



## Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition Accomplishments (November 2016 – Present)

The Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC) continues to convene, organize, advocate, and teach in order to meet our underlying goal of effecting system's change to better serve the need of DV survivors experiencing homelessness. To that end, we have grown our Coalition membership, increased our advocacy actions, been invited to decision making tables (where we were previously ignored), grown housing resources, elevated research and disseminated best practice learning to local and national audiences, and increased training opportunities for the sector.

**Goal 1: Establish a cross-sector coalition that will facilitate systems change and maintain effective collaborative relationships, buy-in, and representation from domestic violence & homeless services organizations.**

### Accomplishments:

- 2016-2018:
  - Identified a sizable and diverse stakeholder group of 420 individuals, representing 78 community-based organizations, government, and philanthropic circles.
  - Developed opportunities for long-term partnerships, participation, and commitment to shared goals.
  - Developed a united vision for working together effectively through creation of joint goals, objectives, and activities and development of a shared theory of change/logic model.
- 2019 -2020
  - Membership now includes 418 individuals and 150 organizations (up from 80 organizations in 2017).
  - Facilitated 40 workgroup meetings (on the topics of client-centered services, training and education, and systems and funding), nine all-member meetings on the topics of evaluation of the Coalition, enhancing the program delivery of co-location through LAHSA supported DV regional coordinators, technical assistance for agencies to apply to the 2019 HUD Continuum of Care DV Bonus funds, creation of the LA City Women's Needs Assessment Policy Recommendations, evaluation of Domestic Violence Housing First, increased inclusion of LGBTQA+, Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience), and the 2019 Community Connections Summit.
  - Strong participation with average of 40 members participating in one or all three workgroup meetings, and 80-100 participating in all-member meetings.

- 2021-2022
  - Listserv grew via promotion from Corporation for Supportive Housing and National Alliance for Safe Housing supporting a series of webinars on our published toolkit, ***Permanent Supportive Housing to Meet the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence: A Toolkit for Housing Developers, Architects, Property Managers, and Housing Service Providers.***
  - **Launched the Toolkit with LA County Board of Supervisor Holly Mitchell and lead three deep-dive sessions with national experts on the topics of: Legal Housing Protections and Property Management, Intersectionality and Racial Equity for Survivors in Permanent Supportive Housing, and Trauma Informed Care in Architecture and Operations Design for Permanent Supportive Housing.** Combined, 1,000 new people to DVHSC attended one or all four of these sessions.
  - Hosted five additional All Member meetings in 2021 on the following topics: Bring CA Home AB 71 (a state bill that would have provided funding for DV and housing); Spotlight on LA's DV Regional Coordinators via sharing evaluation conducted by NASH and new report: *Highlights from Separate yet Connected: Responding to Intimate Partner Violence and Homelessness in Los Angeles County during a Time of COVID-19*; two sessions on how to apply for HUD Continuum of Care DV Bonus Funds; and a symposium on racial and gender justice.
  - By the end of 2022, the DVHSC listserv grew to more than 1000 individuals representing 250 organizations. DVHSC formally partnered with Southern CA Nonprofit Housing Association (SCANPH) and member group of 10,000+ to issue a series on creating housing opportunities for survivors including topics on community engagement, trauma-informed architectural design, low-income housing funding, etc.
  - Overall in 2022, DVHSC hosted 10 Member and community sessions on safety planning, regional coordination, applying for HUD DV Bonus funding, Legal Resources for Undocumented survivors, and engagement around our next five year strategic plan.

**Goal 2: Promote increased skills and knowledge-sharing between the domestic violence and homeless systems.**

**Accomplishments:**

- 2016-2018:
  - Identified and assessed the training needs/gaps within and between domestic violence and homeless systems.
  - Facilitated and developed the necessary trainings to meet the identified needs/gaps by providing trainings on needed topics, including providing training to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and about CES to different domestic violence and homeless/housing forums.
  - Increased training and TA across the sectors and through LAHSA's training academy and through focused training and technical assistance to LAHSA-funded service providers.
  - In October 2017, the Coalition hosted the first-ever Domestic Violence-Homeless Services Coalition Summit. Titled "Community Connections: Aligning

Domestic Violence and Homeless Services in Los Angeles,” the Summit was attended by 237 individuals.

- Created a comprehensive training needs assessment to inform the content within the LAHSA Centralized Training Academy.
- 2019-2020:
  - The Training and Education Workgroup ensured that a DV lens has been incorporated in training on all new LAHSA program components. LAHSA’s DV/IPV Rapid Rehousing Programs are included in the Rapid Rehousing Learning Community.
  - On August 8, 2019, 329 leaders in Los Angeles attended the DVHSC Community Connection Summit.
    - Participants represented the following sectors: 87 Domestic Violence services, 154 Homeless Services providers, 29 County and City Government staff, 24 individuals with lived experience, 9 from the legal sector, 17 representing philanthropic organizations, and 9 research/evaluation specialists.
    - Topics at the 2019 Summit included: The Intersection of Race and Gender for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Homelessness, Partnering for Survivors to Create Systems Change, Safety Planning with Survivors of Domestic Violence, Building Trauma and Resiliency Informed Communities, Aligning with the Coordinated Entry System to Best Serve Survivors, Building a Full Continuum of Housing: Creating Safe Housing Options for Survivors, and The Resilience Toolkit: Tools to Decrease Stress and Increase Resiliency.
  - DVHSC is supporting replication of the coalition model:
    - Implementing a similar coalition model in Orange County with the Community Legal Aid SoCal.
    - Providing guidance to the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding developing a plan to move toward a state-wide housing system that is far more responsive to survivors' needs.
    - Provided guidance to Mary’s Place and the Seattle/Kern County Continuum of Care to form a DVSHC.
    - DVHSC partners gave 17 conference and webinar presentations (mostly to a national audience) sharing Coalition strategies with 4000 individuals.
    - Published the DVHSC “Herstory” outlining the creation and accomplishments of the Coalition for replication.
  - DV Regional Coordinators and LAHSA provided over 40 training sessions on safety planning, using HMIS confidentially to gain access to housing resources, and coordinating services in Project Roomkey and Project Safe Haven during COVID.
- 2021-2022
  - Supported research project led by People’s Health Solutions and Hub for Urban Initiatives who published *Highlights from Separate yet Connected: Responding to Intimate Partner Violence and Homelessness in Los Angeles County during a Time of COVID-19*.
  - Supported research publication regarding the LA County DV Regional Coordinators: Shanti Joy Kulkarni, Suzanne Marcus, Cristina Cortes, Carielle Escalante, Leila Wood & Rachel Fusco (2021): *Improving Safe Housing Access for Domestic Violence*

*Survivors Through Systems Change*, Housing Policy Debate, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2021.1947865. Link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2021.1947865>

- In 2021, DV Regional Coordinators provided 129 training sessions to approximately 3,054 attendees on the topics of domestic violence, sexual assault, safety planning, the Coordinated Entry System, Emergency Housing Vouchers, and LAHSA's Violence Against Women Act Interim Emergency Transfer Plan.
- In 2021 and 2022 combined, DV Regional Coordinators provided 155 training sessions to 3501 attendees on the topics of Domestic Violence 101, Domestic Violence and Homelessness, Safety Planning, CES 101, Human Trafficking, Problem Solving, Emergency Housing Vouchers, VAWA and Emergency Transfers, Patrol Response to 911 DV Calls, Impact of DV on Children, Managing DV Disclosures, Housing Resources for Survivors, HUD Category 4, Domestic Violence 40 Hour Training, Sexual Assault Awareness, and the Non-HMIS Portal.
- In 2022, DVHSC Core Team members presented on the Coalition at the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence Annual, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and the Southern CA Association of Nonprofit Housing Developers conferences.

### **Goal 3: Increase coordination between domestic violence, homeless services, housing providers, and government agencies.**

#### **Accomplishments:**

- 2016-2018:
  - Determined the role and scope of work for Measure H-funded SPA-based DV Coordinators and drafted job descriptions.
  - Created a first of its kind Trauma and Resiliency Toolkit geared exclusively for homeless service providers. This toolkit aims to ensure that new programs funded through Measure H and Prop HHH incorporate a trauma-informed lens and prioritize the prevention of re-traumatization as the system scales.
  - Created and published our Common Messaging that included identifying shared values between the homeless and DV systems of care.
- 2019-2020:
  - Published the "City of Los Angeles Women's Housing Gap Analysis."
  - Coalition contributed to survey administration and recommendations for the 2019 LA City Women's Needs Assessment released in 2020.
  - Furthered evaluation on the co-location model through survey and focus groups. Results show that the DV Regional Coordinators:
    - Demonstrate effectiveness in providing technical assistance and training, advance systems reforms, share lessons learned across service areas, increase service provider knowledge of available resources, and elevate survivor voices into policy solutions.
  - Advocated for new funding through local government sources including Measure H, HEAP, HHAPP, and CDBG to support survivors. Sustained funding sources and

- strategies due to advocacy during budget cut discussions due to COVID.
- Advocated for CARES Act funding resulting in \$5 Million through the Los Angeles County Office of Women’s Health to support DV programs.
- Scaled advocacy work Statewide, with a pending Mayoral DV Sign-on Initiative and DVHSC member organizations driving statewide policy solutions through The HOME (Housing Opportunities Mean Everything) Cohort as supported by the Women's Foundation of CA and the CA Partnership to End DV.
- 2021-2022
  - DVHSC provided guidance to LAHSA regarding the eligibility of DV, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking survivors for the HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers that were prioritized to DV, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking survivors.
  - Advocated for survivors housing needs in Bring CA Home AB 71, the first state bill that included funding for survivors in a homeless system related bill. The Bill did not pass the CA 21-22 legislature cycle. This initiative brought the DVHSC into statewide advocacy in partnership with Housing California, California Partnership to End DV, and Corporation for Supportive Housing.
  - Utilizing parts of Bring CA Home policy for survivors and working on a new bill to enhance AB 140 with more attention on women and survivors for CA’s housing legislation that was passed in 21-22 cycle.
  - Provided Technical Assistance to the City of Los Angeles on the Domestic Violence Housing First Model and secured \$5 Million in CARES Act dollars for a new Survivors First program in Los Angeles.
  - Ensured that the DVHSC advocacy platform was shared in LA County led listening sessions for our Measure H sales tax to inform revise of strategies directed towards survivors. The DVHSC Core Team met with the new Executive Director of the LA County Measure H Homeless Initiative to advance our platform and presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors’ Housing Deputies regarding our policy/funding recommendations.
  - Created Communications Materials and Draft Communications Plan in partnership through the Statewide HOME Cohort to shift the media narrative on survivors and homelessness to a more nuanced and strengths-based light.
  - In 2022, DVHSC Core Team Members supported publication of the HOME Cohort *Improving Outcomes for Survivors Experiencing Homelessness: A Toolkit for Victim Service Provider* to support their expertise in HUD Continuum of Care resources & a *CA Housing Rights Lease Addendum*. Found here: <https://www.cpedv.org/home-cohort-0>

**Goal 4: Create a workable Coordinated Entry (CE) system for domestic violence victims. Ensure survivor confidentiality in all data collection mechanisms.**

**Accomplishments:**

- 2016-2018:
  - Explored the best approaches for domestic violence and homeless systems by assessing the point at which referrals get made in CE for a family in need of housing resources when domestic violence is also identified; and explored how to improve referrals between the domestic violence and homeless

systems.

- Conducted targeted outreach to other jurisdictions that have successfully shared data while ensuring client confidentiality.
  - Supported the co-location of DV advocates in SPA locations.
  - Assisted in securing funding for confidential databases through LAHSA.
  - Improved relationships with co-located partners, opening the way to more domestic violence support for homeless providers.
  - Currently under development, the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Operations Manual will include procedures that put into practice the policies established by the CES Policy Council. Domestic violence service integration and alignment is among the policies that were approved, and issues pertaining to survivor confidentiality within HMIS will be addressed in the forthcoming manual.
  - On the horizon for development, LAHSA plans to solicit input and expertise from the DVHSC Coalition to create a confidential database for survivors of domestic violence being served through CES.
- 2019-2020
    - Informed by stakeholders in the DVHSC, LAHSA created and piloted a confidential CES portal allowing victim services providers to directly submit non-identifiable information into the Housing Queue for access to permanent housing resources to be implemented in the DV-specific programs funded by LAHSA.
    - LAHSA created a one-page training document and video instructing homeless service providers how to safely enter information into HMIS.
    - LAHSA will utilize additional State funding to further integrate changes in the HMIS (Clarity) portal.
    - DVHSC members helped LAHSA create a VAWA Emergency Transfer Policy.
    - DV Regional Coordinators provided training to staff in Project Safe Haven and Project Roomkey to support DV survivors.
  - 2021-2022
    - DVHSC supported creating a referral system for DV survivors for prioritization for HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers; supported training to ensure providers knew how to apply for vouchers; supported evaluation of data to ensure survivors are accessing vouchers.
    - DVHSC members, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and the Confidentiality Institute collaborated with LAHSA to create new guidance that would ensure further safety and confidentiality for survivors navigating CES by de-identifying their HMIS profiles.
    - With LAHSA implemented a Domestic Violence Rapid Re-Housing program, so individuals not in HMIS and Victim Service Providers can access Rapid Re-Housing/Time Limited Subsidy programs. Host quarterly Victim Service Provider learning communities to support VSPs in navigating CES.
    - Domestic Violence Regional Coordinators hosted trainings on Category Four of HUD's Definition of Homelessness to ensure survivors were able to access the Coordinated Entry System.

## Goal 5: Enhance safe housing options for survivors.

### Accomplishments:

- 2016-2018:
  - Examined how to increase both safe housing capacity in shelter and the availability of affordable housing for people upon exiting the shelter system. This entailed provision of technical assistance support to domestic violence and homeless systems to boost their ability to create linkages to permanent housing options.
  - Homeless services have evidenced an increased ease in helping survivors connect with landlords and an increase in rental assistance provided to survivors.
- 2019-2020:
  - Compiled data of DVHSC members who administer the DV Housing First model through California Office of Emergency Services funding to use in local advocacy efforts, including with the City, LAHSA and the County's Homeless Initiatives Office. The results show a high return on investment and high housing placement numbers. This local deep dive helped demonstrate results of the overall implementation of the model throughout California in the *2019 Examining the Impact of the Domestic Violence Housing First Model in California*, a Multipronged Evaluation, completed this year. 65 organizations (16 in Southern CA) administer Cal OES DVHF (up from 33 in 2017).
  - NASH conducted national listening sessions with DV survivors who live in PSH, service providers, architects, developers, and property managers to inform the *PSH for Survivors Toolkit* to be published in Winter 2020.
  - Hosted a technical assistance gathering in June 2019 to help providers implement the first round of 2018 HUD Continuum of Care DV Bonus funding and to prepare for 2020 HUD Continuum of Care Joint Component/DV Bonus funding opportunities.
  - Over \$5 million for two new housing projects for survivors of domestic violence awarded through the 2020 HUD funding for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care.
  - Expanded opportunities for survivors via Project Roomkey and Project Safe Haven for hotel access during COVID. Connected survivors with permanent housing post hotel stay.
  - Successfully advocated for extended funding for Project Safe Haven.
- 2021-2022
  - Provided feedback sessions technical assistance to Coalition members to apply for Continuum of Care DV Bonus Funds.
  - Advocated for and passed a policy through CES Policy Counsel that prioritizes DV survivors for new American Rescue Plan Emergency Voucher Program starting July 1, 2021.
  - Based on success in implementing DV-Housing First model with Measure H and CalOES funds, HCID of the City of LA implemented \$5 Million for Survivor Housing First for 900 via CARES Act funding.
  - Supported advocacy resulting in LA County providing \$8 Million in American

Rescue Act funds for DV; this is the first time the County has allocated this level of funding for DV services.

- In 2021, the DVHSC Provided technical assistance to secure \$2,554,469 in HUD DV Bonus fund for Los Angeles Continuum of Care among 3 providers.

**Goal 6: Ensure lived experience voice is included in all aspects of systems alignment work.**

**Accomplishments:**

- 2016-2018:
  - Sought input from people with lived experience by conducting focus groups in all 8 Service Planning Areas (SPAs); analyzed key themes that emerged from focus groups; and meaningfully incorporated findings into full report and practices.
  - Ensured the voices of those with lived experience was front and center in all Coalition meetings and the October 2017 Summit.
  - Started the DVHSC Advocates Program.
- 2019-2020:
  - The Advocates Program utilized co-design principles and created five components: 1) skills-based training in advocacy, policy history/context, and public presentation of stories; 2) “business” meetings to study policies, plan upcoming advocacy, and coordinate speaking schedules; 3) peer support group for the emotional aspects of advocacy; 4) individual check-ins with an ally; and 5) advocacy public speaking actions.
  - Six of the nine Advocates completed the 40-hour Domestic Violence Counseling training.
  - The Advocates presented at 50 different Advocacy opportunities, including public comment in council meetings and national conferences.
  - Original Advocates graduated the program and helped mentor new participants as Advocates.
- 2021-2022:
  - Refreshed DVHSC Advocates Training and supported an additional six advocates through training.
  - Revised the DVHSC Allyship Program and added new System Leaders to support the six newly graduated DVHSC Advocates.
  - Advocates presented in every DVHSC All Member meetings.
  - In 2021, the original DVHSC Advocates were honored with an award by the LA County Domestic Violence Council and the LA City DV Alliance for their excellence in volunteering.
  - Advocates presented at National Alliance to End Homelessness, SCANPH, Housing California, and CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence Conferences in 2022.
  - Two advocates moved into full-time coordinator and manager roles in the violence prevention movement and two additional advocates work part-time.
  - Advocates have moved the City of Los Angeles closer to implementing a Lived Experience Commission.