# Agenda and Notice of a Public Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness

**Committee Chair:** Jacqueline Waggoner  
**Vice Chair:** Kelli Bernard  
**Committee Members:**  
- Va Lecia Adams  
- Chancela Al-Mansour  
- Edward Anderson  
- Jack Barbour  
- Wendell Blassingame  
- Rachel Brashier  
- Oliver Buie  
- Chela Demuir-Cartier  
- Brian Ford  
- Robin Hughes  
- Janet Kelly  
- Monique King-Viehl,  
- Veronica Lewis  
- Juataun Mark  
- Nova McNeal  
- Anita Nelson  
- Alisa Orduna  
- Molly Rysman  
- Suzette Shaw  
- Brenda Shockley  
- Lola Smallwood-Cuevas  
- Sean Spear  
- Reba Stevens  
- Pete White  
- Dhakshike Wickrema

**Monday, June 18, 2018**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Location:**  
Constituent Service Center, Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
8475 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM AND DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum</td>
<td>Commissioner Waggoner</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda Items</strong> - The public will have an opportunity to speak to any agenda item when the item is called and before action is taken. A Request to Speak Form must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the completion of the agenda item. The Chair will determine the order of speaking and unless the Chair grants more or less time, the speaker’s limit is <strong>two (2) minutes</strong> on each agenda item, subject to the total 20-minute period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome and Introductions.</td>
<td>Commissioner Bernard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review and approve minutes from the meeting of Monday, May 21, 2018.</td>
<td>Commissioner Waggoner</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion of Racial Equity Toolkit &amp; Committee Work Plan.</td>
<td>Patricia Lally</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation and Discussion: Listening Session Findings to Date.</td>
<td>Patricia Lally</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation and Discussion: Re-Entry Initiatives, Office of Diversion and Reentry.</td>
<td>Corrin Buchanan</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation and Discussion: From Prison to Skid Row, A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project.</td>
<td>Susan Burton</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion of Potential Recommendations.</td>
<td>Patricia Lally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Participation</td>
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<td>Each Public Participant speaker is limited to two (2) minutes and may address any topic within the Commission’s jurisdiction. A Request to Speak Form must be filled out and submitted to the Secretary prior to the beginning of Public Participation. Subject to the total 20-minute period, each Public Participation speaker is limited to two (2) minutes.</td>
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**Adjournment**

Packets of materials on agenda items are available to the public during normal business hours at 811 Wilshire Boulevard, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. For further information, you may call 213-683-3333. Upon request, sign language interpreters, materials in alternative formats and other accommodations are available to the public for LAHSA meetings. All requests for reasonable accommodations must be made at least three working days (72 Hours) in advance of the scheduled meeting date. For additional information, contact LAHSA at (213) 683-3333 or TTY (213) 553-8488.
MINUTES OF THE
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BLACK PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS MEETING
Held May 21, 2018

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness Meeting, held in the LAHSA Administrative Office located at 811 Wilshire Boulevard, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 2:15 pm by Commissioner Waggoner.

Attendance
LAHSA Commissioners Present:
   Jacqueline Waggoner, Chair
   Kelli Bernard, Vice Chair

Committee Members Present:
   Va Lecia Adams
   Oliver Buie
   Robin Hughes
   Anita Nelson
   Suzette Shaw
   Reba Stevens
   Chancela Al-Mansour
   Chela Demuir-Cartier
   Janet Kelly
   Alisa Orduna
   Brenda Shockley
   Pete White

Committee Members Absent:
   Edward Anderson
   Wendell Blassingame
   Rachel Brasheir
   Juataun Mark
   Sean Spear

LAHSA Staff:
   Sarah Mahin, Director of Policy & Systems
   Brenda Wheatley, Executive Assistant

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum
Roll was called and quorum was established at 2:15 p.m.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions.
Commissioner Waggoner thanked the members for participating and outlined the issues that will be examined by the Committee. She welcomed and thanked the members. Commissioner Bernard thanked the members and staff. Patricia Lally, Facilitator, welcomed the group.

2.0 Review and approve minutes from the meeting of Monday, April 16, 2018.
It was noted by staff that the name of the committee was incorrect in the opening paragraph of the minutes. It was also noted that Chancela Al-Mansour had been present at the meeting.

Motion: The Committee members moved and seconded acceptance of the minutes as corrected.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lally addressed housekeeping matters.

3.0 Overview and Discussion of Coordinated Entry System.
Josh Hall, Associate Director, Coordinated Entry System, gave the report:
- Staff shared information on the Coordinated Entry System as shown in the provided presentation.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

The agenda was heard out of order.

6.0 Examining Equity in the Homeless Service System Through Data: Presentation and Discussion.
Norweeta Milburn, Homelessness Policy Research Institute, gave the report:

- Ms. Milburn made a presentation and led a discussion about Examining Equity in the Homeless Service System Through Data, as shown in the provided presentation.
- There was discussion about limitations of the data and recommendations for further data analysis.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

4.0 Introduction and Discussion of Racial Equity Toolkit.
Patricia Lally, Committee Facilitator, gave the report:

- Ms. Lally shared information on racial equity toolkit as shown in the provided presentation.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

5.0 Discussion of Racial Equity Outcome.

- This item was not heard.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

7.0 Listening Session and Meeting Schedule Update.

- This item was not heard.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

8.0 Public Participation

Public Speaker: S. Poole-concerned about the lack of persons with disabilities, seniors, or chronically homeless persons on the committee and about implicit bias impacting services to people of color.

Public Speaker: E. White-expressed concern about the termination of a Section 8 voucher and the challenge of timing-out in the appeals process. Expressed concerns that the system is biased and that data does not consider reality.

Public Speaker: M. Lawrence- wants Committee to consider what policies are being implemented to secure a percentage of the funding developers set aside in their new housing developments for long-term affordable housing. Ms. Lawrence recommended adding an addendum to current civil rights code.

Public Speaker: L. Penson- indicated that there is data manipulation, unfair employment, gentrification, landlord abuse.

Public Speaker: R. Hughes- expressed concern about the lack of communication within the Black community and advocated that being empathetic and working together are key for getting things done.

Veronica Lewis suggested a calendar of events.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.
Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness
Work Plan

1.0 OVERVIEW

At its December 2017 meeting, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Commission established the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness to address the issue of sustained overrepresentation of Black people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. The purpose of the Committee is to provide focused attention to better understand the factors contributing to the overrepresentation of Black people among the population experiencing homelessness, identify opportunities to increase racial equity within the homeless service delivery system, and develop recommendations to more effectively meet the needs of Black people experiencing homelessness.

2.0 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

LAHSA Commissioners:
Kelli Bernard, Vice-Chair
Jacqueline Waggoner, Chair

Committee Members:
Va Lecia Adams Kellum
Chancela Al-Mansour
Edward Anderson
Jack Barbour
Wendell Blassingame
Rachel Brashier
Oliver Buie
Chela Demuir-Cartier
Brian Ford
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Brenda Shockley
Lola Smallwood Cuevas
Sean Spear
Reba Stevens
Pete White
Dhakshike Wickrema

LAHSA Staff Liaisons:
Sarah Mahin, Director of Policy & Systems
Erin Cox, Supervisor, Policy & Systems
Brenda Wheatley, Commission Liaison

3.0 GOALS

1. Provide Focused Attention and a Forum for Discussion
   a. Hold public monthly meetings on subjects related to Black people experiencing homelessness
   b. Invite public speakers to present on aspects of homelessness and offer recommendations
   c. Host community listening sessions and focus groups across the county to engage advocates, service providers, and community members to better understand key challenges and barriers to service
   d. Expand and adjust discussion of subjects based on feedback and progress
2. Develop and Promote Recommendations
   a. Analyze data related to Black people experiencing homelessness
   b. Apply a racial equity analysis to develop appropriate strategies and recommendations related to Black people experiencing homelessness
   c. Identify and make recommendations to the LAHSA Commission, the County, the City, and other stakeholders on how to improve efforts to address racial disparities impacting Black people experiencing homelessness
   d. Share recommendations and results of the Committee’s work with community members
   e. Produce a report that presents data on Black people experiencing homelessness in LA, information gathered from presentations and discussion, and recommendations made by the Committee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Potential Recommendations</th>
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</table>
| April 4/16/18 | Orientation Training on Implicit Bias & Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) Application | • Establish Committee purpose & goals  
• Conduct racial equity training  
• Review the use of a Racial Equity Toolkit to establish desired racial equity outcomes, identify harms and benefits, and develop strategies to achieve racial equity | □ Provide information about plan for capturing justice system involvement in CES assessment tools  
□ Report to full Committee on themes emerging at listening sessions  
□ Provide more in-depth information about housing programs and matching process  
□ Provide further analysis of recidivism/why people are exiting housing placements | • Use a Racial Equity Toolkit, with clear racial equity outcomes, to examine critical programs, policies budget decisions, procedures  
• Examine hiring practices and job requirements to eliminate barriers for persons of color  
• Ensure that racial justice is a focus in the implementation of City & County homeless strategies |
| May 5/21/18 | Introduction to LAHSA & the Coordinated Entry System (CES)  
Examining Equity in the Homeless Service System through Data | • Understand the role of LAHSA and the function of the Coordinated Entry System  
• Understand demographic characteristics and experiences of Black people experiencing homelessness in LA County  
• Examine racial equity in the homeless service system through data on program enrollments, housing placements, and retention | □ | • Involve persons with lived experience, persons of color, and service providers in data analysis and research efforts  
• Strengthen and expand homelessness prevention programs  
• Advocate for inclusionary zoning policies  
• Advocate for fair hiring practices to reduce barriers to employment  
• Address cultural competency of program staff  
• Advocate for fair chance housing legislation to prevent rental restrictions based on criminal records |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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| June 6/18/18 | Re-entry & Criminal Justice System Involvement | • Understand the connection between re-entry and homelessness  
  • Explore barriers and possible solutions for accessing housing and services  
  • Learn about and discuss existing City and County re-entry initiatives  
  • Learn about and discuss community-based programs to support formerly-incarcerated persons in accessing safe and stable housing  
  • Update on community listening sessions and focus groups  
  • Apply the RET to address racial inequities impacting formerly-incarcerated Black people at risk of or experiencing homelessness |
| July 7/16/18 | Child Welfare System Involvement             | • Discuss the unique challenges of child welfare system involvement for families experiencing homelessness  
  • Discuss strategies to support youth of color exiting the foster care system  
  • Update on community listening sessions and focus groups  
  • Apply the RET to address racial inequities impacting Black people involved in the child welfare system |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Agenda Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 8/20/18</td>
<td>CES Outreach &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>• Review and discuss CES assessments of Black people experiencing homelessness</td>
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<td>• Review and discuss street outreach and engagement services provided to Black</td>
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<td>people experiencing homelessness</td>
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<td>• Update on community listening sessions and focus groups</td>
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<td>• Apply the RET to address racial inequities impacting Black people seeking</td>
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<td>shelter and/or services</td>
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<td>September 9/17/18</td>
<td>Permanent Housing</td>
<td>• Learn about housing models within the homeless service system (i.e. rapid</td>
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<td>re-housing, permanent supportive housing)</td>
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<td>• Explore ways to improve connections to housing opportunities of all forms</td>
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<td>(i.e. affordable housing)</td>
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<td>• Examine reasons for high rates of housing exits and recidivism for Black</td>
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<td>people served through the homeless service system</td>
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<td>• Learn about promising housing services</td>
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<td>• Update on community listening sessions and focus groups</td>
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<td>October (date TBD)</td>
<td>Final Review of Recommendations</td>
<td>• Apply the RET to address racial inequities impacting Black people seeking housing</td>
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<td>• Review all potential recommendations that have emerged from the Committee’s work and finalize for inclusion in the Committee’s public report</td>
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Re-Entry & Criminal Justice System Involvement

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness

June 12, 2018
A Racial Equity Toolkit Case Study
The Racial Equity Toolkit is a set of questions to guide us as we assess how our policies, projects, initiatives, and budget decisions benefit and burden communities. This process is intended to disrupt institutional racism and lead us towards more equitable results.
Step 1: Racial Equity Outcome

All community organizations, including organizations led by people of color, are able to effectively participate in the City’s funding opportunities.
Step 2: Engage Stakeholders and Analyze Data

Organizations led by people of color voiced concerns that larger, more established organizations were most often selected for grants intended to serve people of color.

Smaller organizations were often hired as sub-contractors to perform the same services for which they sought funding.

Many organizations led by people of color often did not have the staff capacity to excel in a formal granting process.

The City of Seattle captured some but not enough data on which organizations were applying for grants, which entities were selected, and the racial equity impact.
Step 3: Identifying Benefits and Burdens

The formal, time-consuming, written, grant application process deters organizations led by people of color from accessing funding.
Step 4: Strategies to Maximize Benefits and Eliminate Harm

- Rather than subcontracting relationships, encouraged partnerships and gave points for organizations that applied collectively.
- Shortened the application.
- Internally, examined each request and each step of the process – was it necessary or overly burdensome; what information was most critical?
- Allowed prospective grantees to send application for a pre-filing review.
- Provided option for organizations to request an oral presentation, if desired.
- Made the applicant’s racial equity past and current efforts a significant area of interest and evaluation.
Step 5: Evaluate and Raise Racial Awareness

- Shortened the process.
- More applications submitted by “partner” organizations.
- More people of color led organizations (applied) and received funding.
- Stronger, more authentic relationships between funders and community organizations.
- City accelerated its payment process.
Step 6: Report Out

We held informational meetings in advance setting forth our racial equity values and our interest in collective funding.

We publicly and in community shared our funding decisions.

At the end of the funding cycle, we invited grantees to meet with City Council and showcase their funded program.
Applying the Racial Equity Toolkit to Re-entry and Homelessness
The Racial Equity Toolkit is a set of questions to guide us as we assess how our policies, projects, initiatives and budget decisions benefit and burden communities. This process is intended to disrupt institutional racism and lead us towards more equitable results.
Eliminate racial disparities impacting Black people experiencing homelessness by ensuring racial equity within the homeless crisis response system.
Step 2: Engage Stakeholders and Analyze Data

Criminal Justice System Involvement

Source: 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Los Angeles Continuum of Care
Universe: Unsheltered adults age 25+

Source: 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Los Angeles Continuum of Care
Universe: Unsheltered adults age 25+
Step 2: Engage Stakeholders and Analyze Data

Discharge from Legal System Contributing to Homelessness

Source: 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Los Angeles Continuum of Care
Universe: Unsheltered adults age 25+
Note: "Legal System" includes criminal justice system in addition to other systems (medical institution, foster care, etc.).
"I had a gentlemen at my church who was arrested 13 times in one year in Skid Row. Every time he got arrested, he would lose his place for housing…I had someone walk with him through the whole process, and it took him one year to get housing. He was homeless for five before that."

Black Man, Pastor

We can’t just try to give them a voucher and tell them to go; they have to have other services that meet their needs so they can get out there and feel empowered. They still feel hopeless with a voucher in their hand.

Black Man, Service Provider and Formerly Incarcerated
“If you are a Black male, you are going to jail. If you are here on Skid Row and you are on this sidewalk, they are going to make obstacles for you.”

Black Man, Skid Row Listening Session

“You have to lower the barriers that are preventing Black people that have felonies from getting jobs.”

Black Man, Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles Member
Step 2: Engage Stakeholders and Analyze Data

We need Job Corps to come back: a place for job certification, apprenticeship.

Black Woman, S. Central Listening Session

The same support for transition age youth should be expanded to adults.

Black Woman, S. Central Listening Session

Thank God for the [Organization’s] parking lot security guard who saw me and brought me inside . . . I now work here helping others.

Black Woman, Formerly Homeless, Service Provider
Step 3: Identifying Burdens

1. Individuals who were formerly arrested are not provided wrap-around services (including housing) that are meeting their needs.

2. Black people are disproportionately arrested.

3. Black men with felonies face housing and employment discrimination.

4. Being arrested while homeless can negatively affect your opportunity for housing.
1. People thrive in communities of belonging.

2. The road out of incarceration is most successful when a person in re-entry is mentored and supported by “people like them doing the work alongside them.”
THANK YOU
ODR MISSION

- Develop and implement county-wide criminal justice diversion for persons with mental and/or substance use disorders, including persons who are homeless.

- Goal to provide 2500 units of permanent supportive housing to the justice population.
WHY HOUSING?

- At least 20% of jail population is homeless
- Over a quarter have a mental illness
- Housing key to maintaining connection to treatment
- Almost 58,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Department of Health Services launches Housing for Health and the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (Nov 2012)
- DA Jackie Lacey releases “Blueprint for Change” (August 2015)
- Board of Supervisors creates Office of Diversion and Reentry with 40% of funding for housing (August 2015)
- LA voters pass Measure H, $355M annually to end homelessness (Nov 2016)
HOW IT WORKS

Criminal Justice System

Interim

PSH

Jail Clinicians

Jail In-Reach Providers

Diversion Courts

In-Reach Services Begin

Coordinated Discharge/Release

Bridge Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing
FLEXIBLE HOUSING SUBSIDY POOL

FHSP Partners

- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- 501(c)3 nonprofit coordinating community-based partner
- Property owners throughout Los Angeles County
- Skilled and qualified case managers

= Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool
RELATED ODR PROGRAMS

- MIST-Community Based Restoration
- Pay for Success
- ODR Housing
- Breaking Barriers
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
The average public service utilization cost per participant the year before housing totaled $38,146. In the year after receiving housing and services, the total cost per participant totaled $15,358.

Taking PSH costs into account, this represents a 20% net cost savings to the county.
KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS CONT.

- **76%** reduction in inpatient medical services in the year after housing placement
- **67%** reduction in emergency medical services in the year after housing placement
- **59%** reduction in crisis stabilization services in the year after housing placement
THANK YOU!
“The continuous jail-to-Skid Row-to-jail cycle responsible for the perpetuation of our crisis of homelessness is the shame of our community.”

-Mark Rosenbaum, Public Counsel
From prison to the LA Bus Station to Skid Row
Who is homeless?

- While only 8% of LA County residents are Black, 39% of the county’s homeless population is Black.  
  (Source: LA Times)

- About one-third of LA County’s homeless are women.  
  (Source: LA Times)
Policing homelessness

- In 2016, the arrest rate for homeless people in the city of LA was **more than 50 per 100 people**. That’s **17 times** the arrest rate among the total population.
- African Americans represent **37%** of all homeless arrests.
- From 2012 to 2017, homeless arrests in LA rose even as total arrests declined.

(Source: Million Dollar Hoods)
Policing homelessness

Top charge categories for homeless arrests:

- Failure to appear (22%)
- Possession of a controlled substance (10%)
- Supervision violation (8%)
- Petty theft/shoplifting (7%)
- Trespassing (6%)

(Source: Million Dollar Hoods)
Homelessness and incarceration

- As many as **15%** of people who pass through America’s jails have experienced homelessness.
- Approximately **48,000** people entering homeless shelters each year have come almost directly from prison or jail.

(Source: [US Interagency Council on Homelessness](https://www.usich.gov))
The cost of incarceration

- In the state of California, it costs approximately $75,560 per year to incarcerate someone in prison.
  (Source: LA Times)
- The estimated cost of incarcerating a mother of two in LA County Jail is $245,000 a year (booking charge + daily jail bed rate + child placement daily cost).
  (Source: Million Dollar Hoods)
Speaking of women...

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Women are the fastest growing prison population in America.


That’s an increase of more than 700%.

(Source: The Sentencing Project)
The cost of homelessness

Chronic homelessness can cost taxpayers $30,000 to $50,000 per person each year.

- Emergency room visits
- Shelter costs
- Jail
- Mental health care
- Drug/alcohol treatment

(Source: [US Interagency Council on Homelessness](https://www.usich.gov))
What’s the solution?

A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project

- We provide housing and support to formerly incarcerated women for successful community re-entry, family reunification, and individual healing.
- We work to restore the civil rights of formerly incarcerated people.
- We empower, organize, and mobilize formerly incarcerated people as advocates for social change and personal transformation.
What’s the solution?

Housing a formerly incarcerated woman at A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project costs $16,000 a year. This includes housing, transportation, clothing, food, job services, social work engagement, and therapy.

By the time women leave our facilities (approximately one year), they have become functioning, civically engaged, law-abiding citizens. Around 70% are employed.
Thank you.