




Date: February 2, 2018
To: The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
CC: City Administrative Officer
Chief Legislative Analyst
From: Peter Lynn, Executive Director 
Subject: **MEASURE H FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS**
Council File No.: 17-0408-S2

Peter Lynn
Executive Director

This memorandum and the enclosed report responds to the request from the full City Council at the December 6, 2017 Council meeting to provide information on how Los Angeles County Measure H funding is being utilized to enhance services for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

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Enclosed report

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I. Background

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is responsible for administering a significant portion of Measure H revenue throughout the county, which includes specific funding for domestic violence (DV) service provision and coordination. LAHSA also administers funding for enhancements to the Coordinated Entry System (CES), for which domestic violence service providers are eligible to apply.

This report details the scope of LAHSA’s administration of and planned use for DV-specific resources funded through Measure H, as well as some non-population specific resources for which DV service providers are eligible. It includes a current project list, the funding and implementation goals for each project, and a forecast of future opportunities to enhance DV services throughout the region.

II. Current Projects

The following details the current projects funded by Measure H that target domestic violence service provision. Table 1 includes the list of current projects, followed by descriptions and the short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals of each project. Short-term goals are within the current fiscal year (FY 2017-2018), intermediate-term goals are within 2-3 years, and long-term goals are within the 10-year Measure H lifecycle.

Table 1: Measure H-Funded Projects for Domestic Violence Service Provision

Measure H Strategy	Project Name	Annual Funding Amount
B3: Expand Rapid Re-Housing	Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Rapid Re-Housing Pilot Program	\$1,348,000*
E7: Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System	Domestic Violence Coordination	\$787,500
	Training on Violence Against Women Act Housing Protections	TBD**
E8: Enhance the Emergency Shelter System	Bridge Housing for Women	\$2,518,400
	Crisis/Bridge Housing	\$146,000
	DV Transitional Housing	\$662,256
Total		\$5,462,156

* Funding for the first year of the Pilot Program came from one-time County B3 allocations that preceded Measure H; This includes original allocation for \$900,000 which was augmented by one-time savings of \$448,000 from Fiscal Year 2016-2017 B3 strategy funding.

** LAHSA is currently procuring training services and in the process of determining the full cost.

Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Rapid Re-Housing (DV/IPV RRH) Pilot Program

The DV/IPV RRH Pilot Program (“Pilot”) is a two-year program that seeks to refine and implement a rapid re-housing intervention for the DV/IPV population experiencing homelessness. The short, intermediate, and long-term goals of the Pilot are to:

- 1) assist program participants with DV/IPV histories secure permanent housing using flexible rapid re-housing dollars (short-term);
- 2) inform LAHSA, service providers, and all funders how to modify the rapid re-housing model to best meet the needs of DV/IPV survivors (intermediate-term); and
- 3) illustrate the coordination between the CES and DV/IPV service providers for ongoing system alignment efforts (long-term).

Domestic Violence Coordination

Measure H-funded enhancements to CES include the creation of nine DV coordinator positions; eight regionally-based coordinators (one per Service Planning Area or SPA) and one lead LAHSA coordinator. LAHSA has hired a lead coordinator who will begin strategically organizing efforts at the end of January 2018, and who will be responsible for developing the scope of work for the SPA-based coordinators. The short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals for these positions are to:

- 1) identify gaps between CES service providers and DV service providers through enhanced coordination;
- 2) improve coordination between CES and DV service providers that leads to increased permanent housing placement rates for DV survivors experiencing homelessness (intermediate-term);
- 3) provide ongoing coordination and DV-informed training in service of aligning CES and the DV service provider community and to ensure DV survivors have access to all housing services available to them (long-term).

Training on Violence Against Women Act Housing Protections

On January 26, 2018, the LAHSA Commission approved a new policy titled “Housing Protections Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC).” The policy outlines the required housing protections that must be provided to program participants who are or are at-risk of experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.¹ To better facilitate implementation of and compliance with this new policy, LAHSA is in the process of procuring subject-matter experts to develop curricula and provide training for all LAHSA-funded housing providers. The short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals for these trainings are to:

¹ The final rule by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates these protections apply to persons affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. LAHSA expanded these protections to also include those affected by human trafficking.

- 1) ensure all LAHSA-funded service providers are trained on how to implement the new VAWA protections for program participants (short-term); and
- 2) ensure ongoing training and technical assistance to ensure service providers are adhering to LAHSA's policy so that program participants' rights are respected (intermediate- and long-term).

Bridge Housing for Women

The Bridge Housing for Women program was designed with the intent to increase the number of low-barrier emergency shelter beds for women experiencing homelessness, as called for by the LAHSA Commission's Ad Hoc Committee on Women and Homelessness. The program design includes an increase of 200 new beds, 85 of which were sole-sourced and 115 of which were competitively procured. LAHSA is in the process of finalizing funding recommendations for the program, and will present these recommendations to its Commission in February 2018.

LAHSA is also working closely with the City of Los Angeles' Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) relative to their Domestic Violence Shelter Operations (DVSO) program to ensure providers who applied for both programs are operating distinct programs. Though there are some similarities, the DVSO program design differs from the Bridge Housing for Women program design in terms of the population each intends to serve; DVSO program targets survivors of DV and human trafficking, while the Bridge Housing for Women program targets all women experiencing homelessness who have needs stemming from trauma. The short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals for this program are to:

- 1) increase the number of low-barrier and trauma-informed emergency shelter beds for women experiencing homelessness, especially women experiencing unsheltered homelessness as they are more vulnerable to violence (short-term); and
- 2) ensure CES provides access to emergency shelter that appropriately addresses the trauma of women experiencing homelessness while connecting them to permanent housing (intermediate- and long-term).

It should be noted that over the past year LAHSA and HCIDLA have been collaborating through the DV-Homeless Services Coalition, whose goal is to align the DV system with CES to ensure DV survivors experiencing homelessness receive consistent and comprehensive services (including housing) regardless of which system entry point they first present. LAHSA will continue to partner with HCIDLA and other Coalition members on this ongoing initiative.

Crisis/Bridge Housing

In October 2017, LAHSA procured new crisis and bridge housing for select populations (e.g. adult individuals, and transition age youth individuals and families) as part of the overall enhancements to the emergency shelter system. The program includes an increased per bed reimbursement rate to ensure higher quality of service to program participants. LAHSA received and funded one proposal from a CES

service provider who is partnering with a DV service provider to create ten emergency shelter beds for DV survivors. The short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals for this program are to:

- 1) increase the number of emergency shelter beds available to adult individuals and transition age youth individuals and families (short- and intermediate-term); and
- 2) ensure high quality emergency shelter programming that efficiently and effectively connects program participants to permanent housing (long-term).

Domestic Violence Transitional Housing

DV-focused transitional housing is a program model that provides temporary housing and trauma-informed and intensive case management services for survivors of DV for up to two years. In 2015, as part of the annual federal CoC Program application process, LAHSA (as the lead agency for the Los Angeles CoC) reallocated some of its transitional housing portfolio, a strategy that was employed to ensure the most competitive funding application. Seventeen of the DV transitional housing beds previously funded by federal CoC Program dollars were funded by the City of Los Angeles for fiscal year 2016-2017, and are now funded by Measure H. The short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals for this program are to:

- 1) ensure the continuity of existing transitional housing beds for DV survivors (short- and intermediate-term); and
- 2) ensure that the transitional housing model remains part of the continuum of housing options for DV survivors in accordance with local and federal priorities (long-term).

III. Current and Future Opportunities

In January 2018, LAHSA submitted Measure H funding requests to the County's Chief Executive Office for fiscal year 2018-2019. Included in this request was continued funding for DV-impacted projects (described above), as well as additional funding for year two of the DV/IPV RRH Pilot.

LAHSA currently administers or has plans for projects that would be available to DV service providers with the aim of enhancing DV and homeless service provision. The following describes these planned projects and LAHSA's recommendation for each:

Request For Statement of Qualifications Procurement Process (RFSQ)

In 2017, LAHSA launched a new procurement process to better evaluate a service provider organization's ability to administer government-funded contracts in service of the goal of building the CES service provider base. The Request for Statement of Qualifications for Certification as a Qualified Bidder for LAHSA Funding Opportunities process replaced the threshold review process that was part of LAHSA's Request for Proposal (RFP) procurements. This new process ensures service providers interested in applying for a LAHSA RFP can receive an evaluation prior to applying for funding, and if

need be, participate in targeted technical assistance and capacity building to help them become a certified bidder. LAHSA strongly encourages DV service providers interested in contracting with LAHSA participate in the RFSQ process.

Capacity Building

In January 2018, LAHSA (in partnership with United Way of Greater Los Angeles' Home For Good) released the Organization Capacity Building Technical Assistance Application. This application is part of a multi-year capacity building initiative to strengthen CES by improving operational infrastructure and service capacity. All non-profit homeless service providers, including DV service providers, participating in CES are eligible to apply; service providers do not need to administer a CES contract to be eligible.

Some areas of focus included in this initiative that may be beneficial for DV service providers include: funding for operational management (e.g. financial, information technologies, contract/grant management, etc.), program administration (e.g. reporting and program evaluation), and information technologies (e.g. equipment upgrades, data security and encryption), among others. Applications for capacity building technical assistance will be accepted on a rolling basis, contingent on fund availability. LAHSA recommends that all interested DV service providers apply for this opportunity.

Training

As part of LAHSA's efforts to enhance CES, LAHSA is in the process of contracting with Homeless Health Care Los Angeles to develop curricula and provide three 35-hour trainings for CES-participating agencies.² The training curricula will focus on homeless service provision (i.e. CES 101), and two of the three modules will include DV/IPV training components. These trainings will be available to all CES-participating agencies, and may be useful for DV service providers seeking to learn more about CES.

Crisis/Bridge Housing

Similar to the crisis/bridge housing procurement from October 2017, LAHSA will seek proposals for the acquisition of new crisis and bridge housing beds in Spring 2018. LAHSA encourages all DV service providers operating crisis or bridge housing to apply for this funding opportunity.

² Any CoC agency providing housing or services to persons who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of literal homelessness, and who have agreed to abide by LA CES Policies and Procedures to the greatest extent practicable. At a minimum, CES Participating Agencies shall endorse the CES Guiding Principles and agree to support the CoC systems approach defined by CES-defined access points, standardized assessment process, prioritization protocols, and referral strategies.