

Bridge to End Homelessness Act

Sponsor: Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA-32)

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The San Gabriel Valley (SGV) in Southern California saw a 24% increase in homelessness between 2018 and 2019, which points to a serious shortage of temporary housing for those in need across the region. According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Results, there were 4,479 individuals experiencing homelessness in the SGV, and of that number, 3,292 were living on the streets.

After gathering input from local residents and local government officials, Congresswoman Napolitano introduced the Bridge to End Homelessness Act, which would establish a new competitive grant program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The new grant program would prioritize the following:

- A local entity must identify property or land adjacent to a high-density homeless population to establish interim housing;
- The site must be furnished with on-site mental health, employment, substance use disorder and wellness resources;
- The local entity must have a plan for targeted outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness with their jurisdiction.

This localized approach would ensure the federal government assists in combating this growing crisis in our region. Congress must continue to identify resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, and part of the solution must include increased housing and mental health services.