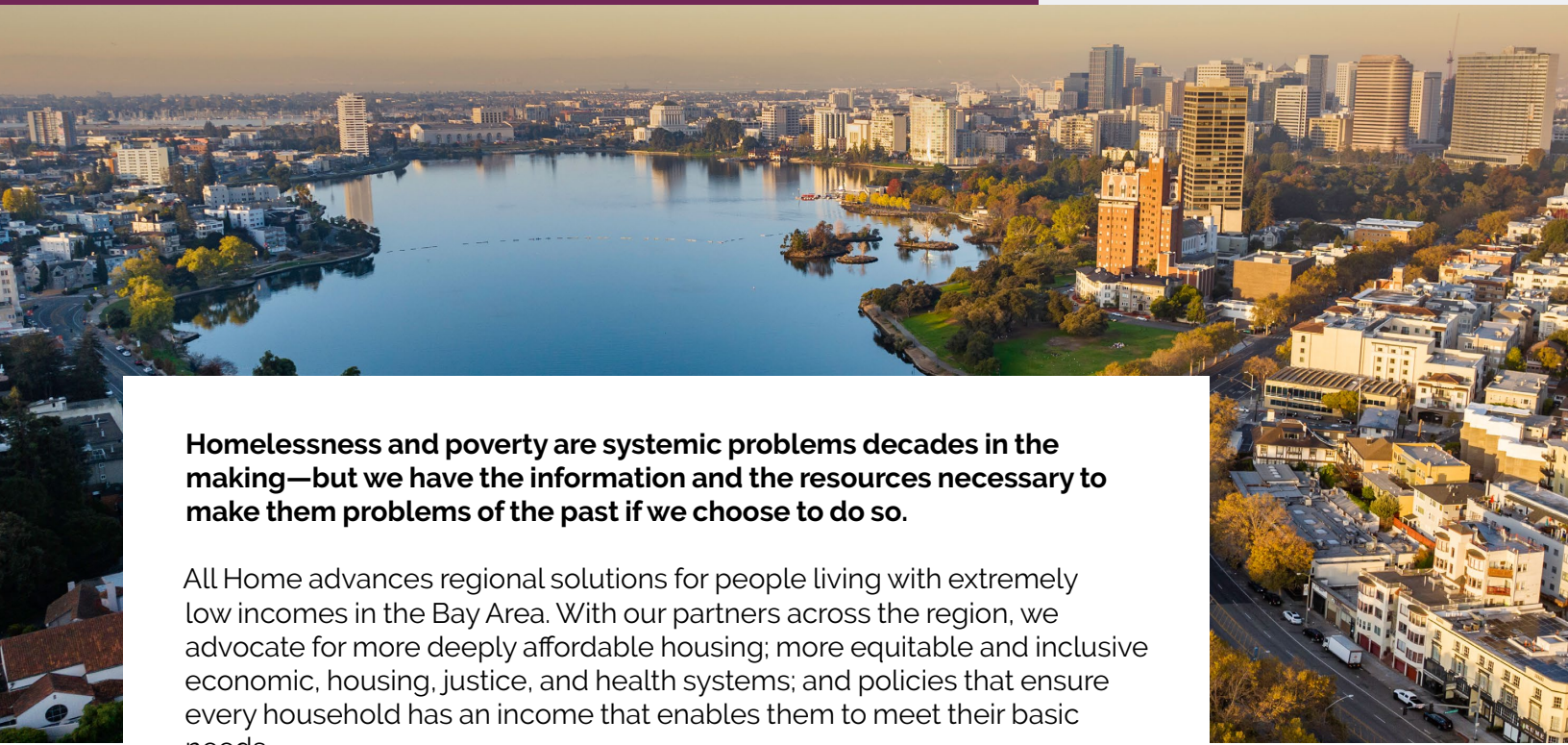


2024

POLICY PRIORITIES



ALL
HOME



Homelessness and poverty are systemic problems decades in the making—but we have the information and the resources necessary to make them problems of the past if we choose to do so.

All Home advances regional solutions for people living with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area. With our partners across the region, we advocate for more deeply affordable housing; more equitable and inclusive economic, housing, justice, and health systems; and policies that ensure every household has an income that enables them to meet their basic needs.

2024 will be a difficult year for our advocacy, as the state faces a \$38 billion budget deficit. **We are presented with a false choice when budgets are balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable Californians who rely on safety net programs to survive.**

2024 is also an election year, and an important opportunity to demand strong leadership on homelessness, affordable housing, and poverty from legislators and the Governor.

This year All Home will be focused on galvanizing support at the ballot for transformative housing solutions, and advocating for strategic and efficient use of our limited resources to serve Californians with extremely low incomes.

Who is Considered Extremely Low-Income?

Extremely low-income households are defined as those making less than 30 percent of the median household income for their county. In the Bay Area, the average ELI household annual income is only \$17,800. Without sustained structural change across our housing and economic systems, vulnerable households will continue to be pushed into homelessness.

*Learn more about our neighbors with extremely low incomes, many of whom are struggling to stay stably housed, **in the infographic on page 5.***



PRIORITY RAISE INCOMES

Because of the high cost of living in California, especially housing costs, it's imperative to **raise incomes for those who are struggling to make ends meet**, whether through work or safety net programs. In a tough budget year, we'll focus on **defending key programs**, and on **cost-effective reforms that make existing benefits more impactful**.

[Our recent report](#) showed how relatively modest changes to programs such as the Young Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, SSI, and others, can close cost of living gaps for ELI households and improve housing and economic security.



TAKING ACTION IN 2024

- **Maintain the social safety net** by defending current funding levels for tax credits, SSI/SSP, CalFresh, Medi-Cal and other essential benefit programs.
- **Make refundable tax credits easier to get** through legislation like [Assemblymember Irwin](#) and [Senator Caballero](#) have proposed.
- **Reform existing benefit programs to increase their impact**, including the effort to [modernize CalWORKs](#).

WAGES

Even in a lean year for the state budget, there should be opportunities to **raise wages for the lowest paid workers**. An [annual income increase of just \\$10,500](#) (or \$5 more per hour for a full-time worker) would significantly help ELI households meet basic needs. Last year saw legislative wins for fast food and other low-income workers, and we should build on that momentum in 2024 in other sectors.



TAKING ACTION IN 2024

- Target **wage increases for the lowest paid workers**, including full implementation of [SB 525 \(Durazo, Chapter 890, Statutes of 2023\)](#) to boost wages for health care workers.
- **Advance protections for excluded workers**, through legislation such as [Senator Durazo's bill](#) that would bring domestic workers under state health and safety workplace regulations.



PRIORITY

LOWER HOUSING COSTS

People with extremely low incomes simply can't afford the high cost of rent in most parts of the Bay Area and in much of California. While we've made important progress in recent years on enabling more housing to be built, protecting tenants, and preserving existing units, **inadequate funding is an enormous barrier—and a top priority** for All Home in 2024.

Research has found that [180,000 new deeply affordable units are needed](#) by 2031 to meet the total housing need across the Bay Area, but the region is not on track to meet that goal, in large part because of funding gaps. Currently, 33,000 affordable housing units are in limbo and can't be built due to lack of funding.



TAKING ACTION IN 2024

- **Make it easier to pass local affordable housing measures** across the state by passing [ACA 1 \(Aguilar-Curry\)](#) in November 2024, which would lower the voter threshold required for these bonds and special taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent.
- **Fund construction and preservation of affordable homes for more than 500,000 Bay Area residents** by passing a \$10-\$20 billion regional housing bond in November 2024.
- **Fund thousands more affordable units statewide** by passing a statewide bond to raise \$10 billion for affordable housing programs, as well as other local funding measures for affordable housing production and preservation
- **Help tenants with extremely low incomes stay housed** by building awareness and support among legislators and the public for a future state-funded rental assistance program.



PRIORITY

ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGICALLY

We know that simultaneous investments in high-quality interim housing, permanent housing solutions, and targeted homelessness prevention are an effective strategy. **Programs that target resources to the people most at risk of losing their housing is a critical intervention**—but one that rarely receives the necessary funding or political attention.

In 2024 we'll focus on expanding those types of homelessness prevention programs, as well as on advocacy for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program. HHAP provides local jurisdictions with critical, flexible resources to address homelessness, and ongoing funding is essential to make sustained progress.



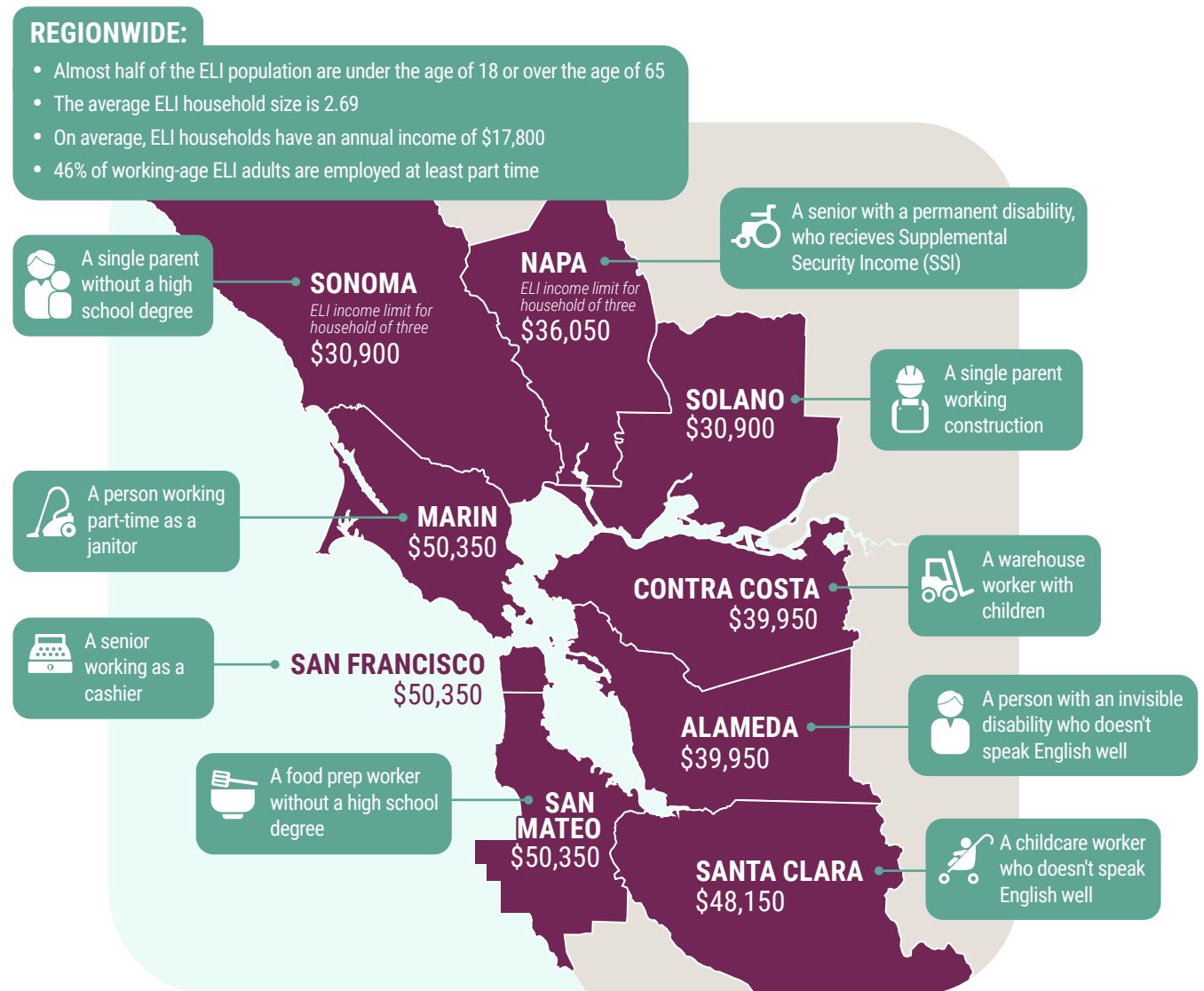
TAKING ACTION IN 2024

- **Maintain progress on reducing homelessness** by securing, at minimum, a \$1 billion budget appropriation for the HHAP program.
- **Streamline program administration** by working with HCD and the Legislature to simplify, consolidate, and clarify grant application and reporting requirements.
- **Accelerate progress at scale by advancing a strategy of concurrent investments** in 1) homelessness prevention; 2) interim housing; and 3) permanent housing in state programs (like HHAP), the regional affordable housing bond, and local funding measures and programs.
- **Reduce acuity levels** of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by streamlining the production of [quality, non-congregate interim housing](#) types.
- **Address inflows into homelessness** by developing state guidance around targeted homelessness prevention and expanding these programs through HHAP and local investment.

Visualizing Households with Extremely Low Incomes Around the Bay Area

Bay Area households with extremely low incomes include a wide range of people with a variety of experiences. As we work to advance our policy goals, it's important that we don't lose sight of the real people behind the statistics.

Using data from All Home's report by the Turner Center, [On the Edge of Homelessness](#), we looked at some characteristics of our neighbors with ELI in each of the nine counties, including the most common jobs they have, their education level, age, and percent who self-report having a disability. The examples shown in this graphic are based on Census data [we've compiled](#).



Extremely low-income is defined as those making less than 30 percent of the median household income for their county, a number that changes depending on the number of people in the household. The income threshold indicated in the graphic is for a household of three people, as the average household size in the Bay Area is 2.69.

For more information on income thresholds in the Bay Area, check out the [2023 California limits](#).