

Communication from Public

Name: GAIL PINCUS
Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 12:50 PM
Council File No: 19-0914
Comments for Public Posting: Allocate money to expand shelter beds at existing domestic violence specific shelters both crisis and especially long term second stage housing to help eliminate victims of domestic violence becoming homeless. rehabilitate abandoned publicly owned buildings to become shelters for the homeless. Ensure that EACH councilmanic district has a least one shelter Establish women only facilities and women and children programs that are safe and geared towards school, job training, and long term rehabilitation. Expand resources for domestic violence victims who have substance abuse problems and addiction.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Eastlund

Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 12:39 PM

Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: Based on our 36 years in providing services for women and survivors of domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability, we know that the vulnerabilities of this population are unique; they require specific attention and services. However, the majority of services currently offered in the City and County of Los Angeles fail to address a woman's higher likelihood of having survived gender-based violence, her unique health care, legal issues, or job-training needs, or the ways in which her goals for her future may vary from those of a homeless man. We strongly recommend a portion of the State homelessness funding be directed to assist women and survivors of domestic violence. A recent evaluation of the statewide Domestic Violence Housing First program (funded by CA Office of Emergency Services) noted that 58% of survivors used the funds to prevent homelessness. The DV Housing First model combines flexible funding (similar to RRH), survivor centered advocacy, and community engagement activities to support survivors as they seek safe, stable permanent housing. There are a number of organizations in the City of LA already implementing this model. Over the past 2 years, Rainbow Services has provided support to 115 households using the DV Housing First model, with an average support of \$5,600. It is essential that the City begin to recognize the often overlooked population of survivors who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The DV Housing First model can fall under the categories of homelessness prevention or innovative models for permanent housing. We look forward to an opportunity to present specifically on the DV Housing First model and share the results of the latest evaluation. Additionally, it is imperative to address employment opportunities for survivors in order for them to retain their housing and improve their economic health. Lastly, providing Bridge Housing specifically for women and survivors is essential in assisting them in moving off of the streets, out of their cars, to a safe space where they can begin their healing journey. Is it possible for the City to base the allocation of funds for Bridge Housing on the point in time count numbers? How would that change how women and survivors experiencing homelessness are being addressed in the City's efforts to end homelessness?

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Barahona
Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 10:42 AM
Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Maria Barahona, I'm here today representing Haven Hills and Survivors of Domestic Violence. This year's homeless count reports survivors who are actively fleeing violence make up 7% of the homeless population and 42% report domestic violence experience. In my community, the San Fernando Valley (SPA 2), the statistics are much more astounding. In 2019, there was a 29% increase of homeless DV victims who were actively fleeing violence, and a 50% increase among those who report DV experience. Despite these staggering figures, there are simply not enough resources for DV survivors. In fact, there are currently only 1,000 beds for people fleeing DV in LA City and LA County combined, and the homeless system of care does not support the needs of this population. I urge the City Council to prioritize the following strategies to address the needs of domestic violence survivors. 1. Support the creation of a workable Coordinated Entry System for domestic violence survivors. The CES does not support survivors - families and single women and men are falling through the cracks every day because they are not prioritized, and Access Centers unable to meet their needs for trauma-informed service delivery and timely services. 2. We ask that you add co-located Domestic Violence Advocates at all CES regional lead offices to improve quality of care and create equitable access for survivors seeking services. 3. Add funding for field-based supportive services, including mobile case management support and mental health treatment. Thank you for your consideration, I truly hope you will support DV survivors and their children.

Communication from Public

Name: Heidi Marston, CPO of LAHSA
Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 04:30 PM
Council File No: 19-0914
Comments for Public Posting: See attached comment.



September 4, 2019

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Chair, Homelessness and Poverty Committee
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: LAHSA Comment on City of Los Angeles Allocation of Funding from Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP): CF 19-0914

Dear Chair O'Farrell:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the expected \$123.8 million allocation of Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP) funding to City of Los Angeles. As the lead agency for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), we hope you will consider these recommendations and see them as an opportunity to make investments that are in alignment with the broader homeless services delivery system. By working together in a coordinated effort, the City of Los Angeles, LAHSA, and the County of Los Angeles can achieve unprecedented success in using this state funding to place people into permanent housing and build on the work that is already underway.

We ask that you consider investing in the following four areas:

Rapid Re-Housing Investments

LAHSA recommends that the City of Los Angeles use a portion of funding to increase investments in Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), which pairs time-limited financial assistance with case management to place people into permanent housing. Since scaling up RRH with new resources, the program has achieved success at placing people in housing and keeping them housed. In 2018, there were just over 7,250 permanent housing placements through RRH programs in Los Angeles County, while these programs have demonstrated a 92% housing retention rate over the last three years of data.

RRH is also a needed complement to the City's efforts to increase its stock of interim housing through the *A Bridge Home* program. For interim housing programs like *A Bridge Home* to achieve meaningful reductions in unsheltered homelessness, permanent housing resources must be available to move people from shelter settings and into housing, thus making shelter beds available and creating system flow.

Based on the 2018 Los Angeles County Housing Gaps Analysis and the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, the City of Los Angeles has a gap of approximately 6,000 total RRH slots. This gap is comprised of 4,800 slots in the adult system, 900 slots in the family system, and 300 slots in the youth system. Additionally, we recommend that any investments in RRH using HHAPP funds be made in alignment with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to further bolster the region's efforts to serve people experiencing homelessness equitably and efficiently.

Peter Lynn
Executive Director

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Shallow Subsidy for Older Adults and Other RRH Participants

LAHSA recommends allocating a portion of the City's HHAPP funding to shallow subsidy programs for older adults and for RRH participants. Among the most salient findings of the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was that the number of aging people experiencing homelessness continued to grow. On any given night, there are over 3,100 people ages 62 and older experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, a 5% increase from 2018, and an additional 5,650 people ages 55 to 61 experiencing homelessness, a 19% increase from 2018. While many older adults are recipients of RRH, successful housing retention can depend on a participant's ability to increase their income. For some older adults, re-entering the workforce may not be a viable option. For these reasons, the City Council recommended that additional programs be prioritized to serve older adults and prevent them from falling into homelessness in a recent motion on older adult homelessness ([CF 15-1138-S34](#)).

To fulfill this goal of providing additional resources to stabilize vulnerable seniors, the city could provide HHAPP funding to the shallow subsidy program to enable more older adults to stay stably housed. This program is available to people who are currently housed and within 120 days of exiting the RRH program, below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), and paying more than 60% of their income on rent. The recipient of shallow subsidy funding can receive \$300/month for a single participant or up to \$500/month for a family household. Assistance can be provided for a maximum of five years.

In addition to older adults, other populations that are being housed through RRH could benefit from the expansion of a shallow subsidy program. Numerous adults, families, and transition-age youth (TAY) that are utilizing RRH and are soon to exit the program remain severely rent-burdened. For those households that no longer need supportive services, an additional longer-term shallow subsidy program can keep them housed after their exit from the RRH program.

Access Centers

Among the homeless service system's needs are strengthening the existing network of access centers, which are drop-in locations where persons experiencing a housing crisis can gain initial access to the CES or continue their contact with case management. These sites are able to engage in problem-solving and rapid resolution efforts, make emergency service referrals, conduct initial CES triage assessments and administer population appropriate triage tools, provide case management, and connect participants to health, mental health, substance use, and mainstream benefit services.

More points of entry are needed to assist people experiencing homelessness to connect to the CES and vital services, including services that can prevent homelessness. In addition to expanding access center funding, LAHSA recommends that the City of Los Angeles consider using HHAPP to increase the "access points" at key nodes upstream from the homeless system where people sometimes arrive before falling into homelessness. Access points are sites where persons experiencing a housing crisis can gain initial access to CES and can receive initial services before they enter the homeless system. By siting these access points at key locations where people in crisis arrive before they fall into homelessness, the City may be able to use access point services to curb inflow into homelessness. City sites that could be leveraged as access points with HHAPP funding could include FamilySource Centers, Economic and Workforce Development Department offices, and other City sites where people in crisis go to seek assistance; these sites may not always be adequately funded to connect people to homeless services or to homeless prevention services.

Preserving Existing Shelter Sites

While it is imperative to add new interim housing to the City's portfolio of beds and bring more people off the streets, LAHSA recommends investment of a portion of HHAPP funding in preserving the existing interim housing portfolio that is already in operation within the City of Los Angeles. Several sites are in need to capital investments, including accessibility upgrades, basic repairs to building infrastructure, enhancements to facilities to allow for pets, and other investment. These upgrades are needed to secure the existing portfolio of shelter beds and allow them to continue providing shelter even as the system adds new shelter beds through capital investment.

We hope you will consider these recommendations as you craft an expenditure plan for HHAPP funding. We are grateful for the City's leadership role in advocating to the State for additional homelessness resources, and for critical partnership leading the region's homeless services system. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Peter Lynn
Executive Director

cc:

Members of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee
Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Administrative Officer Richard Llewellyn
Chief Legislative Analyst Sharon Tso

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Gamboa
Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 05:37 PM
Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: Greetings Councilmembers of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee. My name is Robert Gamboa, I am the Senior Policy Advocate at the Los Angeles LGBT Center in our Public Policy Department. I'm here to speak about the HHAPP funding contribution that is coming to the City of Los Angeles to help address the dire situation of homelessness to ensure we address the needs of the LGBTQ community. The Los Angeles LGBT Center is the largest LGBTQ services center in the world. While we serve all community members in a variety of capacities, our main efforts focus on health services, social services and housing programs for all people, with an emphasis on youth and seniors. Obviously, the issue of homelessness significantly impacts our clients. We already have decades of oppression that affect our community, horrifically adding to the disproportionately harmful challenges of homelessness in our community. Some of what we are seeing in our client base:

- Our LGBTQ seniors are our fastest growing client base. While the 2019 PIT count indicated a 7% increase in homeless seniors across both LA city and county, our numbers of homeless seniors at the Center are rising sharply and it's clear that the capacity to meet this growing need is not growing at a sufficient rate to counter this desperate trend.
- Our homeless youth clients are also on the rise, clearly a reflection of the 24% increase in transitional age youth across the board. We know through various studies and reports that approximately 40% of the homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Obviously, we need more capacity. But the bigger question is how can we ensure we are giving our youth the best chance possible at life?
- In speaking with LGBT Center staff at the Trans Wellness Center as well as with community partners, finding supportive and welcoming housing for our Transgender community members is an increasingly challenging task. We still have Transgender and non-binary community members being turned away from shelters and housing options. This has to stop!
- And just one other highlight I would like to point out is the huge, jaw-dropping spike in HIV/AIDS diagnosed homeless people, a 77% increase from last year's count. On the ground testing and treatment services needs to be at the forefront of every homeless services discussion. Governments at every level are working to eliminate AIDS and this is one front we can no longer afford to ignore. Here in Los

Angeles, we are meant to be a safe haven, a welcome refuge for all persons. That is one of the things that makes our city so great. The homeless problem here is large and complex. But that doesn't mean it's ok to overlook the specific needs of some of our most vulnerable populations. We have to be inclusive at every touchpoint in these conversations. It is critical that the needs of our LGBTQ community members are being considered, addressed and appropriated- not just with this HHAPP funding, but in all considerations. I am happy to speak with you further. You may contact me on my cell phone at 806.831.3300 or email me at rgamboa@lgbtcenter.org. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Strength United
Date Submitted: 09/04/2019 10:16 AM
Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: Good Afternoon, Homelessness and Poverty Committee: As a service provider working with victims of violent crime and trauma, serving the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley populations, we are glad that you are coming together to address Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP) Funds and how to prioritize them. At Strength United, we mainly see victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Children who have been maltreated. The amount of Human Trafficking victims who are being identified and served is also rising. Many of our clients are either homeless or on the verge of homelessness. We work hard to find them housing and shelter, as well as to stabilize them so they can stay in that housing. We stand with the Provider Alliance to End Homelessness and support the message and suggestions they sent in a joint letter on August 2, 2019. Thank you for your time and considerations of these comments. Sincerely, Stephanie Molen Associate Director Strength United