MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Ste. 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
California State Assembly
Chair, Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Ste. 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
California State Senate
Chair, Budget Subcommittee 4
1021 O Street, Ste. 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
California State Assembly
Chair, Budget Subcommittee 5
1021 O Street, Ste. 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Preservation (HHAP) Grant Program

Dear Chairs Wiener, Gabriel, Cabaldon, and Quirk-Silva,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City strongly recommends the Legislature invest at least $1 billion in ongoing funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant program. This critical investment, alongside a seventh round of HHAP this fiscal year, will allow communities across California to continue securing permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, while preventing additional households from falling into homelessness.

Between January 2023 and September 2024, local communities have connected over 249,000 Californians to shelter, services, and housing, including thousands in Long Beach, thanks to the HHAP program. This includes 57,000 Californians who gained permanent housing. This targeted investment has allowed California to experience smaller increases in homelessness in both 2023 and 2024 than the nation experienced as a whole.

In Long Beach, HHAP funding has been used to support:

- Operation and construction of the two Long Beach Homekey Program motel conversions – the former Luxury Inn (5950 Long Beach Blvd) which will provide 78 interim housing beds per night, and the former Best Western (1725 Long Beach Blvd) which currently provides 99 interim housing beds per night.
- Intensive Case Management for 525 participants, including housing navigation and housing retention services.
- Construction of the first Long Beach-owned Youth Shelter, creating 12 new shelter beds per night and 60 storage units accessible for participants who are working with Case Managers to get connected to services and housing
- The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Rapid Rehousing Program, which provides housing navigation, temporary rental assistance and stabilization services for people between the ages of 18 and 24.

Building on this progress is essential. HHAP funding has helped local governments increase outreach and services available to unhoused residents, but more people are falling into homelessness than our systems can serve. The one-time nature of past funding inhibits effective service delivery, prevents long-term planning efforts, and stifles more ambitious statewide goals.

An ongoing investment of at least $1 billion from the state would have transformative effects, allowing local governments to scale proven homelessness prevention solutions, provide vital support to thousands of Californians currently experiencing homelessness, and generate more permanent housing. Ongoing funding also provides a critical accountability tool for all levels of government to ensure the best possible outcomes from HHAP dollars. The City of Long Beach is committed to meaningful accountability provisions for HHAP and other state investments.

Continued collaboration across all levels of government is vital to achieving shared state and local goals of addressing unsheltered homelessness and fostering safe and thriving communities. For these reasons, the City strongly urges the Legislature to prioritize ongoing funding for the HHAP program to ensure sustained progress in addressing homelessness and improving the quality of life for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc. The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District