



SB 356

Code Enforcement Incentive Grant Program

Protect Our Investments

The state and local governments are investing hundreds of millions of dollars to support the construction of new housing units to help alleviate the housing crisis. Yet, very little is invested in housing code enforcement to ensure the state's existing housing stock is not lost due to neglect and disrepair, undermining gains from our massive investment in new construction.

Fortunately, over twenty years ago, the legislature had the foresight to create the Code Enforcement Incentive Grant Program (CEIGP) for this exact purpose. The goal of the program is to support local efforts to identify and remediate deteriorated housing before problems get so severe the housing is lost to the market.

Locally Tailored Solutions

With the responsibility of enforcing the state's health and safety standards for homes, code enforcement plays a vital role in ensuring housing is safe and well maintained. The CEIGP gives local jurisdictions the opportunity to try new strategies tailored to their specific needs, strengths, and weaknesses and provides resources to expand partnerships across agencies and with other community stakeholders.

Grant Programs Cut

While these grants supported innovative projects and partnerships across the state

in the early and mid-2000s, funding for the program was cut as the state faced significant budget shortfalls following the 2008 recession. Unfortunately, as the state's finances improved, funding to the program was never restored.

The Need Remains

In a survey we conducted of 75 code enforcement officers from 45 jurisdictions in the state, we found a wide range of local concerns and ideas on how they'd take on those challenges if funding was restored to the CEIGP, including strong demand for resources to support training, improved technology, and safety equipment. Over a third of respondents pointed out that low-income owners, particularly seniors, often lack the resources to make needed repairs in their communities and proposed creating abatement funding programs if the CEIGP is restored. While this is only one example, restoring the code enforcement grant program can provide the seed funding local governments need to develop and test innovative strategies to protect existing housing stock and better address emerging issues.

The Solution

SB 356 seeks to modernize the CEIGP to ensure the program parameters meet current needs and is coupled with a budget request to restore funding to the program. Specifically, the bill makes cost of living adjustments to award sizes, simplifies matching fund requirements

for local governments, incentivizes the certification of code enforcement officers, and expands partnerships to community-based organizations.

Support

California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (Sponsor)

Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (Sponsor)