



# City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL    NPUA    HACN

Regular    Special

**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026

**Title:** Letter of Support for AB 1708 (Solache) – HHAP Pathways for Cities Act

**Background:** Assembly Bill 1708 (Solache), sponsored by the League of California Cities, would establish a consistent pathway for cities with populations under 300,000 to access funding through the state’s Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program.

Since 2019, HHAP has provided direct and flexible funding to cities with populations over 300,000, all 58 counties, and the 44 Continuums of Care (CoC) statewide. The remaining 469 California cities with populations under 300,000 do not have a guaranteed or consistent mechanism to apply for or receive HHAP funding. While these cities may participate in regional action plans, there is currently no requirement that funding be meaningfully allocated to them.

AB 1708 would require CoCs, prior to allocating funding to other subrecipients, to accept applications for a 30-day period exclusively from eligible small and medium-sized cities. To qualify, cities must commit to regional coordination, maintain a compliant housing element, and have encampment policies consistent with state guidance. CoCs must also prioritize cities that demonstrate readiness through existing partnerships and leveraged investments.

According to Cal Cities, nearly 90% of cities are investing General Fund revenues to address homelessness, and 60% have been unable to access HHAP funding. AB 1708 seeks to improve equity, accountability, and regional collaboration by creating a clearly defined opportunity for cities of all sizes to compete for state resources.

The City of Needles administers public housing, Section 8, and 30 VASH vouchers for eligible unhoused veterans through the Housing Authority. The City coordinates with County partners to provide outreach, case management, transportation assistance, and shelter navigation, and supports local food banks and affordable housing development efforts. Access to HHAP funding would allow the City to expand outreach capacity, strengthen case management services, and accelerate placement of eligible individuals into stable, permanent housing.

**Fiscal Impact:** None. Approval of a support letter does not obligate the City to any financial commitment.

**Recommendation:** Approve the letter of support for AB 1708 (Solache) – HHAP Pathways for Cities Act and authorize the Mayor to sign and transmit the letter.

**Submitted By:** Patrick Martinez, City Manager

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

**Date:** 2/19/2026

**Other Department Approval (when required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_