

# An Initial Assessment of California's Homeless Emergency Aid Program

A Presentation to the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

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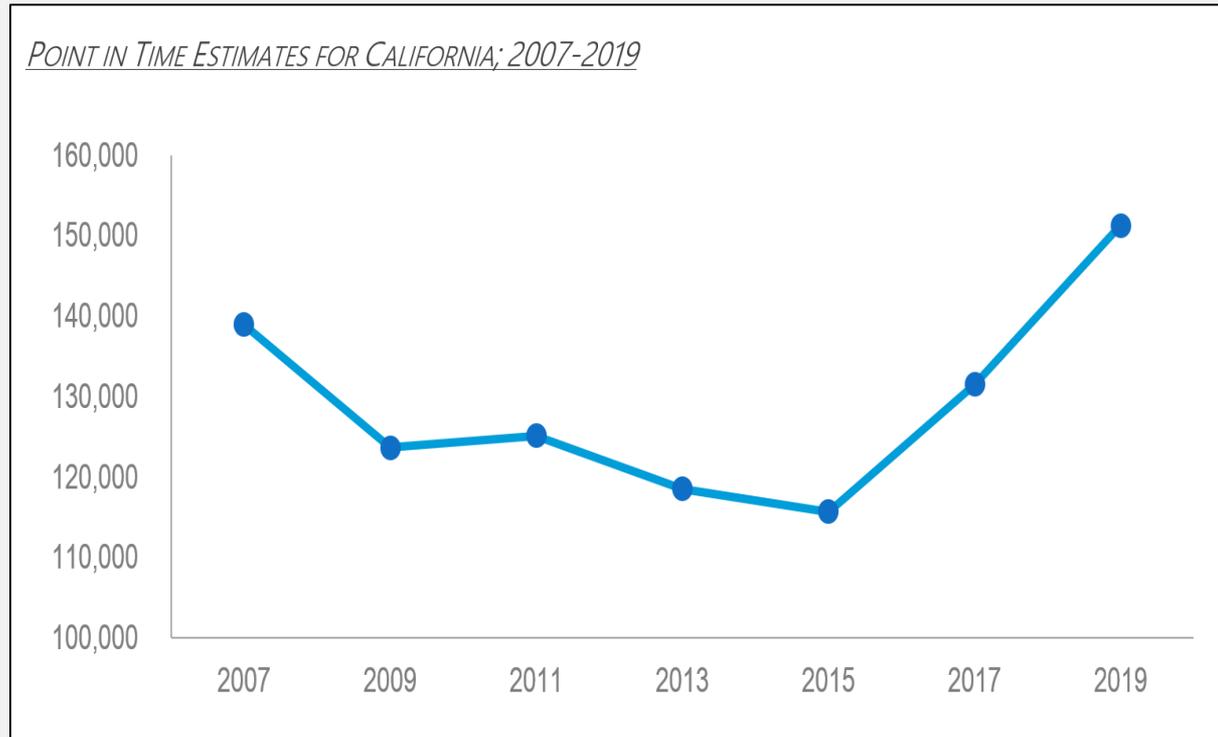


# ROAD MAP

- ① Background and Purpose
- ② Key Findings
- ③ Recommendations and Conclusion
- ④ Q & A

## BACKGROUND

Substantial rise in homelessness in California, particularly in past four years



## BACKGROUND

- CA State legislature passed SB 850 in 2018
- \$500 million in one-time funding through Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)
  - 70% of funds to CoCs
  - 30% of funds to 11 large cities

## METHODOLOGY

- HCFC commissioned CSUS to conduct an initial assessment of HEAP planning and implementation
  - 20 in-depth interviews (out of 54 jurisdictions)
  - 40 survey responses
  - Application review

## BACKGROUND

- Our report describes...
  - The variety of programs and innovative practices funded by HEAP in the first year
  - Overarching strategies used by communities
  - Early successes and challenges
  - Our recommendations

## BACKGROUND

- Please keep in mind...
  - An independent study
  - Not intended to be an evaluation of the *outcomes or impact* of HEAP
  - Intended to help inform ongoing evaluation and planning decisions

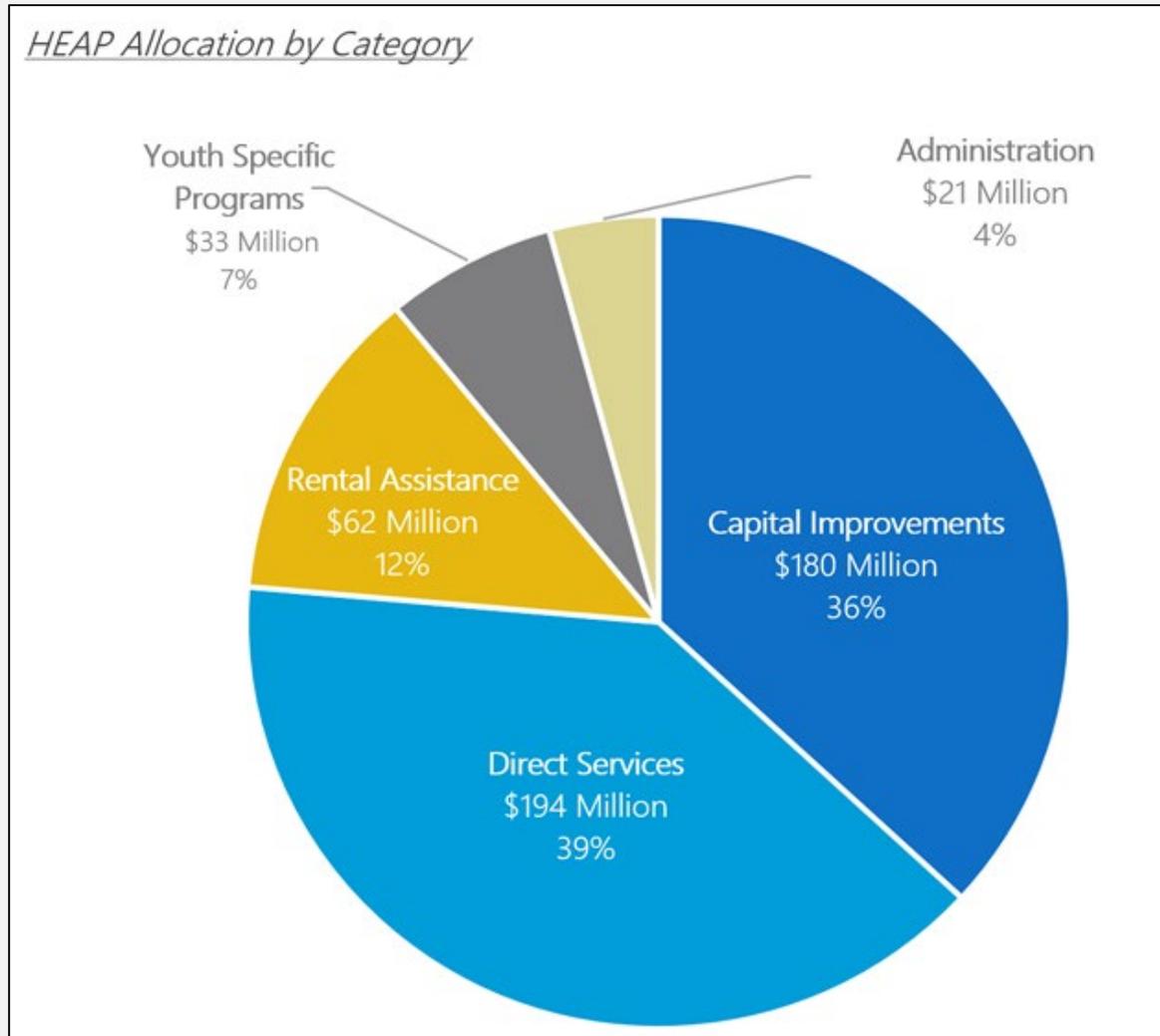
# OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

## HOW ARE GRANTEES SPENDING HEAP FUNDS?

Four main categories

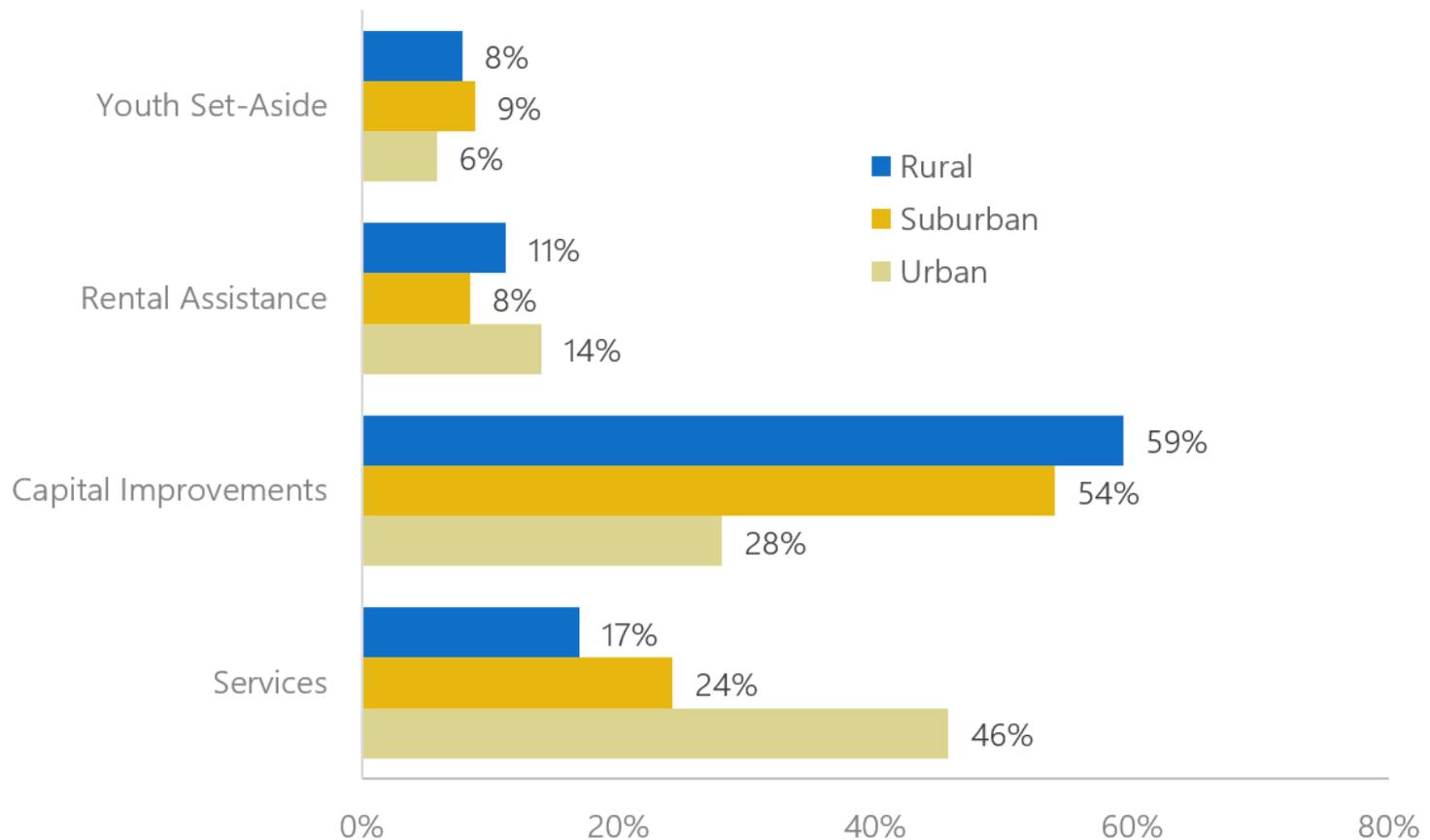
- Services
- Capital improvement
- Rental assistance
- Youth set-aside

The largest proportion of funds were allocated to **direct services** to help Californians either avoid or exit homelessness

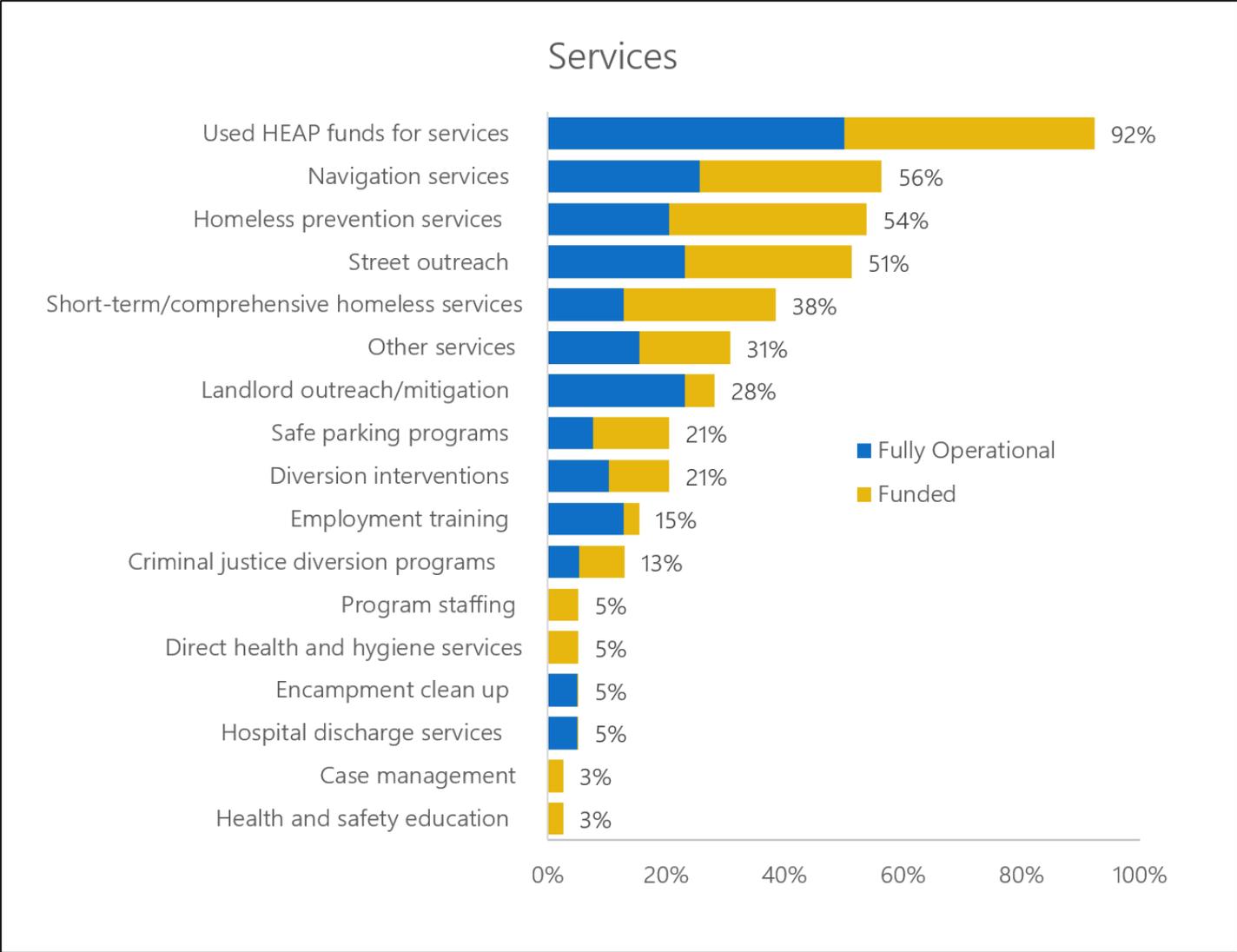


# Urban, suburban and rural communities varied in their HEAP allocations, particularly with respect to capital investments and services

*PLANNED FUNDS BY CATEGORY AMONG URBAN AND NON-URBAN JURISDICTIONS*



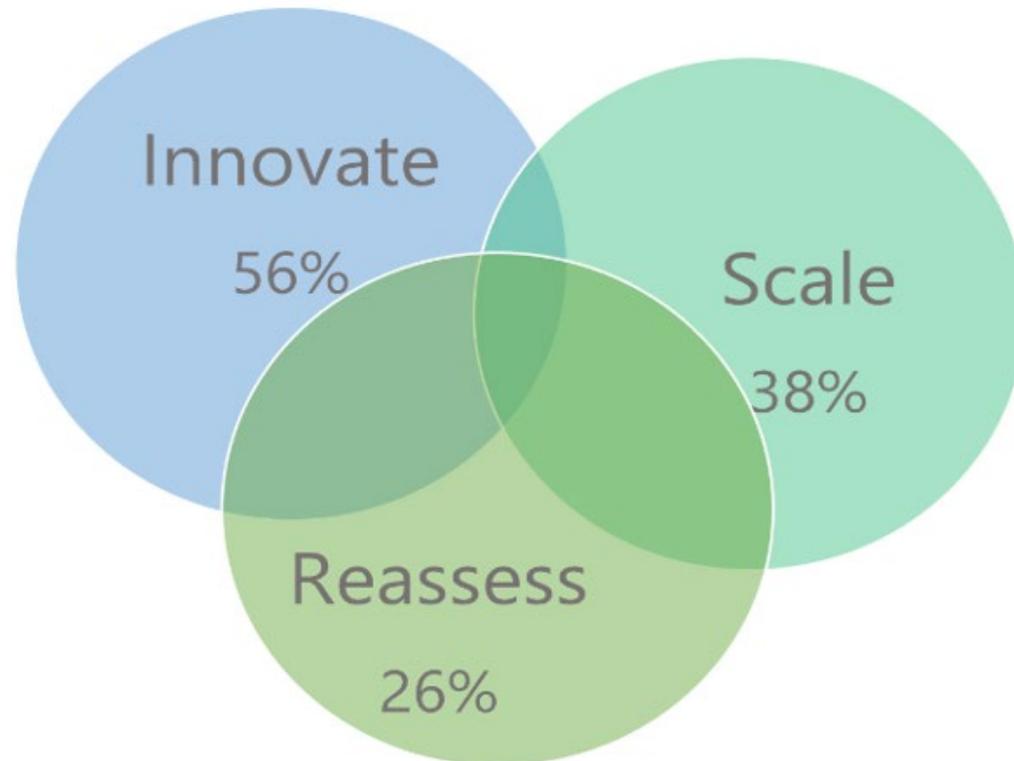
# Almost all communities (92%) reported that they had allocated some portion of their HEAP grant to support **direct services**



- Approximately 87% of communities reported using HEAP funds for **capital investments**
- 85% of communities planned or allocated HEAP funds to support a variety of rental assistance programs

# STRATEGIES

## HEAP FUNDING STRATEGIES



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Initial distrust of the flexibility of HEAP
- Collaborative planning described as “a big lift”
- Challenges associated with shelter declaration requirement
- Delays in capital investment projects

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid single metric to measure success
  - Reduce harm associated with homelessness
  - Reduce time homeless
  - Prevent homelessness
- Additional technical assistance needed

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is very likely that some innovative models will result in better outcomes than others—though it is unclear how results and impacts can be assessed across these different contexts
- Therefore HCFC should support...
  - Evaluations at the local level
    - Help identify successful models and best practices
  - Workshops and/or small learning communities
    - Disseminate innovative uses of state funds

# THANK YOU

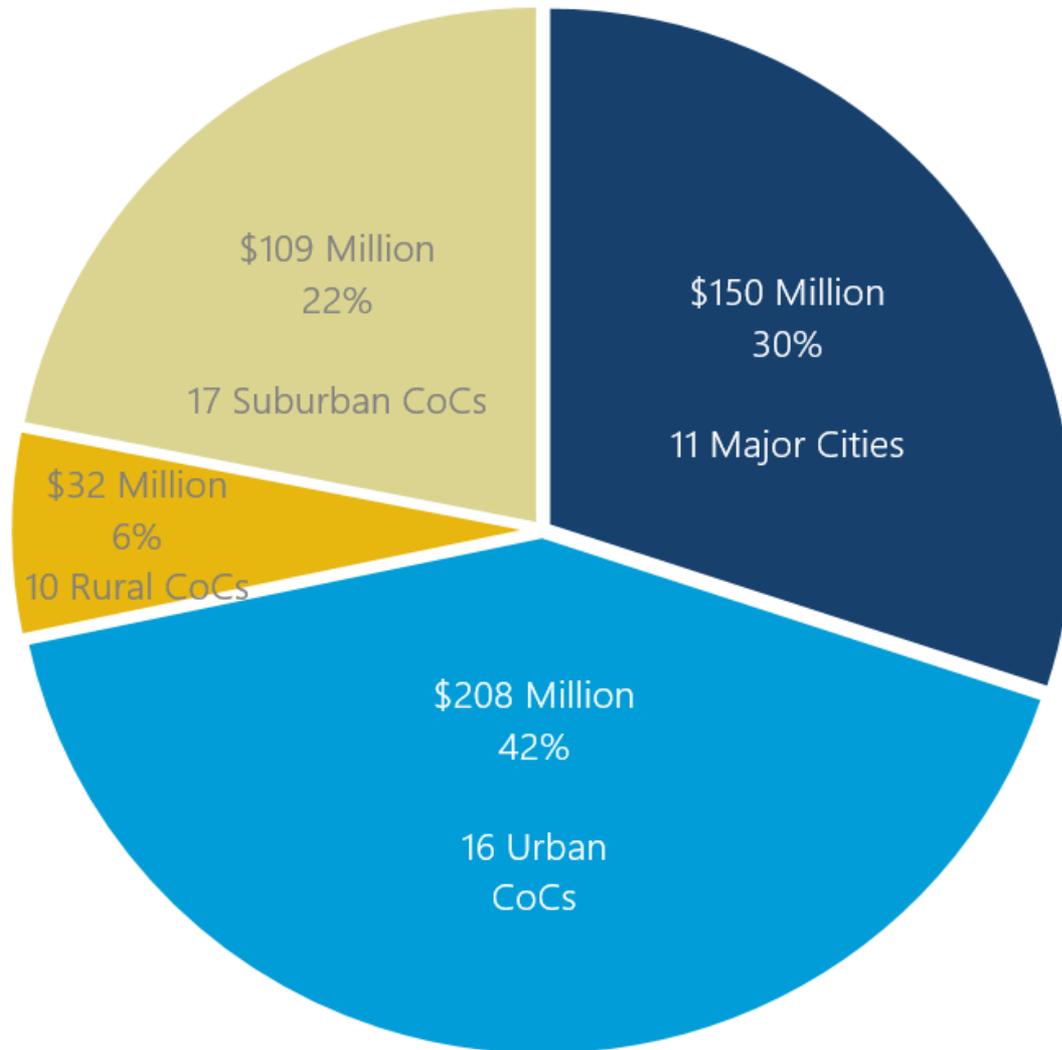
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# ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SLIDES

HEAP ALLOCATION BY TYPE OF COC



Large cities collectively allocated a substantially larger proportion (45%) toward capital investments compared to CoCs (32%).

