



## AB 1816 (Bryan) – Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program

### SUMMARY

This bill would provide competitive grants to counties, homeless Continuums of Care, and community-based nonprofits to fund housing and reentry services and workforce development for people recently released from incarceration who are experiencing or at risk of falling into homelessness. Funding for this program will come from the General Fund and will be sustained by an additional budget request.

### BACKGROUND

Greater than 95% of the people who are currently incarcerated in California will eventually return home. Reductions in the size of California’s Prison Population in recent years have resulted in over \$1.5 billion dollars in cost savings to the state. However, California currently does not have adequate infrastructure in place to ensure that those who have been touched by the criminal legal system can successfully rebuild their lives leaving this group particularly vulnerable to recidivism, unemployment, housing insecurity, and homelessness. AB 1816 creates a pathway to reduce homelessness and recidivism rates by providing evidence-based housing services, and employment/workforce development services to people recently released from incarceration.

### PROBLEM

The data is clear: the connection between homelessness and involvement with the criminal legal system – particularly incarceration – is deep and concerning. CDCR previously estimated that one-third to one-half of the 56,000 of people currently on parole are experiencing homelessness, and CDCR staff estimates that as many as 20% of people leaving prison discharge not having a stable place to live. Additionally, nearly every other person who is currently unhoused has at some point faced incarceration and is five times more likely to be unemployed than the average Californian. Studies also show that African Americans are almost seven-times more likely to be homeless than the general population in California, an issue driven by historic systemic racism. Furthermore, studies show that housing issues directly affect employment opportunities and outcomes. These policy challenges have been compounded by the affordable housing crisis in California and the lasting economic impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

### SOLUTION

By 2024-25, the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) estimates that the prison population changes will reduce state costs by \$1.5 billion. AB 1816 proposes that the state require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in collaboration with community-based organizations and other relevant department stakeholders to create the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development program utilizing evidence-based housing and wraparound services. These programs will bring together comprehensive resources to assist eligible participants at least 90 days prior to their release from prison, including housing navigation and tenancy acquisition services. Through these integrated services, people recently released from incarceration will find the necessary housing and employment support that will ultimately save the state money in the long run, provide a much-needed stable foundation for successful reentry, and help meet the state’s goals for solving homelessness.

### SUPPORT

Corporation for Supportive Housing (Co-Sponsor)  
Housing California (Co-Sponsor)  
LARP Organization (Co-Sponsor)  
Western Center on Law & Poverty (Co-Sponsor)  
Alameda County Democratic Party  
American Civil Liberties of California  
California Coalition for Women Prisoners  
Center for Employment Opportunities  
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice  
CROP Organization  
CSU Project Rebound Consortium  
East Bay for Everyone  
East Bay Housing Organizations  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Five Keys Schools and Programs  
Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties  
Initiate Justice  
Insight Center for Community Economic Development  
La Defensa  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority



## **AB 1816 (Bryan) – Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program**

National Housing Law Project

PolicyLink

Prosecutors Alliance of California

PURE 1 Organization

San Francisco District Attorney's Office

San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project

San Francisco Public Defender

SFMade

Starting Over.

Successful Reentry

Time for Change Foundation

Union Station Homeless Services

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Young Women's Freedom Center

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

---

Autumn McCreary | Legislative Director

Office of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan

(916) 319-2054

[Autumn.McCreary@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Autumn.McCreary@asm.ca.gov)