



February 6, 2026

The Honorable José Luis Solache  
California State Assembly  
1020 N St. Rm. 5110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1708 (Solache) HHAP Pathways for Cities Act**  
**Notice of SPONSORSHIP** *(As Introduced 02/04/2026)*

Dear Assembly Member Solache,

The League of California Cities is proud to **sponsor** your AB 1708 (Solache), which would create a new pathway for cities with populations under 300,000 to access state homelessness funding.

Since 2019, the state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program, has provided direct funding to cities with populations over 300,000, all 58 counties, and the 44 Continuums of Care (CoC) across California. AB 1708 would create a new opportunity for the other 469 California cities with populations under 300,000 that meet clear accountability requirements to apply for HHAP funding through their CoC.

Currently, HHAP applicants must submit regionally coordinated action plans to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), identifying each jurisdiction's roles and responsibilities in addressing homelessness. While cities with populations under 300,000 may participate in these plans, direct recipients are encouraged, but not required, to allocate HHAP funding to those cities.

As a result, there is no requirement to meaningfully engage or allocate these critical resources to small and medium-sized cities. Many of these cities lack a clear and consistent pathway to access HHAP funding, even as they invest significant General Fund resources to prevent and reduce homelessness in their communities.

AB 1708 would address this by requiring CoCs, prior to allocating funding to other subrecipients in their region, to accept applications for a period of 30 days only from cities with populations under 300,000. To be eligible to apply, interested cities must commit to complying with their region's action plan, have a compliant housing element, and have an encampment policy consistent with administration guidance. Additionally, CoCs must prioritize applications from cities that have existing partnerships with non-profits, other cities, or have already leveraged state and local funding for existing projects in their communities.

Cities of all sizes are committed to addressing the homelessness crisis, and AB 1708 would strengthen the partnership between the state and California's cities to help ensure state investments continue to deliver measurable results. Prioritizing small and medium-sized cities as



HHAP subrecipients would bolster their efforts and enable even more people to access services and affordable housing.

According to a 2024 Cal Cities survey, nearly 90% of cities are investing their own general fund revenues to address homelessness, and 60% of cities have been unable to access HHAP funding as subrecipients. Nine in 10 cities are concerned about sustaining existing homelessness services over the long term, and 81% say inconsistent state funding has hindered their ability to address homelessness.

Cal Cities recognizes the impact of the HHAP program, which has placed more than 90,000 people into permanent housing since 2023. Cities of all sizes have consistently supported sustained funding for HHAP, even though most will never receive program funds, because they recognize its value in reducing homelessness statewide. As the Governor and the Legislature consider future investments in the program, it is important not only to sustain funding but also to ensure the program is structured to maximize its reach and impact. Providing all cities with a clear pathway to participate in HHAP would strengthen regional collaboration and accountability and ensure that state resources are deployed where they can most effectively serve unhoused Californians.

Local governments are best positioned to identify the programs and partnerships that will have the greatest impact in their communities. AB 1708 would create a clearly defined opportunity to compete for state resources and ensure that communities of all sizes have a meaningful role in the state's homelessness response efforts. For these reasons, Cal Cities is proud to **sponsor** AB 1708 (Solache). If you have any questions, please contact me at [cgrinder@calcities.org](mailto:cgrinder@calcities.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Grinder".

Caroline Grinder  
Legislative Advocate