

From: **Mayra Alvarez** <malvarez@havenhills.org>

Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 9:49 AM

Subject: DVHSC Urges Full Funding for Survivors

To: CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Dear [Budget and Finance Committee if Public Comment – Councilmember,

My name is Mayra Alvarez, and I'm writing as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We are deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support — yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services.

Sincerely,

Mayra Alvarez