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DIANE B. DIXON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

February 12, 2026

Assemblymember John Harabedian
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

Received 2/12/2026

Re: Request for Audit of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP)

Dear Assemblymember Harabedian,

We, the undersigned members, are writing to respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approve an audit of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP).

Since 2019, California has spent approximately \$24 billion on homelessness, but in those first five years, homelessness increased by about 30,000, to more than 181,000. As part of the state's broader approach to tackling homelessness, the goal of HHAP was to make available grant allocations to cities, counties, and continuums of care in order to prevent and end homelessness in their regions. In doing so, HHAP was intended to "provide local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges." HHAP was originally allocated \$650 million in one-time funding in 2019, which was called HHAP Round 1. Since then, the state has allocated more than \$4.3 billion in additional funds through five subsequent rounds, along with a commitment to appropriate \$500 million in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Round 5 of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention program was formally established in law, Health and Safety Code 50232(a) and 50236(a), with the explicit "purpose of creating and implementing regionally coordinated plans that organize and deploy the full array of homelessness programs and resources comprehensively and effectively". As part of HHAP's approach, all applicants were required to create and implement Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans. Furthermore, Round 5 clarified that the California Interagency

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Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) expected applicants to use the funds, amongst other expectations, to: foster robust regional collaboration and strategic partnerships aimed at fortifying the homeless services and housing delivery system; demonstrate sufficient resources dedicated to long-term permanent housing solutions, including capital and operating costs; ensure the long-term sustainability of housing and supportive services; fund projects that provide housing and services that are Housing First compliant - amongst others.

However, despite the copious funding and support of the administration, 2024 data from the Public Policy Institute of California shows that “of the nation’s 771,500 people experiencing homelessness, over 187,000 (24%) were in California” and that “two in three were unsheltered, accounting for almost half of the country’s unsheltered population.” Similarly, data from Housing California highlights the failure of current attempts to adequately address homelessness. For example, data shows that “contrary to popular belief, only a third of people experiencing homelessness have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness or substance use disorder, often developed during the course of their experience with homelessness.” Furthermore, “California’s homeless population is disproportionately Black, brown, LGBTQ+, foster youth, justice-system involved, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations”.

The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) is California’s main general homelessness funding stream, but the state lacks data to judge the program's effectiveness because agencies are not required to report uniform outcomes.

Audit Scope and Objectives

The scope of the audit request is as follows:

1. Based on available data, how would you characterize the performance of the HHAP program overall in reducing the net unsheltered homeless population?
2. On what services have local jurisdictions been spending HHAP funds? What local expenditures of HHAP funding have proven to be the most effective at reducing unsheltered homelessness?
3. In 2024, the State Auditor examined the HHAP program and concluded that the state was gathering insufficient data about the program to enable the Auditor to determine whether it was

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cost-efficient. Since the previous audit, has the state implemented sufficient accountability measures to ensure that counties, cities, and continuums of care are spending HHAP funds efficiently on programs that are directly reducing the homeless population?

4. Have recent executive branch reorganization plans for the Department of Housing and Community Development and California Interagency Council on Homelessness affected the disbursement and oversight of HHAP funds?

5. Did the HHAP Round 5 requirement to establish Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans, along with requirements to foster regional collaboration, have a measurable impact on the success of homelessness programs?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For questions, please reach out to Aaron Rice in my Office at 916 319 2072 or Aaron.Rice@asm.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Diane B. Dixon in black ink.

Assemblymember Diane B. Dixon
72nd Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Heath Flora in black ink.

Assemblymember Heath Flora
9th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of David J. Tangipa in black ink.

Assemblymember David J. Tangipa
8th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Wallis in blue ink.

Assemblymember Wallis
47th Assembly District

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ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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