

Executive Summary

In 2013, the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP) published *More Than A Roof: How California Can End Youth Homelessness*, which included evidence-based policy recommendations to end youth homelessness in California. CHYP's [You Count Project](#), which shows data on youth homelessness in California, revealed that California's Continuums of Care are currently only able to house 1 of every 7 homeless youth in the state. Depending on how one defines homeless youth, there are estimated 29,532 to 274,460 homeless youth in California. The [2021 Review](#) is designed to follow-up on the work of *More Than a Roof* to show what legislation on youth homelessness has passed from 2013–2021 in California to provide information on policy steps still needed.



10 Key Areas and Their Legislation from 2013–2021:

GOVERNANCE

24 of 37 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Establish ending youth homelessness by 2020 as a state priority.

Legislation Highlights:

Budget Act funding allocations and the collaboration between state and other agencies

HOUSING STRATEGIES

18 of 22 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Increase access to safe, stable, and affordable homes for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Legislation Highlights:

Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention includes \$5,722,774.07 in youth expenditures.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

8 of 18 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Increase coordination and integration of the continuum of services and supports needed.

Legislation Highlights:

CalFresh eligibility, free birth records, and crisis centers/services

EDUCATION

23 of 44 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Improve educational outcomes for homeless youth to achieve stability and employment.

Legislation Highlights:

Fee waivers, reducing barriers to enrollment, and expansion of local education liaisons

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

15 of 20 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Provide alternatives and improve law enforcement responses to homeless youth.

Legislation Highlights:

Rehabilitation programs, sealing of records, and licensing mandates

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

7 of 11 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Prevent instances of homelessness before they occur

Legislation Highlights:

Addressed substance abuse, human trafficking, and foster care affecting youth

HEALTH

5 of 10 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Improve health outcomes for youth who are experiencing homelessness.

Legislation Highlights:

Created a category for “peer support specialists,” and [discharge planning](#).

RESEARCH AND DATA

2 of 5 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Better understand the number and characteristics of homeless youth.

Legislation Highlights:

Revision of goals to measure data on youth homelessness

EMPLOYMENT

2 of 6 bills passed

2013 Goal:

Improve employment opportunities and financial stability for homeless youth.

Legislation Highlights:

Government intern and student assistant positions for youth with lived expertise of homelessness

RURAL AREAS 0 of 0 bills passed

2013 Goal: Ensure that rural communities in California have the capacity to address youth homelessness in their local region.

Recommendations

- ▶ Funding prioritization is needed for youth homelessness efforts on infrastructure and capacity building.
- ▶ Create more low-barrier housing and services for youth through prevention and intervention efforts.
- ▶ Expand youth homelessness definition for effective identification, data collection, and service coordination.
- ▶ Focus on the needs of the most vulnerable populations of youth such as LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, trafficked youth, and those residing in rural areas.