


CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST

Department(s):	Date:	Coordination:	Dept. Approval:
Housing	3/14/18	City Attorney's Office City Manager's Office	/s/ Jacky Morales-Ferrand
			CMO Approval:  3/15/18

SUBJECT: SB 918 (Wiener/Rubio): Homeless Youth Act of 2018

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Support

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt a position of Support for SB 918 (Wiener/Rubio) Homeless Youth Act of 2018.
2. Place this item on the March 27, 2018, City Council Agenda, City Council Meeting so that the City's Legislative Representative can advocate the City's support for SB 918.

BILL SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Office of Homeless Youth within the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). It would require HCD to set specific goals to prevent and end youth homelessness in California, and to monitor progress toward those goals. The bill would also require HCD to:

- Assess system gaps and report them to the Legislature.
- Provide technical assistance to jurisdictions without existing programs to serve homeless youth.
- Coordinate efforts to prevent homelessness among youth who were involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.
- Coordinate with young people experiencing homelessness, state entities and other stakeholders to inform policy, practices, and programs.

SB 918 would authorize HCD to administer \$60 million in grants from the State's cannabis tax and other funds to:

- Provide rental assistance; supportive housing; transitional housing; rapid re-housing; host homes; and shelters for homeless minors and youth.
- Provide drug abuse prevention; mental and physical health care; transitional living services; education and employment assistance; and family support/reunification.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity to various groups, including youth who are LGBT, and have disproportionately high rates of homelessness.
- Provide funding for agencies that work with their local continuum of care organizations and otherwise coordinate with local and state youth-serving organizations.

As of the March 6, 2018 version of the bill, no more than 40 percent of the total funds granted in each year may be used to establish, expand, or operate shelter programs.

The City's 2017 Homeless Census and Survey found 330 unaccompanied children and 1,436 transition-age youth (18-24) experiencing homelessness in the City of San José. This documented an increase of 933 homeless youth and children from 2015 to 2017, with 95% of the homeless youth and children unsheltered and living outside.

While there are some resources that exist to serve homeless youth in San José, the need far outpaces the availability of beds and services. If SB 918 is passed, HCD will create a new permanent source of funding to address youth homelessness. The City's community partners would likely apply for future SB 918 grants if available. Any potential funding our community partners could access to increase existing service levels would increase the resources to this population and have a material impact on reducing youth homelessness in San José.

POLICY ALIGNMENT:

This bill aligns with the Council-approved *2018 Legislative Guiding Principles and Priorities* to:

- End Homelessness - Support legislation and secure funding sources to end homelessness to benefit unhoused veterans, youths, families, individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities, and victims of domestic violence. Advocate for State and Federal agencies that separately fund capital development and supportive services to coordinate funding availability and awards. Provide services that promote health, economic self-sufficiency, education, and high quality of life for all San José residents.

SUPPORTERS/OPPONENTS:

Support:

- California Coalition for Youth
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Equality California
- Housing California
- John Burton Advocates for Youth
- Tipping Point

Opposition: SB 918 does not yet have listed opponents.

STATUS OF BILL:

SB 918 was read a second time, amended, and re-referred to the State Senate Committee on Human Services on March 18th.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Jacky Morales-Ferrand, 408-535-3851