

# SUPPORT AB 1816 (BRYAN)

## Reentry Housing & Workforce Development Grant Program

### WHAT WOULD AB 1816 DO?

AB 1816 would create a competitive **Reentry Housing & Workforce Development Grant Program** to fund evidence-based housing, support services, and workforce development programs for people who were formerly incarcerated in state prisons and who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

### WHY IS AB 1816 IMPORTANT?

As California prison populations decline and state prisons close, our state must ensure that people returning to communities have stable and permanent housing to relieve the homelessness crisis and reduce recidivism rates. AB 1816's Reentry Housing & Workforce Program would be administered by the Dept. of Housing and Community development, leveraging evidence-based best practices in long-term housing and services including the "Housing First" model.

Providing housing, housing-based services, and workforce development programs to formerly incarcerated Californians not only supports successful reintegration to communities, but will also result in cost-savings for the state. While it costs over \$100,000 to incarcerate someone in a California prison, it costs just \$25,000 per year to provide permanent supportive housing (housing with supportive services). As over 30,000 people are released on parole or early release each year over the next five years, a targeted housing program is a cost-effective and equitable investment that will keep thousands of Californians from experiencing homelessness.

Data shows that people cannot easily access employment without stable housing, and struggle to afford housing without a living-wage job. AB 1816 would also fund job training and other workforce services to connect formerly incarcerated Californians to family-sustaining employment.

### KEY FACTS

- **39%** of people entering parole in CA have unstable housing
- **50%** of unhoused people report a history of incarceration
- **People on parole are 7x** more likely to recidivate when homeless than when housed
- **\$100k** annual cost to incarcerate someone in CA prison
- **\$25k** annual cost of permanent supportive housing

### SUPPORTED BY

AB 1816 is supported by a diverse coalition of housing, reentry, and economic justice organizations, including:



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