Response to Law Enforcement Activities in Programs Operating in the LA Continuum of Care

Purpose: LAHSA affirms the right of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) to access services and housing for which they are eligible by promoting welcoming, non-discriminatory environments that protect client privacy and safety. To ensure the provision of welcoming, non-discriminatory environments this policy requires that service providers have a documented plan for responding to situations related to law enforcement matters, including immigration enforcement activities.

Policy: Service providers in the LA CoC shall develop policies and procedures on how their agency responds to law enforcement in civil and criminal law matters. These matters may include a range of activities, including requests for information about specific individuals or groups and/or access to facilities. Agency responses to all activities should prioritize and protect client privacy and safety whenever possible.

Procedure:

Agencies shall:

1. Seek legal counsel for guidance on how to respond to law enforcement activities and requests.
2. Develop agency policies and procedures that incorporate guidance from legal counsel. Relevant areas for policy development may include but are not limited to:
   a. Front line staff responses to law enforcement requests,
   b. Staff training on constitutional rights and protections, and
   c. Guidelines around assessment for, and development of, Family Preparedness Plans when applicable.
3. Inform program participants of these policies, procedures, and their rights.
4. Notify LAHSA within 72 hours of significant encounters and/or incidents with law enforcement by contacting your Integrated Agency Support Team member from the Systems Integration Division.