation's homeless. The total numbers continue to climb as time passes; Los Angeles County saw their total jump to about 59,000 homeless individuals, nearly a 12 percent increase from the previous year.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the most recent data shows seven in ten homeless, about 91,000 Californians, were unsheltered, meaning they were living in streets, parks, or other locations not meant for human habitation—the highest rate in the nation. Furthermore, HUD data shows that African Americans are disproportionately found on our streets as roughly 30 percent of California's unhoused population is black.

Urgent action is necessary to establish a right to housing for Californians. Focus must be placed on preventing families and children from entering homelessness entirely. However, should prevention fail, emergency accommodations and supportive services must be provided to those experiencing homelessness with the ultimate goal resulting in transition to permanent, affordable housing.

The emotional trauma suffered by those who experience homelessness is great and has long lasting effects on everyone in our state. The likelihood of a child entering the foster care system increases from

10 percent to 40 percent if a child is homeless for more than 90 days. The cost of foster care in Los Angeles County is nearly \$90,000 per year per child, nearly \$65,000 more per year than the average cost of rent per year for a 2-bedroom apartment.

SOLUTION

Meeting with housing advocates and elected officials in New York and throughout California have demonstrated the importance of needed leadership and action to tackle the issue of homelessness.

AB 22 moves beyond the sole creation of shelter and establishes the right to housing for some of our most vulnerable Californians. AB 22 codifies the best practices for addressing homelessness in a manner that minimizes trauma and ensures that children and families experiencing homelessness receive the respect and care they deserve.

The best practices are broken down into three components:

1. Prevention: Preventing families and children from entering homelessness through supportive services;
2. Emergency Accommodations: Ensuring that clean, safe, and supportive shelters are available for those that are in need; and
3. Permanent Housing: Providing access to permanent housing in the communities that families and children call home.

CONTACT

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¹<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2019-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>