

Request: Support of Senator Dianne Feinstein’s “Fighting Homelessness through Services and Housing Act”.

Description: The City of Merced is affected by the nation’s homelessness crisis, with its effects seen in our Downtown, on our streets, in our parks and across from our schools. We don’t have enough permanent supportive housing for our homeless, we don’t have enough mental health care and crisis counseling, we don’t have enough substance abuse treatment and job training. The City and our partners lack the facilities, staffing and training to deal with the situation and the federal funding with help us address the crisis.

Scope of Services would include the following (not all inclusive):

1. Additional permanent supportive housing
2. Additional affordable housing
3. More mental health care
4. More substance abuse treatment
5. More health care
6. More job training
7. More crisis counselors
8. More job training
9. A robust navigation center
10. Homeless services in outlying cities so Merced doesn’t remain the center for all services
11. Additional case managers
12. Collaborative services with school districts
13. Homeless training for public safety
14. Child trafficking/abuse training
15. Additional services for homeless families
16. More children’s programs and activities



Necessity: The City of Merced has 295 homeless individuals, according to the 2019 Point in Time Count by the Continuum of Care, and Merced County has 607 people who are homeless, an increase from last year. There is a need to provide permanent supportive housing, navigation centers and a variety of other services to assist in getting people off the streets and under a roof. Merced is a disadvantaged community and resources are already scarce to address the problem. This bill would help provide the resources to our population that is in need and help them find their way off the streets and into homes and shelters.

Beneficiaries:

- Homeless persons and families
- Merced County residents and businesses
- State of California

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