



April 21, 2017

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

**SUBJECT: THE LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY – COMMENTS
RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18**

Peter Lynn
Executive Director

In accordance with the Budget and Finance Committee Chair's request on February 23, 2017, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is respectfully submitting for your consideration the agency's comments relative to the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Board of Commissioners

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Chair

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The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with various City of Los Angeles ("City") Departments, is tasked with implementing data-driven solutions focused on identifying the most appropriate and timely housing options for our homeless residents. LAHSA recognizes the difficult decisions the Mayor and Council are tasked with in such a difficult budget year, and appreciates the key one-time funding investments during FY 2016-2017, which were responsible for:

- Adding 425 shelter beds to our existing portfolio;
- Converting 961 shelter beds from 14-hour to 24-hour operations;
- Placing in housing or provided on-going rapid re-housing assistance to over 1,000 transition age youth and single adults;
- Preventing 2 domestic violence programs from shutting down, retaining 11 units; and
- Scaling Coordinated Entry System regional coordination, housing navigation, and outreach that have led to 3,360 housing placements since October and surveyed over 15,000 individuals experiencing homelessness.

FY17-18 Budget Requests

The Mayor's proposed budget addresses critical needs and supports the mission LAHSA is tasked with. There are, however, a few crucial requests that we would respectfully ask the Budget and Finance Committee to consider making as part of their FY 2017-2018 Budget.

Downtown Drop-In Center/Oasis at San Julian Center

Request: Continue funding \$450,000.

Impact: The requested appropriation would leverage up to \$3 million from the County's Department of Health Services to complete the renovation and re-programming of the Center.

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Homeless Management Information System Match

Request: Appropriate \$62,500.

Impact: To receive a new \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, a match of at least 25% (\$125,000) must be leveraged. The County and City are each requested to contribute \$62,500 in matching funding.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Grant Match

Request: Appropriate an additional \$125,000.

Impact: To receive \$1,250,000 in U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant funds, a match of at least 25% (\$312,500) must be leveraged. The County and City each requested to contribute \$156,200 in match funding.

Measure H Funding

As you know, the enhanced coordination between the City and the County Board of Supervisors has increased capacity throughout the homeless services delivery system to leverage resources and maximize their effectiveness. LAHSA recognizes that vital work was accomplished and valuable services were provided through one-time City funds. To ensure continued implementation of these critical services, LAHSA included them as part of its Measure H Budget Request. There is general consensus that the County is interested in funding such services, but the public process to finalize a Measure H spending plan is still underway.

LAHSA believes Measure H revenue will not be available immediately at the start of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. To avoid service disruptions, I would like to work closely with your Committee and Council to identify gap funding using unspent FY 2016-2017 one-time monies and other sources to bridge our efforts through the First Quarter of FY 2017-2018. By securing three months of funding, LAHSA can ensure program continuity throughout the City, while allowing us to continue working through the Measure H revenue planning process.

I request that the Budget and Finance Committee consider three months of bridge funding for the following items, all of which are part of LAHSA's Measure H budget requests:

Coordinated Entry System – Singles & Youth, Crisis and Bridge Housing

Request: Appropriate \$1,990,038 in bridge funding.

Impact: This allocation would allow 1,653 crisis and bridge housing beds throughout the City to continue 24-hour operations.

Coordinated Entry System – Regional Coordination

Request: Appropriate \$99,999 in bridge funding.

Impact: This increase would continue to fund the coordination of homeless service providers across service planning areas, coordinating housing placements for 4,000 individuals per year.

Coordinated Entry System – Singles & Youth, Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Request: Appropriate \$4,173,825 in bridge funding.

Impact: This appropriation would continue providing RRH rental assistance to over 600 adults and transition-aged youth.

Coordinated Entry System – Singles & Youth, Coordinated Case Management, Housing Navigation, Outreach

Request: Appropriate \$736,500 in bridge funding.

Impact: This request would allow us to continue funding 62 community-based outreach workers, housing navigators and case managers providing guidance and housing resources to homeless individuals.

Domestic Violence Programs for Singles and Families

Request: Appropriate \$153,300 in bridge funding.

Impact: This request would allow us to continue funding for 11 units of transitional housing dedicated to serving individuals and families fleeing domestic/intimate partner violence.

Access Centers

Request: Appropriate \$224,553 in bridge funding.

Impact: This appropriation would continue providing access and referrals to a wide array of supportive services for over 2,000 individuals per year.

Coordinated Entry System – Families, HFSS Crisis Housing for Families

Request: Appropriate \$273,750 in bridge funding.

Impact: This request would continue uninterrupted operations of 101 units of crisis housing for families experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Response Teams – HOPE Project

Request: Appropriate \$255,249 in bridge funding.

Impact: This request would continue funding for 18 highly trained Emergency Response Team outreach members and supervisors working within the City's four (4) policy bureaus providing specialized outreach and engagement services in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sanitation, the City Attorney's Office, City Council offices, and the Office of the Mayor.

Administration and Operations

Request: Appropriate \$790,721.

Impact: The request would allow LAHSA to continue providing program optimization and management of the programs outlined above.

My staff and I look forward to the continued support of the Mayor and Council as we work with the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Officer to address homelessness across the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Lynn", with a stylized flourish above it.

Peter Lynn

Executive Director

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Cc: Matt Szabo, Office of the Mayor
John Chavez, Office of the Mayor
Richard Llewelyn, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst