

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY MOTION

Homelessness is an ongoing issue in the City of Los Angeles with a wide variety of social and economic causes and implications, a broad range of neighborhood impacts and overwhelmingly difficult solutions that will take a great deal of time to implement. In light of this crisis, the City has dedicated millions of dollars for a broad range of services to house, heal, and employ the city's homeless. The Coordinated Entry System has the potential to greatly improve service delivery, providing a wide range of paths for the homeless to access critical, often life-saving services and offering a "no wrong door" approach based on their individualized need.

However, even with Coordinated Entry, it is largely incumbent on each homeless individual to seek the right combination of services to meet their needs. Much of the overall homeless population may not be aware of the full range of programs for which they are eligible and which may change their lives. Furthermore, individual providers often don't coordinate with each other to pair complementary programs and avoid duplication of services.

Even in the best of circumstances, when a homeless individual does not suffer from debilitating mental health or substance abuse challenges, changing that person's life often requires a significant investment in services. A rapid re-housing voucher by itself only offers a six month respite of housing and opens the possibility for recidivism back onto the street without a sustainable source of income when the voucher expires. Similarly, enrolling a homeless person into a job training program without offering a place for that person to live and adapt to a housed way of life will prevent them from re-entering the mainstream job market. In a vacuum, each of these programs is hugely important, but each only provides half the solution to bringing an individual permanently out of homelessness.

The budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 included funding for rapid re-housing vouchers (CES Rapid Rehousing for Singles and Youth Systems) and for The Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA RISE), a program through which participants can receive job training, get paid work experience and eventually transition into the workforce.

LA RISE hopes to expand further into the San Fernando Valley, a region with a rapidly growing homeless population that often is overlooked in terms of services. Another region of the city with the largest homeless population outside of skid row is South Los Angeles. This region has struggled with access to jobs and job skills training and connections for job placement.



OCT 18 2016

LA RISE is working with Chrysalis and the Sun Valley and South LA WorkSource Centers to begin serving twenty five new participants each in the Valley and South Los Angeles.

For many homeless individuals, true housing success comes from both a roof over their head and an income to pay for it. A pilot to bring these services together can explore how housing and employment together can create a viable path to lifelong independence. It would be a tremendous benefit for those twenty-five participants if their upcoming participation in LA RISE was paired with a rapid re-housing voucher to create a more comprehensive path out of homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) and the Department of Economic & Workforce Development (EWDD) REPORT to the Council on creating a pilot program that combines rapid re-housing vouchers and transitional social enterprise jobs through LA RISE into one linked program for 25 individuals who are homeless in the San Fernando Valley and 25 individuals who are homeless in South Los Angeles.

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