AGENDA NO. | ITEM AND DESCRIPTION | PRESENTER | PAGE
--- | --- | --- | ---
1.0 | Review and approve minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Planning Committee held Friday, December 13, 2019. | Nathaniel VerGow | 2
2.0 | Acting Director’s Report. | |  
3.0 | Review and approve the 2020 LAHSA Guiding Policy Principles. | Alex Visotzky | 4
4.0 | Review and approve Letters of Support for State Legislation:  
- SCA-1 regarding Repealing Article 34 of the California Constitution.  
- AB 1279 regarding Housing Development in High-Resource Areas.  
- AB 362 regarding Substance Use and Overdose Prevention. | Traci Kawaguchi | 7
5.0 | Review and approve Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program Expenditure Plan. | Alex Visotzky | 17
6.0 | Presentation and discussion on the Policy Resource Library Overview. | Erin Cox | 48
7.0 | Presentation on Housing First Primer. | Stina Rosenquist | 53
8.0 | Public Participation  
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. | | 

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.
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission Policy and Planning Committee meeting held at 811 Wilshire Blvd, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Commissioner Muro.

Attendance
LAHSA Commissioners Present:
  Irene Muro, Chair
  Booker Pearson, Vice Chair
  Mitch Kamin

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

LAHSA Staff:
  Meredith Berkson, Director, Policy & Systems
  Eileen Bryson, Manager, Executive Department
  Jose Delgado, Associate Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Policy & Systems Department
  Alex Visotzky, Manager, Legislative Affairs, Policy & Systems Department

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum
Commissioner Muro called the meeting to order. Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:07 a.m.

1.0 Review and approve minutes of the special meeting of the Policy & Planning Committee held November 8, 2019.

Motion: Commissioner Pearson moved and Commissioner Kamin seconded approval of the minutes as presented.

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

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Acting Director’s Report.
Meredith Berkson, Director, Policy & Systems, gave the report:

- Ms. Berkson gave a report including that Nathaniel VerGow, Director of Access and Engagement, will fill in while she is on leave, updates on rapid rehousing implementation infrastructure, youth reunification vouchers, strategic planning for student homelessness program, matching pilot, PSH Central Command, hospital connection project, DV program, veteran vouchers, legislative affairs, new leader of USICH, changes in food stamp legislation, lived experience advisory groups, and homeless count.
- The commissioners requested a list of providers for the rapid rehousing pilot, a more in-depth presentation on the matching pilot, and report back on number of veteran families receiving shallow subsidies.
- Commissioner Pearson asked for the number of reunification vouchers available.
- The Commissioners will receive an update on family count methodology by email.

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

3.0 Review and approve 2020 LAHSA State Legislative Agenda.
Alex Visotzky, Manager, Legislative Affairs, Policy & Systems Department, gave the report:
Staff requested approval of the 2020 LAHSA State Legislative Agenda as described in the documents provided. The legislative timeline, potential bills to be sponsored or co-sponsored, support or opposition of other bills and budget recommendations were described.

There was discussion about the decision process around which bills LAHSA would sponsor or co-sponsor versus what would be supported or opposed.

Commissioner Kamin suggested a policy brief on right to housing and what’s done in other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Pearson requested a discussion on AB22, right to shelter/housing for children.

Jose Delgado, Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, shared information on prioritization of policy briefs. A schedule will be brought to the January meeting.

Commissioner Kamin asked for a tracker on legislative issues.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kamin moved and Commissioner Pearson seconded approval of the 2020 LAHSA State Legislative Agenda.

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

**Action:** The motion passed unanimously.

4.0 **Review and discuss the 2020 LAHSA Guiding Policy Principles.**

Alex Visotzky, Manager, Legislative Affairs, Policy & Systems, gave the report:

- Staff gave a report on the 2020 LAHSA Guiding Policy Principles as described in the provided documents and described changes from last year’s guiding principles.

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

5.0 **Presentation on LAHSA Governance Structure.**

Jose Delgado, Associate Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Policy & Systems Department, gave the report:

- Staff presented on LAHSA Governance Structure as described in the provided documents.
- Heidi Marston, CPO, described the source of LAHSA’s core functions and how they match with outside expectations.
- Jessica Reed, CoC Manager, provided clarification on RHAC membership
- Meredith Berkson added clarification of responsibilities and representation across the various advisory entities.
- Commissioner Kamin asked for a list of the membership of the RHAC, CoC Board and CES Policy Council.

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

6.0 **Public Participation**

**Public Speaker:** Genevieve Clavreul

Commissioner Pearson thanked staff for the work on Thanksgiving weekend with the emergency pop up shelters.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.
Guiding Policy Principles

2020

Principles

By advocating for better programs, funding, and legislation at the federal, state, and local levels, LAHSA will advance its mission to create, support, and sustain solutions to homelessness in the City and County of Los Angeles. The policy principles listed below are in alignment with federally recognized best practices that formed the basis of the establishment and ongoing refinement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant Program, as well as local funding initiatives such as Los Angeles County’s Measure H.

LAHSA supports federal, state, and local initiatives, legislation and efforts that will have a meaningful impact on preventing and ending homelessness. The principles underlying these initiatives are:

- Preservation of existing funding levels for programs (at all levels of government) that fund the social safety-net for individuals experiencing and at-risk of homelessness
- Creation and preservation of housing opportunities and housing development, with an emphasis on permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing and rental assistance, affordable housing, and interim housing
- Equitable geographic distribution of permanent supportive, affordable, and interim housing to ensure persons living in all parts of the County have access to permanent and immediate housing options
- Access to public assistance to prevent and/or end homelessness for all people, regardless of race, color, religion, age, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, national origin or immigration status, marital or familial status, physical health or mental health status, economic status, veteran status, limited English proficiency, or those who are least likely to access assistance in the absence of special outreach or accommodation
- Preservation of existing low-income housing opportunities
- Utilization of data to determine priorities, evaluate performance, and inform policy decisions
- Increase and accelerate the capacity of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) to house individuals, youth, and families
- Coordination of resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness, including advocating for solutions that scale all parts of the homeless services system appropriately
- Coordination of nimble and creative responses to immediate and emergency needs that Los Angeles County faces
- Support for efforts to decriminalize homelessness and remove barriers to housing that incarceration and criminal justice enforcement can create
- Recognition of added barriers that certain populations, such as Black and African Americans, LGBTQ and gender non-conforming individuals, people with disabilities, American Indians and
Alaska Natives, and others which face which lead to disproportionate representation in the homeless population

- Responses to unsheltered homelessness that respect the dignity of our unsheltered neighbors, prioritize public health and service needs, and uphold people’s civil rights in alignment with LAHSA’s “Policy Guidance for Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness” and other court mandates

Priorities

The policy priorities below will guide LAHSA staff as it works toward its mission to create, support, and sustain solutions to end homelessness. Priorities are organized by three major drivers that are critical to achieving significant progress and success.

Secure and Expand Resources

Securing and expanding federal and state-financed homeless assistance is critical to supporting persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. As the lead agency in the LA CoC, LAHSA seeks full funding to meet the HUD Hearth Act guidelines and requirements, in addition to the provision of at least $3 billion for the McKinney-Vento program in FY20-21. Moreover, LAHSA supports enhanced coordination between housing, homeless, health, and other sectors to ensure they are working in better alignment, and to avoid expansions of eligibility for homeless services without concomitant increases in resources and stronger coordination and alignment between different systems of care and public assistance.

At the federal and state level, there must be a continued focus on sustaining critical safety-net programs including health care, entitlement and income support programs that offer persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness a measure of resource stability. Additionally, LAHSA calls for state action to retain or increase funding levels for mental health, substance use disorders, and trauma-related services afflicting a sizable contingent of the homeless population. Moreover, efforts to reinforce harm reduction practices should be supported. Los Angeles faces unique circumstances in its homelessness crisis; accordingly, LAHSA supports innovative and responsive local approaches that respond to emergency conditions while reinforcing long-term efforts to connect people to permanent housing.

Preserve and Increase Housing and Housing Access

Increasing the affordable housing stock throughout Los Angeles County and ensuring equitable access to and distribution of housing opportunities are fundamental to directing persons out of homelessness and into stable housing. State and local action is urgently needed to expand permanent and interim housing development, increase housing resources, and encourage access to market-rate housing for participants in public and subsidized housing programs, while also ensuring robust compliance and enforcement of affordability requirements. State and local action is also needed to ameliorate the conditions of street homelessness by providing additional public health services and infrastructure.

At the federal level, LAHSA advocates for the protection of funding allocations to the Federal Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and public housing programs, and supports programs and legislation that facilitate and fund housing affordability and development, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. In addition, LAHSA supports efforts to ensure that the most vulnerable populations be prioritized for resources. Finally, LAHSA opposes federal proposals to further reduce access to housing and homelessness.
resources based on factors that include workforce participation, age, disability, or immigration status. LAHSA also supports protection of fair housing and other programs that seek to address housing access through a racial equity lens.

Locally, LAHSA advocates for the expansion of resources to create and preserve affordable housing, as well as land use policies to enable the creation of affordable, supportive, and interim housing opportunities.

More than ever, protections must be in place to reduce entries into homelessness, particularly for low-income renter households at risk of eviction and sharp rent increases, and individuals from marginalized groups less likely to access housing opportunities due to personal history. Action should be taken to implement new protections and ensure they are enforced. LAHSA opposes efforts to criminalize homelessness and supports action that reduces housing barriers for persons with backgrounds of criminal activity that have served their time and completed their sentences, persons that are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking, and other marginalized groups. Finally, local and state solutions to homelessness should employ a balanced approach that pairs interim and emergency interventions with permanent housing strategies.

**Strengthen Regional Coordination and Collaboration**

A collaborative approach is needed to effectively leverage and maximize local resources to support adults, families and youths experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Leading the Los Angeles CoC, LAHSA supports increased cooperation among service providers and public organizations that serve homeless populations in the Continuum. Central to this mission is the promotion and expansion of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to quickly and effectively connect homeless adults, families, and youths with housing and supportive resources. In addition, using and sharing data is integral to effective coordination and collaboration across entities.
## Legislative Recommendation Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Analysis</th>
<th>1/10/2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Number</strong></td>
<td>Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>B. Allen (SD-26: Santa Monica); S. Wiener (SD-11: San Francisco)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Los Angeles Delegation Co-Sponsors</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Status</strong></td>
<td>In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>SUPPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Summary</strong></td>
<td>SCA 1 proposes an amendment repealing Article 34 from the state constitution; Article 34 requires cities or counties to obtain voter approval prior to developing publicly-funded ‘low-rent’ housing developments.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Argument for Support/Opposition</strong></td>
<td>SUPPORT:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efforts to produce additional affordable housing can be stymied by Article 34, which prevents jurisdictions from providing publicly funded low-income housing without the approval of voters. This creates additional barriers and additional costs that may reduce the development of much needed housing. At present, the City of Los Angeles will soon have to seek voter approval in order to continue development of units affordable to low-income households, having nearly reached existing limits. Furthermore, Article 34 further curtails local communities’ ability to correct the legacy of racism and discrimination that has led to the disproportionate representation of Black people within LA County’s homeless population and across California. SCA-1 would allow California voters the option to repeal Article 34 in the 2020 statewide election. By repealing Article 34, cities and counties across California will have greater ability to meet the needs for affordable housing in their communities, reducing housing instability and homelessness.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>County Position</strong></td>
<td>No position.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>City Position</strong></td>
<td>Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notable Support/Oppose</strong></td>
<td>Support:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• California Association of Realtors (sponsor)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• California Coalition for Rural Housing (sponsor)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• California YIMBY (sponsor)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (sponsor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (sponsor)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Western Center on Law and Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oppose:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• None</td>
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</table>
January 24, 2020

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT for Senate Constitutional Amendment 1 (Allen-Wiener)

Dear Speaker Rendon,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority writes in support of Senate Constitutional Amendment 1 (Allen-Wiener), which proposes to California voters an amendment repealing Article 34 from the California Constitution. The stipulations of Article 34 requiring voters to approve publicly-funded “low-income” housing create a stigmatizing and onerous standard for development, one that is applied only to housing occupied by low-income people and no other type of residential development.

LAHSA is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, serving as the lead agency in the LA CoC. LAHSA is responsible for funding a significant portion of the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

California needs far more affordable housing units to meet the needs of low-income households. Many Angelenos are facing homelessness for the very first time, as they struggle to find housing that is affordable; the 2019 point-in-time homeless count identified a total of 58,936 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. Among unsheltered adults, a quarter became homeless for the first time in 2018.

In Los Angeles County, 516,946 affordable units are necessary to meet the needs of low-income and extremely low-income households. In Los Angeles County, 555,105 households spend more than 50% of their income on rent and nearly 90% of these households are very low-income or extremely low-income, often one emergency or missed paycheck away from losing their housing and falling into homelessness. Partially as a result of this shortage of affordable housing, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased in the City of Los Angeles by 16% and the County of Los Angeles by 12% in 2019, despite our systems of care housing more people than ever before. Affordable housing can serve as a critical safety net for vulnerable people that are at-risk of homelessness—as such, continuing to produce and preserve affordable units should be a critical policy priority.

______________________________
2 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
Due to provisions in Article 34 of the California State Constitution, the City of Los Angeles is limited to 3,500 publicly funded low-income housing units in each of the City’s 15 council districts; this threshold was approved by voters in 2008. Such requirements hinder the City’s ability to respond to the homelessness crisis. In order to develop additional units, the City would be required to hold an additional election, despite voters already approving a $1.2 billion bond to build supportive housing projects in 2016. This situation exemplifies the undue burdens Article 34 imposes on cities and counties across California, as they work to address the urgent need for affordable housing.

Furthermore, Article 34’s enactment reflects a history of racial discrimination that continues to perpetuate disparities in homelessness today. LAHSA’s Ad Hoc Committee Report on Black People Experiencing Homelessness found that Black people make up over a third of those experiencing homelessness in LA County, yet only 9% of its overall population. A deep legacy of structural racism and housing discrimination continues to exacerbate these inequities, and Article 34 is a piece of this painful legacy. At a time when it was legal to deny housing on the basis of race, Article 34’s passage created additional barriers by allowing voters to block the production of publicly funded low-income housing. At present, Article 34 can continue to be used as a tool to prevent equitable patterns of development across the region from moving forward.

If passed by the legislature, California voters would have the opportunity to repeal Article 34 in the 2020 statewide election. If repealed, California jurisdictions would have greater ability to invest in more housing options for low-income households. It would ensure that cities can fully take advantage of opportunities meant to increase the production of affordable housing, such as the State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program that was expanded under the 2019-2020 Budget Act and additional funding made available through the Multifamily Housing Program after the passage of 2018’s Proposition 1. SCA-1 is a step forward in continuing to reduce housing instability and homelessness. Your office’s leadership on affordable housing and homelessness is appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to work with the State Legislature to reduce and end homelessness in California.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dusseault  
Chair, LAHSA Commission

Heidi Marston  
Interim Executive Director

6 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness. (2019.) “Ad Hoc Committee Report on Black People Experiencing Homelessness: Key Takeaways.”
### Legislative Recommendation Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Analysis</th>
<th>1/13/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Number</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Bill 1279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>R. Bloom (AD 50: Santa Monica)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Status</strong></td>
<td>Passed full Assembly in 2019. Triple referred to Senate Housing, Environmental Quality, and Governance and Finance Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>SUPPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Summary</strong></td>
<td>AB 1279 promotes the production of affordable and mixed-income housing units in designated high-resource, low-density neighborhoods, not at risk of gentrification or displacement. Specifically, AB 1279 makes the following types of development projects that meet the below criteria “by-right”:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Up to four residential units with a height of up to 20 feet, in areas zoned only for single-family use. All units must be affordable to residents at 100% AMI or lower, or the developer may pay into a local affordable housing fund.</td>
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<td>- Up to 40 residential units with a height up to 30 feet, in select residential use areas. Affordability criteria based on the amount of units in the project.</td>
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<td>- Up to 100 residential units with a height up to 55 feet, on larger parcels in “prime” locations. Half of all units must be dedicated to low-income and very-low income households.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- To qualify, projects may not be located in a sensitive area, or require the demolition of existing rental units.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Argument for Support/Opposition | SUPPORT: Los Angeles County currently faces a deficit of 516,000 affordable housing units for the region’s lowest income renters, pushing many households to the brink of homelessness. This bill seeks to address the state’s housing crisis by incentivizing housing projects located in high-opportunity neighborhoods that meet robust affordability requirements. By encouraging higher density in resource-rich communities, this bill targets exclusionary housing policies that have historically precluded low-income renters and communities of color from upward mobility and are a contributing factor to the disproportionate representation of communities of color in poverty and homelessness. |
|                               | Support for this bill is in alignment with the 2020 LAHSA State Legislative Agenda, approved by the LAHSA Commission on December 20, 2019, and the Resolution on Geographic Equity in Homelessness and Housing Resources, approved by the LAHSA Commission in January 2019. |
| County of Los Angeles Position | No position. |
| City of Los Angeles Position   | No position. |
| Notable Support/Opposition     | Support       |
|                                |   • California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (Sponsor) |
|                                |   • Western Center of Law and Poverty (Sponsor) |
|                                |   • Public Advocates, Inc. |
|                                |   • Housing California |
|                                |   • City of Oakland |
| Opposition                     | Opposite      |
|                                |   • City of Long Beach |
|                                |   • City of Beverly Hills |
|                                |   • City of Monrovia |
January 24, 2020

Senator Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Housing Committee
State Capitol Room 2290
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1279 (Bloom)

Dear Chair Wiener,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) writes in support of Assembly Bill 1279 (Bloom), which streamlines the development of mixed-income and affordable housing projects and encourages greater density in select high-resource neighborhoods.

LAHSA is a joint-powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, serving as the lead agency of the LA CoC. LAHSA is responsible for funding a significant portion of the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Statewide, the homelessness crisis is largely driven by the shortage of affordable housing options for California renters. Los Angeles County continues to face a deficit of 516,946 affordable housing units for renters making less than 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). At the same time, more than 10,000 existing units, the vast majority of which house older adults and families, are at risk of losing their affordability due to expiring covenants and market-rate conversions that permanently take limited units off the affordable housing market. If passed, AB 1279 helps alleviate the state’s housing crisis by authorizing by-right approvals for projects in high-resources areas that meet robust affordability requirements, while protecting communities vulnerable to gentrification and displacement.

As we wait for newly funded affordable housing units to come online, the weight of the housing crisis continues to fall heaviest on those who can afford it the least. In Los Angeles County, 540,000 low-income households spend at least half their income on housing costs alone, 74 percent of whom make less than 30 percent AMI — or $27,050 for a family of four. These are households that are forced to make difficult decisions between housing and other essential needs, and are often just one missed paycheck, one emergency expense away from falling into homelessness. We see the effects on housing instability reflected in the growth of the region’s homelessness population, tempering the record gains we have made in placing people into permanent housing.

According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, 58,936

1 California Housing Partnership. (June 2019). Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Outcomes Report.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
people are experiencing homelessness on a given night, up 12 percent from the previous year.⁴ In the LA CoC, 23 percent of people had their first bout of homelessness in the past year, largely due to economic factors. ⁵

AB 1279 offers a systemic approach to the affordability crisis by focusing on growth in resource-rich neighborhoods, while addressing some of the underlying drivers of poverty and homelessness crisis including residential segregation and displacement. If passed, this bill would upend zoning barriers that have historically precluded low-income, communities of color from housing and economic opportunity pivotal to upward mobility. A wide body of research finds that residential segregation has negative impacts on childhood well-being in a number of indicators including health, educational attainment, and social behavior. In the same vein, research finds that moving young children to higher-opportunity neighborhoods has profound effects on childhood development, including higher chances of attending college and increasing earnings potential in the future.⁶

Today, the legacy of exclusionary housing policies is reflected, in part, in the overrepresentation of communities of color in national poverty rates and in our homeless populations. In 2018, the LAHSA Commission convened the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness to identify the systemic drivers behind the overrepresentation of Black people in the homeless population, including housing policies that have intentionally kept communities of color out of high-opportunity neighborhoods. At present, Black/African Americans make up 33 percent of people experiencing homelessness in LA County, while comprising just 9 percent of the general population. Among the Committee’s recommendations include advocacy for more robust enforcement of Fair Housing provisions and housing policies, akin to this bill, that address the shortage in affordable housing options while considering the needs of disenfranchised communities.

To effectively address homelessness, we must continue to preserve and build affordable housing while also working to dismantle systemic barriers to opportunities and mobility. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and strongly urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dusseault
Chair, LAHSA Commission

Heidi Marston
Interim Executive Director

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⁵ Ibid.
## Legislative Recommendation Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Analysis</th>
<th>1/8/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Assembly Bill 362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>S. Eggman (AD 13: Stockton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Delegation Co-Sponsors</td>
<td>L. Friedman (AD 43: Glendale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Status</td>
<td>Passed full Assembly in 2019. Triple referred to Senate Health, Public Safety and Judiciary Committee. Likely to be heard in May 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Recommendation</td>
<td>SUPPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Summary</td>
<td>AB 362 gives the City and County of San Francisco authority to approve the operation of Safe Consumption Sites, subject to select requirements, until January 1, 2026.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument for Support/Opposition</td>
<td>SUPPORT: Here in Los Angeles, homelessness has increasingly become a public health crisis in many parts of the county. A recent County health report finds that drug and alcohol-related overdoses are the second leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness, and one of the leading contributors to the rise in the mortality rate in the population. If passed, AB 362 would advance evidence-based, Harm Reduction practices by authorizing the first state-sanctioned Safe Consumption Sites in the country. Recent reports find that these sites mitigate overdose-related deaths and result in an uptake in treatment services, without negative impacts on the wider community. Support for this bill is in alignment with 2020 LAHSA State Legislative Agenda, approved by the LAHSA Commission on December 20, 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County of Los Angeles Position</td>
<td>No position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Los Angeles Position</td>
<td>No position. However, the City of Los Angeles was in support of an earlier iteration of the bill (AB 186), which included Los Angeles County in the pilot program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Notable Support/Opposition | Support  
  - Drug Policy Alliance (co-sponsor)  
  - Harm Reduction Coalition (co-sponsor)  
  - California Medical Association  
  - Homeless Health Care Los Angeles  
  Opposition  
  - California Police Chiefs Association  
  - California State Sheriffs Association |
January 24, 2020

Senator Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 362 (Eggman)

Dear Chair Pan,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) writes in support of Assembly Bill 362 (Eggman), which advances evidence-based approaches to substance use treatment by piloting the first state-sanctioned safe consumption sites.

LAHSA is a joint-powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, serving as the lead agency of the LA CoC. LAHSA is responsible for funding a significant portion of the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

With 58,936 people experiencing homelessness on a given night, homelessness is a public health crisis in many parts of Los Angeles County. While we know that homelessness is largely a factor of housing affordability and poverty, other factors, including substance use, can push people deeper into homelessness the longer they go without stable housing and viable options for treatment. In Los Angeles County, nearly 15 percent of the population reported having a serious and long-term substance use disorder.1 Among those who are chronically homeless, the share rises to 38 percent – just over a third the population, nearly all of whom are unsheltered.2

Interventions rooted in evidence-based practices, like Harm Reduction, are the cornerstone of an effective and sustainable approach to addressing homelessness and saving the lives of some of our most marginalized Californians. Over the past five years, 795 deaths in the homeless population were attributed to overdoses from drug or alcohol use, making it the second leading cause of death among people who are homeless in LA County.3 The rate was higher for women experiencing homelessness; nearly a quarter of deaths in the population were attributable to a substance use overdose, making it the leading cause of death among homeless women.4 Altogether, deaths related to substance use were singled out as the leading contributor to the increase in mortality rates in the homeless population over the past six years. These are

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1 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count
2 Ibid.
3 County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health. (October 2019.) “Recent Trends in Mortality Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County.”
4 Ibid.
deaths that are largely preventable and require bold action to advance practices that are proven to create healthier outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.

If passed, AB 362 clears the way for the first state-sanctioned safe consumption sites in the United States. For decades, countries around the world have adopted these sites as practical, preventative measures to meet people “where they are,” while reducing the negative consequences of substance use. These are sites that allow people to come off the street and into safe, supervised spaces with access to clean syringes and other medical interventions that can allow them to safely consume pre-obtained drugs. Research finds that safe consumption sites not only prevent overdose-related deaths but result in higher uptakes in substance use treatment. Closer to home, this bill builds on the state’s leadership in the area of Harm Reduction practices, from advancing wider distribution of Naloxone to expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) options for persons in emergency care and the criminal justice system. Here in Los Angeles, the Harm Reduction model is foundational to the work of our homeless services system and targeted outreach to people without shelter.

As we continue to address this crisis in our communities, we stand committed to supporting the State Legislature in advancing low-barrier, evidence-based practices that address the needs of our unhoused neighbors and bring them closer to permanent housing. We commend your leadership on this issue and strongly urge your support for the bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dusseault
Chair, LAHSA Commission

Heidi Marston
Interim Executive Director
Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP)

Alex Visotzky & Emily Andrade

Policy and Planning Committee
January 17, 2020
Overview

1. Purpose
2. Homelessness Crisis
3. Overview of HHAP
4. Input from Community, Lived Experience, CoC Board Members
5. Recommendations
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will apply for an estimated $66 million in state funding at the end of January.

Highlight input from key stakeholders on funding recommendations

Seek approval on application expenditure plan
Overview of HHAP

2019 budget bill AB 101 - $640 M in one-time funding to local jurisdictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Total State Allocation*</th>
<th>Max. Share of Total Allocation per Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Expected LA Allocation</th>
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<td>Cities &gt; 300,000 Pop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>58 Counties</td>
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<td>44 CoCs</td>
<td>$181 M</td>
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<td>$67 M***</td>
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*After state administrative allocation  
**LA Cities allocation is for the City of Los Angeles and does not include the City of Long Beach’s allocation.  
***LA Allocation is for LAHSA and does not include allocations for the other CoCs in LA County.
Overview of HHAP - Eligible Uses

- Housing
  - Permanent Housing
  - Operating Subsidies

- Rental Assistance
  - Rental Assistance
  - Rapid Re-housing
  - Landlord Incentives

- Emergency Interventions
  - Operations for Shelter
  - Prevention/Diversion
  - Navigation Centers

- Systems
  - Outreach and Coordination
  - Regional Partnerships
  - Systems Support
In May 2019, the Board of Supervisors allocated $460 million* in Measure H funding for FY 2019-20.

- **Prevention**: $23 Million
- **Outreach**: $29 Million
- **Supportive Housing**: $77 Million
- **Rapid Re-Housing**: $85 Million
- **Shelter / Interim Housing**: $126 Million

*Only the largest “buckets” of funding are listed here; therefore, the amounts in the boxes do not add up to the total $460 million. Full details of Measure H allocations for FY 19-20 can be found on the HI website.
Overview of Public Input

Public input sessions in all 8 SPAs
  • 550 attendees

Online survey
  • 100 responses

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA)

Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board
Summary of Input

Prevention
• Increased level of prevention resources
• Additional flexibility in use of resources
• Partnership with cities

Access and Engagement
• Mental health-led outreach
• Peers with lived experience
• Mobile access points

Services
• Hygiene services
• Substance use service availability
Summary of Input (continued)

Interim Housing
- Increased level of interim housing across continuum
- Peer support, especially for youth

Subsidized Housing
- Increased availability of rental assistance resources
- Additional flexibility and subsidy for vulnerable populations
- Availability of affordable housing stock

Other Considerations
- Support for growing agencies
- Data and training
## LAHSA Proposed HHAP Expenditure Plan

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<tr>
<th>State Expenditure Category</th>
<th>LAHSA Proposed Allocation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Assistance/ Rapid Re-Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention and Diversion</td>
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<td>• Problem Solving</td>
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<td>Systems Support / Infrastructure Development</td>
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<td>• Capacity Building&lt;br&gt;• CES Refinement and Testing</td>
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<td>TAY Set Aside</td>
<td>$5 M</td>
<td>• Rapid Re-Housing&lt;br&gt;• Problem Solving&lt;br&gt;• DCFS/Probation Liaisons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigation Centers and Shelters</td>
<td>$18 M</td>
<td>• Existing Interim Housing Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Next Steps

Seek LAHSA Commission approval on 1/24/20

Application deadline of 2/15/20

State makes awards by 4/1/20
Public Input: Homelessness Funding Allocation – 2020

Introduction

On any given night, approximately 58,936 people are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, according to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Thanks to unprecedented increases in funding from local and state sources, the Los Angeles County Homeless Services System has undergone rapid expansion to help bring our homeless neighbors into housing. To effectively deploy these resources, Los Angeles County public agencies, non-profits, philanthropic partners, community members, and people with lived experience of homelessness are coming together to coordinate efforts and tap into a wide range of expertise.

The following report summarizes community feedback on LA County’s homelessness programs and funding, which was collected during a series of public input sessions held in November 2019. These sessions were conducted by two entities:

- The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a joint-powers authority of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, which coordinates federal, state, and local funding to address homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), and administers the provision of over $300 million in annual funding to address homelessness;
- The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI), which oversees the expenditure of Measure H funds, an estimated $355 million generated annually from a special County sales tax designated for programs that combat and prevent homelessness, along with coordinating all County efforts to address homelessness. The HI is housed within the Chief Executive Office (CEO) of the County of Los Angeles.

LAHSA and the HI sought input on how best to utilize funding from two sources in order to bolster efforts to address homelessness over the next several years. Participants in the input sessions provided input on Measure H funding allocations, as well as on the allocation of funds from a new one-time source of state funding, the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). Both of these funding streams are discussed below.

Over 550 people attended the in-person input sessions, with another 100 contributing input through an online form. This input, along with separate input from LAHSA’s lived experience advisory groups, has been or will soon be shared with LAHSA’s leadership team, HI leadership, the LAHSA Commission, County Lead Agencies administering Measure H-funded programs, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to inform the creation of proposed funding allocation recommendations for both Measure H funding and HHAP funding. These recommendations are intended to reflect community and expert input on the most strategic uses of funding to prevent and combat homelessness while creating coordinated, seamless systems of care across the many agencies that work every day to house vulnerable people.

1 For a full list of input sessions, locations, and dates, please see Appendix A.
In addition to the comments gathered at the public input sessions, LAHSA and HI will draw on feedback provided through other mechanisms, including eight policy summits convened by the HI in the fall of 2019.

### About HHAP and Measure H

Public input centered around two flexible sources of funding to address homelessness that, taken together, will comprise the majority of homelessness program funding in Los Angeles County over the next several years. These sources include HHAP and Measure H. They are detailed below.

#### HHAP

The HHAP program was created as part of the 2019-20 budget bill approved by the State Legislature in June 2019 and subsequently signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The program was allocated $650 million from the state, which will be distributed to local jurisdictions in the following way:

- $275 million to the 13 cities with populations in excess of 300,000;
- $190 million to the 44 continuums of care within California;
- $175 million to the 58 counties within California.

Funding allocations are based on 2019 Point-in-Time Count estimates. As such, the Los Angeles Continuum of Care is expected to receive $66 million in funding, while Los Angeles County is expected to receive $65 million. Uses of funding are flexible and include supportive housing, interim housing, rental assistance, homelessness prevention, and other uses. Grantees are required to spend at least 8% of their funding on services for transition aged youth (TAY).

Jurisdictions have approximately five years to spend the funding, and grantees must have obligated 50% of their award by May 31, 2023. Jurisdictions are required to submit applications for funding to the state by February 15, 2020, with the state required to make award determinations by April 1, 2020.

#### Measure H

Measure H is a ¼ cent sales tax that was approved by Los Angeles County voters in March 2017 to fund homeless services. The sales tax generates approximately $355 million annually, which is collected by the state and remitted to Los Angeles County.

Measure H provides funding for 21 strategies to combat homelessness. These 21 strategies are components of a comprehensive 51 strategy plan that was developed over the course of multiple input sessions hosted by Los Angeles County, which brought together key stakeholders over the course of 2015 and 2016. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the action plan on February 9, 2016.

After the passage of Measure H, the County HI began a stakeholder engagement process to develop recommendations for Measure H funding to implement the approved strategies. On June 13, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the recommended funding allocations for each of the Measure H-eligible HI strategies. Measure H-funded strategies began implementation in July 2017.
Listening Sessions

LAHSA and HI hosted eight listening sessions, with one held in each of the County’s eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs). Please see Appendix A for a full list of dates, and locations of each listening session. The structure of each listening session was as follows: LAHSA and HI staff opened with a short presentation on the homeless service delivery system and the sources of state and local funding being discussed.

Attendees were then asked to circulate between six input stations, which were based on the following components of the homeless services system:

- Homelessness Prevention and Problem Solving
- Outreach and Access to the System
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Other Considerations

Within each of these stations, participants were asked to consider three guiding questions:

- What strategies are working well in the system and should be augmented?
- What gaps exist within the system and need to be filled, both in terms of services that need to be increased and populations that are inadequately served?
- What service delivery or program design changes should be considered?

Participants spent an hour giving input at stations and having discussions with LAHSA and HI program staff and other attendees. They recorded their input on post-its which were then placed on chart paper at each station. Facilitators at each station then shared the input themes they heard at their respective stations with the larger group. Participants were then asked to identify which themes at each station they felt were the most important.

The following sections summarize the key themes that participants lifted up within each of the six categories of input station. Included also are responses from LAHSA and/or the HI, highlighting recent efforts and ongoing initiatives that are aligned with the issues that participants raised with these comments. LAHSA and HI will be carefully considering these comments in assembling HHAP proposed expenditure plans, and the HI will consider these comments in making recommendations for Measure H expenditures.

Homeless Prevention and Problem Solving

*Tenant Protections and Greater Inventory of Affordable Housing:* Regarding system improvement to more effectively prevent homelessness, many participants raised macroeconomic factors that drive people into homelessness. Participants discussed the need for stronger rent control and tenant protections to prevent large spikes in rent or large numbers of evictions (SPAs 3, 5, 6, 7). Additionally, many participants brought forward the need for more affordable housing production and preservation as key tools to prevent vulnerable people from falling in to homelessness (SPAs 1, 6, 7, 8).
LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: At present, Measure H funds legal services for individuals and families facing imminent homelessness as a result of eviction through Measure H Strategies A1/A5. While LAHSA and HI are not the primary stakeholders driving policy to protect tenants from large rent increases or evictions, both bodies have engaged in advocacy to support stronger tenant protections and increased production of affordable housing. Both entities worked to support AB 1482, a recently-enacted state law that caps rent increases and restricts landlords from issuing arbitrary evictions, and are working with partners to support implementation of this important new law. In addition, both entities will be supporting efforts to strengthen the legal framework for protecting tenants, including exploring creation and implementation of City and County eviction defense programs and additional state support for these programs. Finally, both entities are committed to supporting efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing.

More information can be found at the conclusion of this section in the paragraph titled “County Comprehensive Homeless Prevention Action Plan.”

Increased Overall Level of Prevention Resources, Including Rental Assistance: Throughout public input sessions, participants expressed the need to scale up prevention programs (SPAs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Special emphasis was placed on the need for rental assistance funding as a prevention tool (SPAs 4, 5, 6), as well as flexible funding (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8). Finally, multiple partners emphasized the need for outreach and education, both on what prevention services are available and to educate community members on existing tenant rights (SPAs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8).

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: LAHSA and HI view homelessness prevention as a critical systemwide priority that must be scaled up among all partners, including key mainstream public agencies that interface with vulnerable clients who are at risk of falling into homelessness. In addition, LAHSA is scaling up “Problem Solving” programs in response to ongoing feedback about the need for rapid resolution and prevention programs. These Problem Solving programs are predicated on the idea that for many people, homelessness can be avoided or rapidly resolved with flexible interventions including mediation, empowerment, and financial assistance. As such, the Problem Solving program is delivering robust training on mediation and problem solving to system partners to build their capacity to support clients facing a housing crisis and assist them to find solutions to their housing crisis. In addition, as part of the Problem Solving program, LAHSA is in the process of rolling out flexible funding to pay for a variety of expenses that can prevent or rapidly resolve homelessness (rental arrears, security deposit on a new apartment, car repairs, grocery cards). In addition, efforts via the County’s Mainstream Systems Homelessness Prevention Workgroup seek to address some of the above concerns (See description below).

Need for Financial Empowerment and Other Skills Training for At-Risk Populations: Several participants raised the need for financial empowerment training for people that are at risk of homelessness, noting that such training could assist with stabilizing these households in the future (SPAs 2, 4, 6, 7). In addition, participants noted the need for links to existing job training programs to assist vulnerable people to, when applicable, re-enter the workforce and increase income (SPAs 2, 3, 5, 7).

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: Both LAHSA and HI are at work to strengthen links between the mainstream workforce programs operated by the County Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS) agency, the Department of Public Social Services, and the homelessness services system.
The County has formed an Employment and Homelessness Taskforce, which includes HI, LAHSA, WDACS, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. The Taskforce is working with agency partners to implement strategies to improve training for staff so they are equipped to connect clients to employment, streamline assessment to identify employment resources that best fit a client’s needs, and engage businesses to offer employment opportunities to people that have experiencing homelessness, among other efforts. The Taskforce has identified two geographic “clusters” within which Taskforce recommendations will be piloted; one cluster is located in South LA and another is located in the San Gabriel Valley.

Additionally, WDACS administers funding for several programs that target people experiencing homelessness, including LA:RISE, HIRE UP, and the Alternative Staff Organizations (ASOs). More information on LA:RISE and HIRE UP is below in the “Services” section.

**Housing Retention Efforts for Formerly Homeless:** Participants raised the need for prevention efforts to include assistance for those who are housed by the homeless services system to retain their housing and prevent them from falling back into homelessness (SPA 7).

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** Within supportive housing units with services funded by Measure H, the Department of Health Services (DHS) provides wraparound Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) that include retention services to ensure that those in supportive housing stay housed. Additionally, as a complement to the Rapid Re-Housing program and the case management services provided, LAHSA has launched the shallow subsidy program. This program provides a longer-term supplemental rental subsidy to some vulnerable households at risk of falling out of their housing after their Rapid Re-Housing subsidy expires.

**Key Populations—Transition Aged Youth:** One population that was highlighted as needing additional prevention services was transition-aged youth (TAY). Input sessions highlighted both those TAY exiting the foster care system and other systems of care (SPA 5), as well as TAY that are students and at-risk of homelessness (SPA 7).

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** The homeless system is extending prevention and problem-solving training to key youth partners, such as the Department of Children and Family Services, to address the need to prevent TAY from exiting systems of care without stable housing. In addition, LAHSA and HI are in discussions with higher education partners about how to best utilize new peer navigators located at community colleges to better connect at-risk students with prevention resources. Los Angeles County has allocated an additional $4 million for TAY homelessness strategies through the County’s Supplemental changes budget process for the 2019-2020 budget. Finally, HHAP allocations will include at least 8% of funding for TAY in accordance with HHAP regulations.

**Prevention Partnerships with Cities:** At one session, many participants highlighted the key role that city staff can play in preventing homelessness (SPA 3). Key city departments as well as particular locations within cities offer opportunities for city staff to interface with vulnerable households; these locations and city staff can be better positioned to assist clients with their housing crises if more training and resources were made available.

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** LAHSA will be making problem solving trainings available to staff from all cities throughout Los Angeles County to better position these staff to prevent homelessness. In addition, HI has made Measure H funding available for cities to develop their own
homelessness plans and implement strategies within these plans. Several of these plans include a prevention component.

Other Homelessness Prevention Themes:

- More flexibility with rental assistance programs
- Greater efficiencies needed in deploying vouchers to prevent homelessness
- Viewing prevention efforts across multiple systems of care
- Increasing access and eligibility for prevention services

*County Mainstream Systems Homeless Prevention Action Plan: In addition to the efforts described above, the County has developed a Mainstream Systems Homeless Prevention Action Plan, created in response to a Board of Supervisors directive. The Workgroup which developed the Action Plan is comprised of County policymakers and expert stakeholders. The Workgroup has assessed existing prevention programs within mainstream County departments and developed recommendations to enhance coordination across these programs, utilize predictive analytics methods to better target prevention resources, enhance current homeless prevention programs, and modify policies that may contribute to the flow of people into homelessness.*

**Access and Engagement**

*Mental Health Specialist-Led Outreach: Many participants emphasized the need for outreach teams to incorporate mental health services and include specialists trained in mental health interventions into more outreach teams (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5). These participants cited lack of adequate training among generalist teams to work with clients with acute mental health needs, along with the improved outreach outcomes for people with mental health needs that arise when they work with a trained specialist, rather than generalists.*

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: Measure H-funded multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) have been deployed across the County. These teams include mental health professionals. In early December 2019, LAHSA led an orientation training for over 100 new MDT staff. These efforts continue to accelerate.*

*Peer-Led Outreach: When discussing outreach, many participants noted the effectiveness of these efforts being led or incorporating peers with lived experience of homelessness (SPAs 4, 6). These participants noted that peers with lived experience are better equipped to build trust with people experiencing homelessness.*

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: At present, nearly half of LAHSA outreach staff have lived experience of homelessness and each of the MDTs funded by Measure H include a staff member with lived experience of homelessness. In addition, HI and LAHSA are continuing to invest in bringing more people with lived experience of homelessness into the system as employees—for example, peer navigators are currently being onboarded by CES Lead Agencies to be co-located at LA County’s Community Colleges to assist homeless and at-risk students.*

*Mobile Access Points: At several SPAs, participants noted the need for innovations such as mobile access points (SPAs 3, 8). These access points could rotate between different “hot spots” within a particular jurisdiction where people experiencing homelessness tend to be concentrated, such as parks,*
underpasses, or other encampment sites. These mobile access points can provide services while also conducting assessments and enrolling people experiencing homelessness into the CES.

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** LAHSA will release an RFP, funded through the State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program ( HEAP), to create new access points in early 2020, pending LAHSA Commission approval. In this RFP, mobile access points are expected to be an eligible activity.

**City/Neighborhood Council-Led Outreach:** Multiple participants expressed the need for outreach to be conducted in partnership with cities and for cities to be able to access funding to train and deploy their own outreach staff and services (SPA 3). In addition, some participants noted Neighborhood Councils as another potential partner for outreach work (SPA 6).

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** LAHSA and the County will encourage cities to apply for funding for access points when the RFP is released in 2020. In addition, partnerships between outreach leads and cities and opportunities for co-location continue to be essential components of the comprehensive outreach strategy across the County.

Other Access and Engagement Themes:

- More family-targeted outreach
- More resources in specific regions of the county (West San Fernando Valley, for example)
- One-stop shops for services and access to the system

### Services

**Need for More Hygiene Services:** The need for more hygiene infrastructure was one of the most frequently raised themes at the input sessions (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). Participants noted the need for more bathrooms, showers and mobile showers, laundry services, trash receptacles and regular trash pick up, among other services. Participants noted that, while increased permanent housing and interim housing are critical goals, so too must be a public health response to homelessness while thousands of clients continue to wait for placement in interim and permanent housing. Session participants also noted that such a response would dually benefit both housed and unhoused Angelenos.

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** LAHSA and HI support a public health response to homelessness that brings key hygiene services to the streets. LAHSA’s Policy Guidance for Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness advises local jurisdictions to respond to unsheltered homelessness with resources to improve the hygiene and health of all residents, including bathrooms, showers, garbage disposal, safe needle and hazardous waste disposal, and safe storage, among other responses. LAHSA and HI will continue to encourage cities to use local resources to invest in these services and infrastructure for the benefit of all residents. In addition, LAHSA released an RFP in 2019 for mobile shower providers; the results of the RFP are pending. The HI has partnered with non-profit shower providers to support their efforts to expand access to hygiene services.

**Increase Employment Services:** In several SPAs, participants noted the need for more employment services to help connect people experiencing homelessness to job training and job placement (SPAs 4, 5). These participants also noted that employment services need to be trauma-informed to better serve people that are experiencing or have recently exited homelessness.
LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: Several Measure H strategies provide employment services for people experiencing homelessness. Strategy C2/C7: Increase Employment for Homeless Adults, which is administered by WDACS, provides funding for a number of employment programs targeting people experiencing or exiting homelessness. In addition, for the past year, the HI has been convening an Employment and Homelessness Taskforce, which has issued a set of recommendations to increase employment among people experiencing homelessness. The recommendations are being piloted in two regions, as described above. Included among the recommendations are improved access to training for both homeless services and workforce development system staff to enable them to better meet the needs of homeless job seekers. Trainings on trauma-informed care are among the planned offerings.

Substance Use Disorder Services Need to Be Made More Widely Available: A wide array of comments in the input sessions discussed both the availability and quality of substance use services (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). Participants mentioned both that these services are limited, but also the need for harm-reduction approaches, including use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) and safe consumption sites.

Population Specific Services: Several populations were identified by session participants as needing additional services that are tailored to their needs. These populations include TAY (SPAs 1, 8), seniors (SPAs 2, 7), survivors of domestic violence (DV) (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8) and single mothers (SPA 2).

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: LAHSA and the County will both be required to expend at least 8% of HHAP funding on homeless youth. Enhanced services for TAY will become available through TAY Access Centers that are currently being procured by LAHSA. In addition, LAHSA has utilized state funding to increase the number of slots for youth in the Rapid Re-Housing program. Problem-solving specialists are being allocated to the highest utilization TAY shelters, while new campus peer navigators will assist TAY in the higher education system. Measure H-funded Strategy E14 supports a range of services for TAY.

For seniors, Los Angeles County’s Adult Protective Services (APS) and LAHSA have launched the HomeSafe program, which provides targeted homeless prevention services to seniors that have an open case with APS. In a separate effort, County-funded outreach teams are providing weekly outreach to meal and nutrition sites in order to engage seniors experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The County and LAHSA are also working together to strengthen services for survivors of domestic violence. DV Regional Coordinators have been hired in each SPA and are providing training to CES lead agencies on Safety Planning as well as referral pathways for people experiencing or fleeing DV. Over 260 provider staff have received this training to date. LAHSA is also continuing to operate a DV Rapid Re-Housing pilot as part of County Strategy B3, which provides targeted housing subsidies and supportive services to victims of DV.

Other Services Themes:

- Transportation services with warm handoffs
- Better linkages to health services
- More availability of credit repair, legal services
- Need for smaller caseloads among case managers
- Accountability for quality of services
Interim Housing

Insufficient Shelter Resources of All Types: Participants in all SPAs articulated concerns about a shortage of interim housing beds for the 75% of homeless Angelenos that are unsheltered. Multiple types of interim housing were brought up by session participants: bridge housing beds, crisis housing beds (including Winter Shelter beds), as well as alternatives to interim housing such as Safe Parking programs.

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: Over the past year, Measure H funds have supported a significant increase in funding and availability of interim housing beds through strategies E8 and B7. In addition, the County has assembled an Interim Housing Capital Funding Pool, which includes an additional $50 million to increase the overall number of beds throughout the County. Further, LAHSA and Los Angeles County are collaborating with the City of Los Angeles to open and operate hundreds of new beds through the City of Los Angeles’ “A Bridge Home” program.

Both LAHSA and Los Angeles County continue to advocate to the state for more resources to further increase interim housing, as current funding is insufficient to both significantly increase interim housing stock while also investing in permanent housing solutions.

Need for Interim Housing that Allows for Storage, Pets: Participants in input sessions also commented on program design and restrictions in existing interim housing. Multiple participants brought up restrictive shelter programs with barriers such as not allowing pets or having sufficient storage to be an acceptable option for unsheltered individuals (SPAs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8).

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: Best practices for interim housing, as described in LAHSA’s Interim Housing Practice Standards, recommend that interim housing operators accept pets, create opportunities for participants to store belongings, and adhere to other low-barriers practices. LAHSA continues to provide technical assistance to interim housing providers to ensure widespread implementation of best practices.

Shared Housing as a Form of Interim Housing: Participants noted that shared housing, in which multiple people share a single housing unit, can be used as a bridge between unsheltered homelessness and permanent housing. Participants highlighted shared housing as an intervention that can be used across generations (SPA 3), including for seniors (SPA 6), with encouragement to pilot on a smaller scale (SPA 1).

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: At present, shared housing is used extensively within the Rapid Re-Housing program, with approximately 25% of housing placements through Rapid Re-Housing occurring in shared housing settings.

Increase Mental Health Services in Interim Housing: Participants in several SPAs emphasized the need to support people in interim housing with mental health services (SPAs 3, 4, 5, 6) and in some cases, create interim housing specially tailored for people with mental illness.

LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives: DMH and DHS have now expanded trainings for interim housing service providers—these trainings include capacity-building on providing mental health services in interim housing settings. In addition, in September, DHS launched an interim housing program for older adults with complex health needs, including mental health needs.
Other Interim Housing Themes:

- Need for more motel vouchers
- Allow for longer stays in interim housing
- More transportation services at interim housing to assist clients with getting to appointments
- More outreach to property owners to use sites as interim housing

**Permanent Housing**

*Increase Availability of Affordable Housing:* Numerous participants raised the overwhelming need for more affordable housing throughout Los Angeles County *(SPAs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8).* Participants noted that affordable units set aside for low-income households serve a dual purpose, both as a key resource to stabilize vulnerable households to prevent homelessness, and as units that are well suited for people experiencing homelessness to move in to.

*LAHSA/Hi Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* While LAHSA and HI do not have authority over either land use policy to expedite the availability of affordable housing nor significant capital funding to make new investments in affordable housing, both entities are strongly supportive of efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing. At the state level, new funding for affordable housing is becoming available to local jurisdictions through SB 2 and the passage of Propositions 1 and 2. More advocacy is needed to continue to move State policy and funding towards increasing affordable housing. Additionally, at the local level, the County of Los Angeles has invested in an Affordable Housing Programs Budget since it was established in 2015; investments in this budget will reach $100 million annually beginning in FY 2020-21. Both entities are supportive of policy changes to expedite and incentivize creation of affordable housing as well.

*Centralized Housing Location Website:* While participants noted that the overall availability of affordable housing is a persistent barrier in the system, so too is the availability of information about what affordable housing exists *(SPAs 4, 5, 8).* Participants also noted the need for information on available market rate housing in which subsidies and vouchers can be utilized to support clients exiting homelessness. Information on when and where housing units are available, both market-rate and subsidized, is neither centralized nor consistent. This creates significant difficulties for people seeking to access these resources and barriers for those most in need of housing. Participants noted that there should be a central repository of affordable housing information that can be accessed by clients, provider agencies, and landlords.

*LAHSA/Hi Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Within the homeless services system, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) has created a housing location website funded by LAHSA that is available for people in the Rapid Re-Housing program, where landlords can make their vacant units available to housing providers and case managers seeking housing for their clients.

*Shared Housing:* Participants noted that shared housing is a low-cost intervention that can assist people to move in to housing faster. Additionally, participants noted that this intervention may be especially appropriate for TAY *(SPAs 1, 2, 4, 6).*

*LAHSA/Hi Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* At present, shared housing is becoming a larger part of the response to homelessness. In LAHSA-funded Rapid Re-Housing, shared housing accounts for about 25% of all housing placements. Both LAHSA and HI are also seeking additional flexibility from both the state
and federal government to use shared housing more broadly. Finally, LAHSA and HI worked with LeSar Development Consultants on a new shared housing toolkit, which will help share best practices for how to use shared housing effectively.

**More Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:** Many participants have noted the need for much more tenant-based rental assistance. Participants suggested that the homeless system would benefit from increases in Rapid Re-Housing resources (SPAs 2, 6), shallow subsidies that are available to Rapid Re-Housing participants or other voucher holders upon exiting the programs (SPA 1), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (SPAs 2, 5, 6, 7, 8), HUD-VASH vouchers for veterans (SPAs 2, 8) and any other resources that can pay rental assistance.

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** Both LAHSA and HI continue to engage in ongoing advocacy to the federal government to increase Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher resources, as well as to the state government to increase flexible funding to local jurisdictions that can be used for rental assistance. Additionally, Los Angeles County approved over $85 million in funding for Measure H Strategy B3: Rapid Re-Housing as part of the FY 2019-2020 budget. The Rapid Re-Housing program enrolled 10,747 participants over the FY 2018-2019 program year, with 5,065 placements in permanent housing.

Finally, Measure H is also funding subsidies and services for clients in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) through Strategy D7. For the FY 2019-20 budget, Measure H is providing $77 million in funding for rental subsidies and services for PSH clients. Additionally, LAHSA continues to fund rental subsidies for PSH clients through the federally-funded Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

**Other Permanent Housing Themes:**

- More rehabilitation of older buildings for use
- More robust incentives for landlords and homeowners to participate
- Policy changes to extend expiration of vouchers
- More training for clients prior to PSH placement
- Models that allow for payment of rent to family/friends

**Other Considerations**

**Educate Public on How to Get Involved:** One of the most salient themes in the input sessions was better overall communication with the public, with several goals in mind. One goal that was raised was the need to better convey to the public how to get involved in local efforts to address homelessness (SPA 5). Additionally, many people raised the importance of having people with lived experience front and center in conversations and campaigns to educate the public about homelessness, as part of broader efforts to humanize people experiencing homelessness with the rest of the public (SPAs 3, 4, 5). Finally, participants also raised the need to better involve faith-based institutions, which are seeking to align their resources with efforts to combat homelessness.

**LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:** LAHSA and HI have both partnered with United Way’s Everyone In campaign, which is building a movement around Los Angeles County to connect neighbors and advocates with opportunities to move forward housing solutions to homelessness. LAHSA and HI encourage community members to join the Everyone In campaign, both to find opportunities to address
homelessness in their communities and to learn more about the issues from people with lived experience of homelessness.

*Increase Administrative Support for Growing Agencies:* Several participants described the challenges that growing service provider agencies face as they seek to scale up their operations (SPAs 4, 5, 8). Participants noted that these agencies need additional administrative support from LAHSA and HI to support their growth and ensure they can meet the needs of the homeless services system.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA continues to make technical assistance available to agencies through its capacity building team and the Centralized Training Academy.

*Improved RFP Process:* Several session participants, both from homeless service providers and representatives of cities within the county, noted experiencing difficulties with the RFP process (SPA 8). For example, one applicant pointed to an example of an RFP being released, with requirements to attend a mandatory bidders’ conference only several days later and noted that this was particularly onerous.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA will be further examining its RFP process in early 2020 to seek improvements both in process and in scoring methodology. A Request for Information will be released in early 2020, and sessions will be held throughout the county to better understand the barriers that providers face.

Additional Considerations and Themes:

- Expansion of jail in-reach
- Greater accountability of providers to the public
- More TAY-specific interventions
- More funding for cities
- Need for regional/SPA-based homelessness plans rather than city plans

**Next Steps**

Both LAHSA and HI will be weighing input from these sessions while finalizing respective HHAP applications, which are due to the state by February 15, 2020. Both the County Homeless Initiative and LAHSA will take their respective proposed HHAP applications to the Board of Supervisors and the LAHSA Commission, respectively, for approval in late January. Following approval in late January, both entities will submit HHAP applications for funding to the state, which is expected to respond with award determinations by April 1, 2020.

The HI will present recommended Measure H funding allocations to the Board of Supervisors later in 2020.

LAHSA and HI are grateful to the hundreds of people that attended input sessions or commented online for their thoughtful, helpful feedback on many aspects of the homeless services system.
# Appendix A: List of Public Input Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Planning Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPA 1: Antelope Valley</td>
<td>Antelope Valley Partners for Health, 44226 10th Street, Lancaster, 93534</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 19, 2:30-4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 2: Sam Fernando Valley</td>
<td>Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center, 7555 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, 91406</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 13, 3:00-5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 3: San Gabriel Valley</td>
<td>Emanante, 1115 S. Sunset Avenue, West Covina, 91790</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 13, 9:00-11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 4: Meto Los Angeles</td>
<td>New Genesis Apartments, 456 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, 90013</td>
<td>Thursday, November 14, 12:00-2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 5: West Los Angeles</td>
<td>St. Monica’s Roman Catholic Church, 725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, 90403</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 12, 9:30-11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 6: South Los Angeles</td>
<td>Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), Phoenix Hall, 10950 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, 90059</td>
<td>Friday, November 8, 9:00-11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 7: East Los Angeles County</td>
<td>Barbara Riley Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, Downey, 90242</td>
<td>Thursday, November 14, 2:00-4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA 8: South Bay</td>
<td>Hawthorne Memorial Medical Center, 3901 W. El Segundo Blvd, Hawthorne, 90250</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 13, 9:30-11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input: Homelessness Funding Allocation – 2020
Lived Experience Bodies

Introduction

The following document summarizes input from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s (LAHSA) lived experience advisory bodies on future funding allocations. The document summarizes input on two funding sources: how funding should be allocated for the State of California’s Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, as well as to inform LAHSA’s recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on FY 2020-21 Measure H allocations.

Input was collected from two bodies:

- The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB), which convened to discuss funding allocations December 6, 2019 and January 3, 2020;
- The Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA), which convened to discuss funding allocations on December 11, 2019 and January 8, 2020.

Members of LEAB and HYFLA were asked to give feedback in six categories, which were based on the following components of the homeless services system:

- Homelessness Prevention and Problem Solving
- Outreach and Access to the System
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Other Considerations

Within each of these stations, members were asked to consider three guiding questions:

- What strategies are working well in the system and should be augmented?
- What gaps exist within the system and need to be filled, both in terms of services that need to be increased and populations that are inadequately served?
- What service delivery or program design changes should be considered?

What follows is a summary of input given in each category.

Homelessness Prevention

Awareness of Prevention Resources: Members of both bodies noted the need for greater awareness of existing prevention tools and resources, noting that existing information is inconsistent and difficult to locate. Additionally, both LEAB and HYFLA noted the need to target this information at populations that are at-risk, but not yet homeless.

Eligibility Criteria: LEAB and HYFLA both noted the need for more prevention resources targeted at populations that may not meet the HUD definition of homelessness. Populations that are couch-surfing...
and otherwise unstably housed may fall into homelessness without some form of assistance to stabilize their housing, including youth that are at-risk. Additionally, it was noted that flexible funding would be a particularly useful intervention for this population.

**Peer Supports and Cultural Competency:** Both lived experience bodies highlighted the need for more staff serving in prevention roles that have lived experience of homelessness. Participants also noted a gap in cultural competency of people working in prevention roles, and that more staff with lived experience could assist to bridge this gap. As part of this recommendation, participants emphasized the need for empathy and respect in LAHSA’s problem-solving initiatives.

**Ad Hoc Committees:** Members of the LEAB noted that many of the recommendations from both the Ad Hoc Committee on Women Experiencing Homelessness and the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness highlighted both the need for advocacy to change structural factors that make some populations more vulnerable to homelessness, along with targeted interventions that could prevent homelessness. As such, members recommended directing funding to implement recommendations of the Ad Hoc committees.

### Outreach and Access to the System

**Partnerships with Education Institutions:** HYFLA members noted that many at-risk youth are present in and around educational institutions, even if they are not necessarily enrolled in coursework at these institutions. Partnerships and the presence of coordinated entry system access points at these institutions could help reach otherwise difficult-to-access youth.

**Field-Based Resources:** LEAB members emphasized the need for additional mobile services to be available throughout the field—for example, more mobile mental and physical health services should be made available. More generally, LEAB members expressed the need for more locations throughout the County and outside of Skid Row where these services can be accessed.

**Support for Outreach Workers:** LEAB members reflected on the difficulty in retaining and supporting outreach staff. The members noted a need for more support for outreach workers to prevent “burnout” and turnover among these staff.

### Services

**Peer Expertise:** Both LEAB and HYFLA members emphasized the importance of enlisting people with lived experience of homelessness to serve as staff and provide their expertise in the delivery of services. Both bodies stressed the importance of this factor in assisting people experiencing homelessness to feel supported, to delivery services with a sense of empathy, and to effectively understand how to best work with vulnerable populations.

**Substance Use Services:** LEAB members highlighted insufficient access to substance use disorder treatment and services as a significant gap in the homeless system. Members noted that these services should be available throughout all points in the system (outreach, interim housing, subsidized housing).

**Life Skills:** HYFLA members articulated the importance of “life skills” training being made available to program participants as they transition into housing, especially for youth. Skills such as budgeting and
saving money as participants increase income, nutrition and cooking as those participants move into housing units with kitchens, and other skills to ease the transition into housing and stability can be critical supports to assist someone to maintain their housing.

**Reductions in Assistance/Incentives to Earn Income:** HYFLA members noted that, as program participants increase their income or achieve other positive outcomes, it is critical that assistance programs do not abruptly increase their rents or sharply reduce assistance. Members described the destabilizing effects that these changes can have just as a program participant is finding their footing.

**Childcare:** Members of HYFLA highlighted a major gap in the availability of affordable childcare services. Members described how this gap in childcare can be a significant barrier to accessing services, as well as interim housing.

### Interim Housing

**Peer-Based Support within Interim Housing:** LEAB members noted the critical assistance that people with lived experience can provide to each other in interim housing settings. They recommended piloting peer-based support groups or “peer fellows” within the interim housing setting.

**Substance Use Services in Interim Housing:** LEAB members shared that interim housing is a vital point at which to make substance use disorder services available. Members expressed concern surrounding the dearth of these services within interim housing.

**Age Appropriate Shelter Options/Security for Youth:** HYFLA members noted the discomfort that some youth feel at entering a shelter that is otherwise populated by adults. They shared security concerns in some shelters as a reason why youth might avoid these shelters, and the need for age-appropriate spaces where they can share shelter space with their youth peers as an alternative.

**Pet Accommodations:** HYFLA members also cited that many shelters lack access for people with pets. Committee members described the critical role that pets can play in supporting someone experiencing homelessness, but the barriers that can create in entering interim housing.

### Subsidized Housing

**Accountability for Property Managers/Staff in Supportive Housing:** LEAB members noted that practice and competencies vary widely across supportive housing developments. Committee members described a need for more accountability for property management companies and relevant staff in supportive housing in ensuring they are practicing in alignment with trauma-informed care best practices.

**Rent Increases in Affordable Housing:** Members highlighted the sharp rent increases that participants can face, even in subsidized housing, when an individual’s income increases or the allowable rents increase. Members emphasized that this can pose challenges for maintaining one’s housing stability, and that subsidies should be available to soften the impact of these increases.

**Flexibility in Housing Assistance:** HYFLA members reported the importance of flexible funding in subsidized housing to support not only monthly rents, but security deposits or first month and last month’s rent, which can be a barrier to entry for people with limited savings.
Other Considerations

*Increased Availability of Information:* Members of both committees articulated the need for more overall information. Information should be made available for people at risk of homelessness and needing to accessing prevention resources, for people experiencing homelessness needing to access housing resources, and for community members wanting to assist in efforts to combat homelessness and housing insecurity in their community. HYFLA members especially emphasized the need for information in mediums that youth access, such as social media and online platforms.

*Interventions for Lower-Acuity Populations:* Members of HYFLA shared a need for more resources for people with lower-acuity needs. Members expressed concern that people experience homelessness who do not have higher levels of vulnerability must essentially remain homeless longer and develop additional disabling conditions until they become eligible for certain services and interventions.

*Evaluation and Accountability:* HYFLA members discussed a need for robust and ongoing evaluation of existing programs and their housing outcomes, preferably by a third-party evaluator. Members were especially interested in evaluation of how different programs and services incorporate exit and transition planning in their programs and what constitutes a “successful” exit to housing.

*More Resources for Disabled, Senior Populations:* Members of the LEAB emphasized that there are insufficient resources in the homeless services system that are tailored for seniors experiencing homelessness, including those seniors with a disability, noting the special vulnerability that these populations face.
Public Input: Homelessness Funding Allocation – 2020
Members of the Continuum of Care Board

Introduction

The following document summarizes input from the members of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board (CoC Board) on future funding allocations. The document summarizes input on two funding sources: how funding should be allocated for the State of California’s Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, as well as to inform LAHSA’s recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on FY 2020-21 Measure H allocations.

Input was collected from the LA CoC board members at their January 8, 2020 meeting. Members of the LA CoC Board were asked to give feedback in six categories, which were based on the following components of the homeless services system:

- Homelessness Prevention and Problem Solving
- Outreach and Access to the System
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Other Considerations

Within each of these categories, members were asked to consider three guiding questions:

- What strategies are working well in the system and should be augmented?
- What gaps exist within the system and need to be filled, both in terms of services that need to be increased and populations that are inadequately served?
- What service delivery or program design changes should be considered?

What follows is a summary of input given in each category.

Homelessness Prevention

Need for Retention Services in PSH: Members of the CoC board shared that, in addition to mainstream prevention efforts, there is ongoing need for retention services to be provided to residents of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). These residents of PSH are at high risk of returns to homelessness if insufficient retention services are available to help them remain in housing.

Outreach and Access to the System

Level of Outreach in the System: Members of the CoC Board suggested that LAHSA should not use HHAP funding to increase the level of outreach in the system, as there is sufficient level of outreach to people experiencing homelessness with insufficient housing resources to offer. Members suggested that new resources should instead focus on housing interventions.
Services

Peer Expertise: CoC Board members echoed the importance of enlisting people with lived experience of homelessness to serve as staff and provide their expertise in the delivery of services. In addition, members noted potential connections between the need for more peer experience and workforce development needs, noting that this could potentially accomplish twin goals.

Substance Use Services: CoC Board members highlighted a need for greater availability of substance use services. These services should be made available to those that are currently unhoused, both unsheltered and sheltered, and to those that are entering housing programs.

Life Skills: CoC Board members noted that employment services should be paired with an ongoing education component—assisting people enrolled in these workforce services with budgeting and other skills as they transition into housing and employment.

Liaisons Across Systems: CoC Board members emphasized that HHAP funding could be used to create further coordination across different systems of care. This could build on LAHSA’s work to facilitate greater coordination between the homeless services system and the health care system.

Hygiene Services: CoC Board members shared the need to increase hygiene services across the continuum and provide services such as mobile showers, restrooms, and laundry services.

Interim Housing

Family Interim Housing: Members of the CoC Board noted the need to increase interim housing stock to respond to the unsheltered crisis facing Los Angeles. Members specifically noted that an increase in family interim housing should be considered to provide shelter to a vulnerable population.

Subsidized Housing

Accountability for Property Managers/Third Party Payment Companies: Committee members described a need for more accountability for property management companies in supportive housing in ensuring that they are practicing in alignment with trauma-informed care best practices and understand the histories of trauma and vulnerability that PSH participants bring. As such, committee members recommended training and accountability for property managers within the homeless system. Additionally, CoC members highlighted a need for accountability and tracking of third-party payment companies that provide services within the Rapid Re-Housing program.

Increased Affordable Housing Resources, Including Rental Assistance: Members highlighted the insufficient affordable housing resources available throughout the continuum. As part of this need, members noted that there is a need to increase available rental assistance.

Other Considerations
Data and Training: Members also discussed data quality and remarked a need for more training for service providers on data and HMIS to ensure high-quality data is being entered into the system. In addition, members noted that there should be some level of accountability for data entry and data quality.

Population-Specific Services: Several key populations were highlighted as needing greater access to housing resources and services. These populations include:

- Survivors of domestic violence
- Unaccompanied minors
- LGBTQ people
- People with health challenges including disabilities and HIV

Coordination and Outcome-Based Planning: CoC Board members also remarked on the planning process for HHAP and other sources of funding. They noted the need to start with desired outcomes for funding, and then determine program uses from there.
Policy Resource Library Overview

Prepared for Policy and Planning Committee
January 17, 2020

Erin Cox, Policy Manager
Purpose

In LAHSA's role as thought leader and central strategic partner on homelessness and homeless services in Los Angeles County, we seek to develop a repository of public-facing resources that aim to:

- **Educate and provide clarity** around core concepts
- **Provide research and analysis** on emerging issues
- **Elevate best practices** as relevant within our local context
Approach

Lay the Foundation

• Develop primers to proactively articulate and clearly define the central components of an effective homelessness response system

Root Analysis of Emerging Issues in the Foundation

• Rooted in this foundation, provide analysis of proposed policy interventions or promising practices that emerge locally or nationally

Build a Library of Resources and Guidance

• Provide thought leadership by continuing to develop a repository of resources to support informed decision-making and to advance effective responses to homelessness
Resource Types

Primers on Core Philosophies and Practices

• **Function**: Educate and provide clarity around foundational aspects of LAHSA's approach to homeless service delivery
  • **Example**: *Housing First Primer*

Issue Briefs

• **Function**: Synthesize research and analyze emerging policy interventions
  • **Example**: *Sanctioned Encampments Brief*

Policy Guidance

• **Function**: Provide guidance for public partners rooted in best practice research, subject matter expertise, and stakeholder input
  • **Example**: *Policy Guidance for Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness*
Next Steps: Forthcoming Primers

• Housing First
• Homelessness Response System Core Components
• Harm Reduction
• Trauma-Informed Care
• Coordinated Entry
• Low-Barrier
Defining Housing First

Housing First is a proven and nationally-recognized model for creating housing stability, promoting well-being, and ending homelessness. Grounded in the principles of housing and services without preconditions, individualized supports, and participant choice, Housing First is an approach to homeless services delivery that is both evidence-based and cost-effective.¹

Background

Developed in the 1990s by an innovative New York City homeless services agency, Housing First was created as an alternative to the traditional staircase model of homeless services. Until then, people experiencing homelessness typically had to satisfy several requirements in order to become “housing ready.” Many individuals got stuck on this staircase to housing readiness; unable to complete the restrictive and required steps to housing, they often fell back into homelessness. Unlike a stepwise approach, Housing First is adaptable to the circumstances of each individual. By focusing on housing as a tool toward housing stability and well-being, not a reward for recovery, Housing First interventions both affirm that housing is an essential need and right, and empower individuals to determine what other support they need. Since its creation, this program model has evolved into a broader philosophy that employs a range of evidence-based practices to end homelessness.

Core Principles

LAHSA affirms a Housing First approach to homeless services delivery and so seeks to uphold these core principles in our work to eliminate barriers to housing access, connect individuals to permanent housing, and end homelessness in Los Angeles:

*Housing and services with no preconditions:*

Housing for people experiencing homelessness is not contingent on readiness conditions such as sobriety or medication compliance. But Housing First is not housing only – in fact, it recognizes the critical role of supportive and treatment services, ranging from assistance with housing stability (e.g. apartment maintenance, rental assistance) to clinical interventions and other supports (e.g. mental and physical health care, employment assistance). Importantly, challenges in housing stability do not compromise clinical supports, and vice versa.
Services are individualized and person-driven:

A Housing First philosophy does not stipulate a one-size-fits-all approach; there is no predetermined objective and no prescribed set of services. Participants identify their own goals and priorities with the support of trained staff who use a harm reduction approach and other evidence-based practices to tailor an array of services to fit individual needs.

Participant choice:

People experiencing homelessness, like all people, deserve to make choices about their own lives. This applies to where and how they live, who they live with, as well as what type of services and supports they need to achieve and maintain stability.

Sources


Sam Tsemberis, PHD, Housing First: The Pathways Model to End Homelessness for People with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (Center City, Minnesota: Hazelden, 2010).


Purpose

This **Housing First Primer** will:

- Educate and provide clarity around a core philosophy of homeless services delivery
- Lay the foundation for the analysis of emerging issues
Background on Housing First

- An alternative to the traditional staircase model
- Housing as a tool toward housing stability and well-being, not a reward for recovery
- Program model evolved to a broader philosophy
Overview of Core Principles

- Housing and services with no preconditions
- Services are individualized and person-driven
- Participant choice
Core Principle:

*Housing and services with no preconditions*

1. Housing is not contingent on “readiness conditions”
2. Supportive services play a critical role
3. Housing services and clinical supports are not conditional on one another
Core Principle:
Services are individualized and person-driven

1. Objectives and service needs are not predetermined or prescriptive
2. Participants identify their own goals
3. Participants receive the support of trained staff who use a harm reduction approach and tailor a service array to fit the individual’s needs
Core Principle: *Participant choice*

1. People experiencing homelessness deserve to make choices about their own life
2. This is applicable to both where and how they live, as well as what services and supports they need to maintain their housing and well-being