

City of Glendora | City Hall

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March 10, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 8630 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Roger Niello Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 7110 Sacramento, CA 95814 The Honorable Philip Ting Chair, Assembly Budget Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 8230 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Vince Fong Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 4630 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Skinner, Senator Niello, Assembly Member Ting, and Assembly Member Fong:

In the spirit of a strong state and local government partnership that benefits all Californians, the City of Glendora respectfully calls on the state and lawmakers to take action to bolster local government efforts to support our most vulnerable residents and ensure California's economic strength.

City officials are on the front lines delivering essential services to more than 80% of the state's residents. They rely on collaborative partnerships with the state and other organizations to meet the challenges facing our communities. Every day, local leaders connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with wraparound services, delivering permanent supportive housing, and jumpstarting the construction of affordable housing in their communities. Clearly there's more work to do and that requires additional resources.

The City of Glendora calls on the Legislature to make a permanent funding stream of \$3 billion annually for cities to help more Californians find homes and prevent more Californians from having to live on the streets, under bridges, or in their cars.

Tougher fiscal times can exacerbate the challenges our communities face by contributing to a downturn in the production of affordable housing, an increase in the struggle for resources for unhoused residents, and ever-increasing economic inequity. In the face of another potential recession, we cannot afford for these gaps to widen.

An ongoing \$3 billion investment from the state can spur much-needed housing production, ensure that thousands more Californians experiencing homelessness get the support they need, and more importantly, prevent thousands more from losing their homes. This funding will further our state-local partnership to advance practical, data-driven, and effective strategies to two of the state's biggest challenges.

It is also time for the state to finally pay down its growing backlog of unreimbursed claims — **nearly \$1 billion** — **owed to local governments for state-mandated programs**. The vitality of local governments is dependent upon fiscal stability, and local governments rely on the state to reimburse them in a timely manner for costs related to delivering a wide range of state-mandated programs.

Equally important, the City of Glendora strongly opposes any action that would reduce or eliminate funding for local governments as a short-term solution to balance the 2023-24 state budget. Diverting funding would only compound cities' financial challenges and jeopardize the delivery of critical resources to our most vulnerable residents.

We look forward to engaging with you to realize an even stronger partnership for the benefit of all Californians.

Sincerely,

CITY OF GLENDORA

Gary Boyer, Mayor

Cc: Honorable Senator Anthony J. Portantino – 25th District Honorable Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio – 48th District Jennifer Quan, Regional Public Affairs Mgr. – League of California Cities League of California Cities