

COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, June 14, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

League Office, 1400 K Street, 3rd Floor Carpenter Room, Sacramento, CA

A G E N D A

SPECIAL ORDER: State Budget and Issues Briefing for all policy committee members
10:00 – 10:45 a.m., Room 204, Sacramento Convention Center
Upon adjournment, individual policy committee meetings will begin

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Public Comment

III. Legislative Update (Handout) *Informational*
Speaker: Derek Dolfie, League Legislative Representative

IV. City of San Jose *Informational (11:30am)*
Speaker: Alexandria Felton, Senior Executive Analyst, Intergovernmental Relations, City of San Jose
Hear from the City of San Jose on how their city is dealing with disaster preparedness through community resiliency programs.

V. The Primary School (Invited) *Informational*
Speaker: Meredith Liu, Co-Founder and Chief Design Officer, The Primary School
Hear a presentation from The Primary School on the innovative approaches they have to child care and how they are using their model in local communities.

VI. Legislative Agenda (Attachment A) *Action*
Speaker: Derek Dolfie, League Legislative Representative
1. [AB 344 \(Calderon\)](#) New Beginnings California Program.
2. [SB 258 \(Hertzberg\)](#) California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program: grants: homeless shelters: pets and veterinary services.

Next Meeting (tent.): Annual Conference, Long Beach, October 16
Staff will notify committee members after August 22nd if the policy committee will be meeting in October.

NOTE: Policy committee members should be aware that lunch is usually served at these meetings. The state’s Fair Political Practices Commission takes the position that the value of the lunch should be reported on city officials’ statement of economic interests form. Because of the service you provide at these meetings, the League takes the position that the value of the lunch should be reported as income (in return for your service to the committee) as opposed to a gift (note that this is not income for state or federal income tax purposes—just Political Reform Act reporting purposes). If you would prefer not to have to report the value of the lunches as income, we will let you know the amount so you may reimburse the League.

Brown Act Reminder: The League of California Cities’ Board of Directors has a policy of complying with the spirit of open meeting laws. Generally, off-agenda items may be taken up only if:

1. Two-thirds of the policy committee members find a need for immediate action exists and the need to take action came to the attention of the policy committee after the agenda was prepared (**Note:** If fewer than two-thirds of policy committee members are present, taking up an off-agenda item requires a unanimous vote); or
2. A majority of the policy committee finds an emergency (for example: work stoppage or disaster) exists.

A majority of a city council may not, consistent with the Brown Act, discuss specific substantive issues among themselves at League meetings. Any such discussion is subject to the Brown Act and must occur in a meeting that complies with its requirements.

Informational Items: Any agenda item listed for information purposes may be acted upon by the Policy Committee if the Chair determines such action is warranted and conforms with current League policy. If the committee wishes to revise League policy or adopt new policy for an item listed as informational, committees are encouraged to delay action until the next meeting to allow for preparation of a full analysis of the item.

Community Services - Legislative Agenda
June 13, 2019

1. [AB 344 \(Calderon\) New Beginnings California Program](#)

Bill Summary:

This bill would create the New Beginnings California Program within the Department of Community Services and Development, which would function as a grant program. The funding allocated through this program would provide cities and local continuum care facilities the ability to implement or expand local programs that connect homeless individuals with employment opportunities and services. Additionally, these programs would provide access to resources for individuals who are not yet ready for employment so that they can be prepared to enter the workforce as soon as possible.

Bill Description:

The New Beginnings California Program would match existing California Emergency Solutions Grants administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, which are currently distributed to assist homeless individuals and families in regaining stable housing. This bill would appropriate funds to the New Beginnings California Program to be issued as grants to cities and local continuum care facilities. Each grant awarded is not to exceed \$50,000, and a maximum of 50 grants will be awarded annually. Cities and continuum care programs would be required to match any funds that they receive from the program.

Additionally, the funding for this program would be upon appropriation from the Department of Community Services and Development to cities and local continuum of care programs with employment programs.

To be eligible for grant funding, local homeless employment programs must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Programs must connect individuals residing in supportive housing with work opportunities
2. Participants must be paid a wage at or about the minimum wage
3. Resources and services must be provided to individuals who are not yet ready to work so they may enter the workforce sooner

Background:

California's homeless population currently accounts for 24% of the homeless population nationwide. Despite efforts to address homelessness in the state, homelessness continues to be a significant issue. Programs such as There's a Better Way in the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Denver Day Works in Denver, Colorado have proven to be successful in providing permanent employment to homeless individuals. This bill would incentivize California cities to implement such programs in their communities. Currently, 17 California cities have introduced homeless employment programs.

Fiscal Impact:

If all fifty \$50,000 grants are awarded, \$2.5 million (GF) would need to be allocated per year to fund these grants. The creation of the program would cost the Department of Community Services \$590,000 (GF) for personnel and operating expenses. Additionally, there would be a one-time cost of \$100,000 (GF) for implementing a grantee reporting program for activity and outcomes. As mentioned above, cities would be required to match any funds received from the program.

Existing League Policy:

Housing for Homeless: Current League policy favors collaboration between state and local jurisdictions to address homeless housing issues rather than a one size fits all solution. The League also supports state funding to assure that local governments have the ability to address the needs of the homeless populations in their communities (Page 41).

Comments:

This legislation would provide critical state funding to cities who are taking steps to address the needs of their homeless populations without hampering their ability to continually run existing programs under their own particular administrative and funding structures.

However, the committee should consider if the requirement that cities must match received grant money would limit some cities who may be interested in applying, but do not have the recourses to do so. It may also be important to consider the grant requirement that local programs must provide residents in supportive housing with work opportunities. Would that requirement limit some cities from being able to assist the entirety of their homeless populations? Lastly, the \$50,000 per city limit may limit the ability for a city to provide employment opportunities, but this funding is much needed and could serve as a critical step in the right direction.

Support and Opposition:

According to the author, “dozens of city and county governments in California have declared homelessness an emergency. Despite increased efforts and resources to reduce homelessness in California, homelessness has remained a significant issue.”

“Cities and counties throughout the state have started pursuing additional strategies to aid those in need, with several implementing programs that provide homeless individuals with work while providing easy access to services. AB 344 will incentive local governments to either pursue a homeless employment program of their own or expand an existing one – building on the success that these employment programs have found in cities throughout the country, while not taking away from other necessary services,”

Support (as of 5/15/19):

- California Police Chiefs Association
- City of West Hollywood
- National Association of Social Workers

- California Chapter (NASW-CA)
- City of Long Beach
- United Way of California
- California Workforce Association
- United Way of Stanislaus County
- United Way Fresno and Madera Counties
- Root and Rebound Reentry Advocates
- United Way Bay Area
- Golden Sierra Workforce Development Board

Opposition (as of 5/15/19):

- None

Staff Recommendation: The staff recommends the committee support AB 344.

Committee Recommendation:

Board Action:

2. [SB 258 \(Hertzberg\) California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program: grants: homeless shelters: pets and veterinary services.](#)

Bill Summary:

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to create and administer a program that would award grants to homeless shelters that allow for pets. These grants would allow for shelter to provide food, shelter, and veterinary services for pets that are owned homeless individuals.

Bill Description:

These grants will be awarded to qualifying shelters. To qualify, shelters must:

1. Establish or have preexisting rules for the conduct and responsibilities for pets and their owners
2. Provide crates or kenneling for the animals
3. Provide food both for the pets and their owners
4. Offer basic veterinary services, including spay and neutering

Background:

It is estimated that five to ten percent of the homeless population in America have pets. However, very few shelters allow individuals to keep their pets. These individuals, therefore, have to choose between seeking shelter and giving up their animals. Of the 187 shelters in the cities of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose, only 16 were pet-friendly. The goal of providing these services would be to entice more people who are experiencing homelessness to seek out medical and living assistance without the worry of losing their pets. Thus, improving conditions for both the owner and the animal.

Fiscal Impact:

This bill would require budget year costs of \$514,000, and ongoing costs of \$469,000 per year to fund additional personnel and implement/monitor the grant program from the general fund.

Existing League Policy:

While the League does not currently have any specific policies regarding the presence of pets in homeless shelters, there are guiding principles when it comes to housing for the homeless.

1. *Housing for Homeless*: Current League policy favors collaboration between state and local jurisdictions to address homeless housing issues rather than a one size fits all solution. The League also supports state funding to assure that local governments have the ability to address the needs of the homeless populations in their communities. Pg. 41

Comments:

This bill would remove a barrier for homeless individuals with pets by allowing them to seek out critical medical and residential services that are currently very limited. By providing incentives for homeless shelters to allow pets, there would hopefully be fewer individuals in the state going unsheltered. Pets provide many benefits to homeless individuals, such as security, companionship, and warmth. Lastly, this bill would improve the health and wellness of these animals by providing basic vet services and food.

It is unclear if shelters would need to reapply for these grants year to year, or if they could depend on steady streams of funding over several years. This could prove to be an issue if shelters invest in crates, kennels, and veterinary services that they can no longer fund if not guaranteed the grant funding into the foreseeable future.

Support/Opposition:

According to the author, "SB 258 joins in on the fight against the homeless crisis in California, by making accommodations for pets. In making these accommodations we support both ends of the leash and bring individuals into shelters, who otherwise would not get wraparound care."

Support as of 5-15-2019:

- City of Sacramento
- San Diego Human Society and SPCA
- Mars, Incorporated
- Changing the Streets
- Feeding Pets of the Homeless
- Friends of Front Street Animal Shelter
- (2 individuals)

Opposition as of 5-15-2019:

- None on file

Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommend that the committee support SB 258.

Committee Recommendation:

Board Action: