



April 22, 2016

Honorable Members
of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Richard Williams, City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the 2016-17 Proposed Budget for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. This budget is a powerful representation of the commitment of the City of Los Angeles to address the crisis of homelessness, and reflects strong leadership from Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council with a significant expansion of funding. The Mayor's proposal of \$138 million is an unprecedented investment to address this crisis. The major investment in the vital resources and systemic infrastructure will drive results toward ending homelessness in Los Angeles.

Of these proposed funds, \$50.8 million are allocated to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). With this substantial investment in rapid re-housing, and crisis and bridge housing, LAHSA can build on success achieved through the regional coordinated entry systems for families, single adults, and youth experiencing homelessness in LA. The Los Angeles region has shown tremendous progress addressing veteran homelessness, which shows the power of resource investment and systemic coordination.

LAHSA strongly supports the investment areas targeted in the Proposed Budget, and would like to draw attention to a few key areas that were not funded at the level requested, but that we believe merit reconsideration:

1. Funding for CES Regional Coordination; \$1.3 million

Regional coordination supports the requested expansion of our Coordinated Entry System, which is the key vehicle for delivering and coordinating the City's \$28 million investment in rapid re-housing and bridge housing. Our current efforts to build a complete and integrated system takes staff time from our providers. This investment in coordination will greatly facilitate the City's much larger investment in housing people. This is important because for decades, Los Angeles has developed and funded standalone programs through standalone grants, creating a network of providers with no incentive for or resources to collaborate and coordinate on regional systems that encompass all programs.

2. Funding for CES Coordinated Case Management, Housing Navigator, & Outreach; \$6.1 million

LAHSA requested new funding for these critical supportive services to assist our homeless neighbors in navigating from our streets to a permanent housing outcome. In a City where the majority of homeless residents are unsheltered, and must often be engaged on the streets, outreach is a critical component, and case

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management and housing navigation are vital services to get people housed. These supportive service resources target the high-acuity clients who are not currently served by our other major public service funding streams. While the City rapid re-housing program includes supportive services, many high-acuity chronically homeless are best served in permanent supportive housing programs. The services necessary to navigate high-acuity clients through that housing process would be funded by this program area. Outreach, engagement, and navigation through our system are critical systemic infrastructure components that will drive the success of the CES for singles and youth. Coordinated case management ensures that all participants are supported at every stage of the housing process, regardless of the actual worker or provider interfacing with that client at any given time.

3. Funding for an increase in ERT; \$2.7 million

LAHSA outreach plays a key role in the street cleanup process, ensuring that Los Angeles' homeless residents are able to engage with services before and during street cleanups. If an expansion of cleanups is envisioned, LAHSA's current staffing will not be able to keep up.

In summary, the proposed budget reflects our ongoing collaboration with the Mayor and the City Council to address homelessness. Thank you for our continued support and partnership.

We are available to provide any additional information that might be useful to your discussion.

Sincerely,



Peter Lynn
Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority