

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1708

Introduced by Assembly Member Solache

February 4, 2026

An act to add Section 50246 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to housing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1708, as introduced, Solache. Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: round 7.

Existing law establishes the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program for the purpose of providing jurisdictions with grant funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges, as specified. Existing law provides for the allocation of funding under the program among continuums of care, cities, counties, and tribes in 6 rounds, with rounds 1 to 5, inclusive, administered by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and round 6 administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, as provided. Existing law establishes round 7 of the program and states the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that specifies the parameters, as specified. Existing law, effective July 1, 2026, appropriates \$500,000,000, as specified, provided that these funds be disbursed in accordance with specified requirements, including that funds from this appropriation be disbursed to a city, county, tribe, or continuum of care for round 7 of the program after a declaration by the director of the department, in consultation with the Director of Finance, that the department has substantially completed its initial disbursement of round 6 funds to the city, county, tribe, or continuum of care and that the city, county, tribe,

or continuum of care has obligated at least 50% of its total round 6 award. Existing law requires the department, during the 2025–26 fiscal year, to prepare to administer round 7 of the program with the goal that initial round 7 disbursements will be available to grantees meeting the statutory provisions for disbursement beginning September 1, 2026, as specified.

This bill would require a continuum of care receiving funding pursuant to round 7, as described above, to allocate funds to a smaller jurisdiction, defined as a city with a population under 300,000. The bill would require a smaller jurisdiction, in order to be eligible for funding, to, among other things, adopt a resolution, as specified, have a compliant housing element, and have adopted a local encampment policy, as described. The bill would require a continuum of care to accept applications for funding in accordance with specified procedures.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 50246 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 50246. (a) A continuum of care receiving funding pursuant to
- 4 paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 50245 shall allocate
- 5 funds to smaller jurisdictions pursuant to this section.
- 6 (b) In order to be eligible to receive funding pursuant to this
- 7 section, the smaller jurisdiction shall comply with each of the
- 8 following:
- 9 (1) (A) Adopt a resolution that does both of the following:
- 10 (i) Commits to participating in, and complying with, the
- 11 regionally coordinated homelessness action plan.
- 12 (ii) Directs the mayor to sign the memorandum of understanding
- 13 that reflects the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan.
- 14 (B) (i) Prior to adopting the resolution described in this
- 15 paragraph, the smaller jurisdiction shall hold a public hearing to
- 16 consider the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan.
- 17 (ii) At least 30 days prior to the public hearing, the smaller
- 18 jurisdiction shall post on its internet website the proposed,
- 19 approved, and amended regionally coordinated homelessness action
- 20 plan.
- 21 (2) Have a compliant housing element.

1 (3) Have adopted a local encampment policy consistent with
2 administration guidance.

3 (4) Demonstrate how its past actions, programs, and
4 appropriation of funds have served the objectives and goals of the
5 adopted regionally coordinated homelessness action plan and the
6 intent of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention
7 program to prevent and expeditiously reduce unsheltered
8 homelessness through homelessness prevention activities.

9 (c) A continuum of care shall accept applications for funding
10 in accordance with the following procedure:

11 (1) During an initial period of 30 days, for round 7 funding, a
12 continuum of care shall accept only applications from smaller
13 jurisdictions determined to be eligible pursuant to subdivision (b).

14 (2) (A) The continuum of care shall evaluate the applications
15 submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) and award funds in compliance
16 with all round 7 rules and regulations.

17 (B) The continuum of care shall prioritize applications in which
18 a smaller jurisdiction agrees to utilize round 7 funding in
19 partnership with a nonprofit, another smaller jurisdiction, or other
20 private organization eligible for round 7 funding.

21 (3) If funding remains after the awards made pursuant to
22 paragraph (2), the continuum of care shall accept and evaluate
23 applications from other eligible applicants.

24 (d) For purposes of this section, “smaller jurisdiction” means a
25 city with a population under 300,000.