

# Integration vs Alignment

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Presented by Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Regional Coordinators

# Meet Our Team



**Termeko Coplin**

SPA1- Valley Oasis



**Andrea Estrada**

SPA 2- LA Family  
Housing



**Takiya Benjamin**

SPA 3- Union  
Station Services



**Diana Grant**

SPA 4- Center for the  
Pacific Asian Family

# Meet Our Team



**Stephanie Whack**

SPA 5- St. Joseph  
Center



**Laura-Elena Garza**

SPA 7- The Whole  
Child



**Iajhiah Giraud**

Manager, LAHSA  
DV Unit



**Sarah Whitman**

Coordinator, LAHSA  
DV Unit

# AGENDA

## Then

- Scope of work
- Data and stats
- History and Development of the DV RC Role
- Regional Map

## Now

- DVRC Unique Position
- DVRC Program Accomplishments
- Alignment and Integration
- Housing barriers

## When

- Recommended strategies and cross-sectional practical tips
- Findings
- Community feedback



# Acronyms

- **DV:** Domestic Violence
- **SA:** Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse
- **HT:** Human Trafficking
- **VSP:** Victim Service Provider
- **VAWA:** Violence Against Women Act
- **CES:** Coordinated Entry System
- **HMIS:**  
Homeless Management Information System
- **SPA:** Service Planning Area
- **DVRC:** Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator
- **LAHSA:** Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

# "Then"

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History & Creation of the DVRC role, Role Development & Funding

# Scope of Work

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LAHSA established the DVRC scope of work on a systemic level to address coordination of service, infrastructural development, and policy and funding advocacy

- Training/Education
- Partnership-building
- Case Consultation
- Referral Guidance
- System Navigation
- Technical Assistance

# More than Domestic Violence.....

DVRCs provide support to persons and systems beyond domestic violence, including SA and HT victims/survivors at the intersection of homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless

- DV is used as an umbrella term
- HT and SA overlap with DV
- Regardless of overlap, HT/SA victims/survivors experience homelessness
- DVRC work extends to providing guidance for serving abusive partners/perpetrators



# The Intersection of DV and Homelessness

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The two most pressing concerns for survivors of abuse are the need for safe housing and the need for economic resources to maintain safety.<sup>1</sup>



80%  
Experienced  
DV

A study of homeless women with children found that 80% had previously experienced domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>



57%  
Homelessness  
was caused by DV

Studies show that as many as 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.<sup>3</sup>

## Barriers to Safety: Understanding the Intersection

As a direct result of the power and control dynamics related to their abuse, survivors often face unique barriers to accessing shelter and affordable housing.

### Poor Credit & Ruined Rental Histories



Often caused by abusers running up credit card bills or lying about paying rent, utilities, childcare and other bills. This affects a survivors' ability to pass a landlord background check.

### Lack of Steady Employment



Caused when victims are forced to miss work as a result of violence, or are fired as a result of stalking and harassment that occurs at the workplace.

### Housing Discrimination



The most common cases of this occur when landlords evict victims from housing due to repeated calls to the police or property damage caused by the abuser.

### Loss of Subsidized or Other Affordable Housing



Caused by lease or voucher policy violations committed by the abuser.

This is particularly true for survivors most marginalized in our society and with the least access to resources, including many survivors of color, Native Americans, immigrants, those living in poverty and who are geographically isolated, those with disabilities, and others.

In just  
**1 Day**  
In 2016<sup>4</sup>

OVER  
 41,000

adults and children fled domestic violence and found refuge in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.



7,914

requests by domestic violence survivors for housing were unmet due to a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources. Emergency shelter and transitional housing were the most urgent unmet need for survivors.

For more information, visit [www.safehousingpartnerships.org](http://www.safehousingpartnerships.org)

1. Clough, A., Draughon, J. E., Njie-Carr, V., Rollins, C., & Glass, N. [2014]. "Having housing made everything else possible": Affordable, safe and stable housing for women survivors of violence. *Qualitative Social Work*, 13(5), 671-688.
2. Aratani, Y. [2009]. *Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences*. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty.
3. *Women and Children in Chicago Shelters*, 3; Nat'l Center for Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (2003). *Social Supports for Homeless Mothers*, 14, 26; Inst. for Children & Poverty (2004). *The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families*; *Homes for the Homeless* and Inst. for Children & Poverty (1998). *Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America*, 3.
4. National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017). *11th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report: 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services*. Washington, DC.

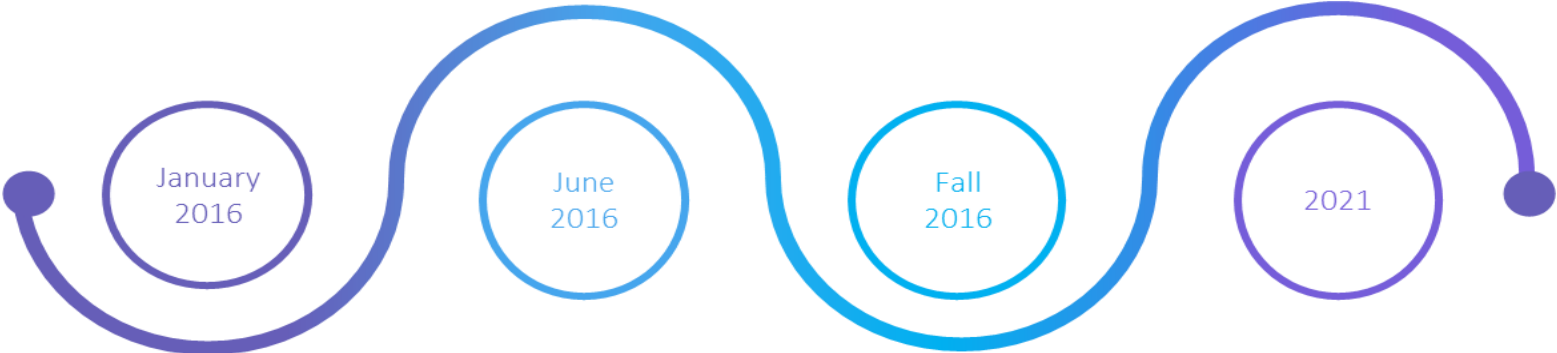


SAFE HOUSING  
PARTNERSHIPS

Safe Housing Partnerships

[Working Together to End Homelessness for Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors and Their Families  
\(safehousingpartnerships.org\)](http://www.safehousingpartnerships.org)

# HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DVRC



## Laying the Groundwork

Advocacy work began through Downtown Women Center and Los Angeles City Domestic Violence Alliance

## Approving Funding

LA Board of Supervisors approved funding through Measure H for DVRC Positions

## Creation of DVHSC

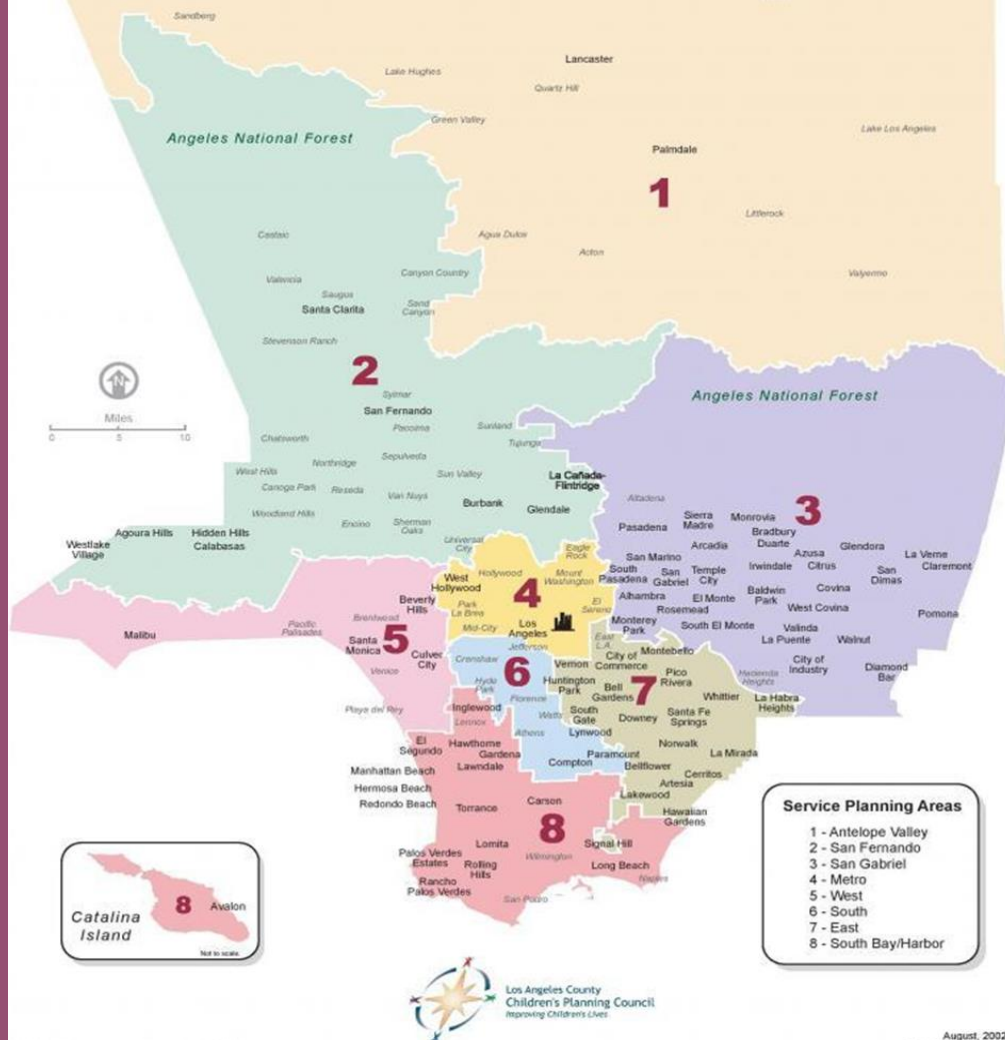
Downtown Women Center is joined by Rainbow Services to address the intersection of DV and homelessness

## Permanent Funding

Federal funding for the DVRC position is secured

# DVRC Service Areas

DVRC's each serve a different SPA in Los Angeles County



Note: City names are shown in **BLACK**.  
Communities are shown in *GRAY italics*.

Map used by permission.

# "Now"

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Program Value & Accomplishments

# DVRC Role In-Action

- DVRCs sometimes must work outside our scope of service to best serve survivors (i.e. direct service when there is no available staff)
- Transitioning from working direct services with general homeless populations or victim services to the DVRC position
- Organizational challenges with integrated or aligned systems
- Geographical challenges with local partnership-building, as victims/survivors need resources and access across the County

# Filling Systemic Gaps

- Possess expertise in CES/housing and victim services
  - Guidance with system navigation, streamlined referrals, identifying appropriate resources, and warm hand-offs
  - Translation of terms and client needs
  - Making the connection between victimization and homelessness
- Provide SPA-specific resources and needs to community agencies
- Acting as a mechanism to resolve system gaps between housing/homeless system and VSP
- Policy/funding representation of front-line and systemic concerns



# Strategies and Spectrum of Support

## Systemic Support

- Cross-training
- Consolidate information and resources
- Referral Guidance—to reduce redundancy, avoid survivor repeating information, and inappropriate referrals
- Real-time updates on resource development and landscape

## Hands -on Support

- Facilitate co-case management
- Technical assistance with linkages to resources
- On-site support for front-line staff
- Creative problem-solving
- Maximizing available resources

# Accomplishments

HMIS Profile Guidance and LAHSA VAWA Landing Page

Interim Emergency Transfer Plan (IETP) Guidance and Training

Providing DV, HT, SA, and Stalking lens to Homeless services

Established 147 unique partnerships throughout Los Angeles County

Non-HMIS Portal Creation- Permanent Supportive Housing Linkage for VSP's

Emergency Housing Voucher Submissions for non CES services survivor serving agencies

Access to Shallow Subsidy Program for Survivors in DV Rapid Re-Housing Programs and Increased access to Problem Solving Funding

Increased knowledge of DV in SPA by conducting 155 presentations

# System Alignment

- System alignment work has consisted of creating analogous pathways for victims/survivors to connect with already-existing housing resources, and/or for VSPs to operate housing programs
- Alignment does not address all victim/survivor housing needs
- Survivor experience of homelessness is different as a product of the abuse and violence experienced

# System Integration

- Unlike other social services and systems of care, VSPs operate independently and are not a part of a large referral network
- DMH, DHS, DCFS, and other County-wide systems of care are presently connected to CES, and have internal referral networks, co-located staff, and other multidisciplinary approaches to better aid homeless individuals and families reeling from the impact of co-occurring issues compounding their homelessness

# HUD Template Housing Assessment

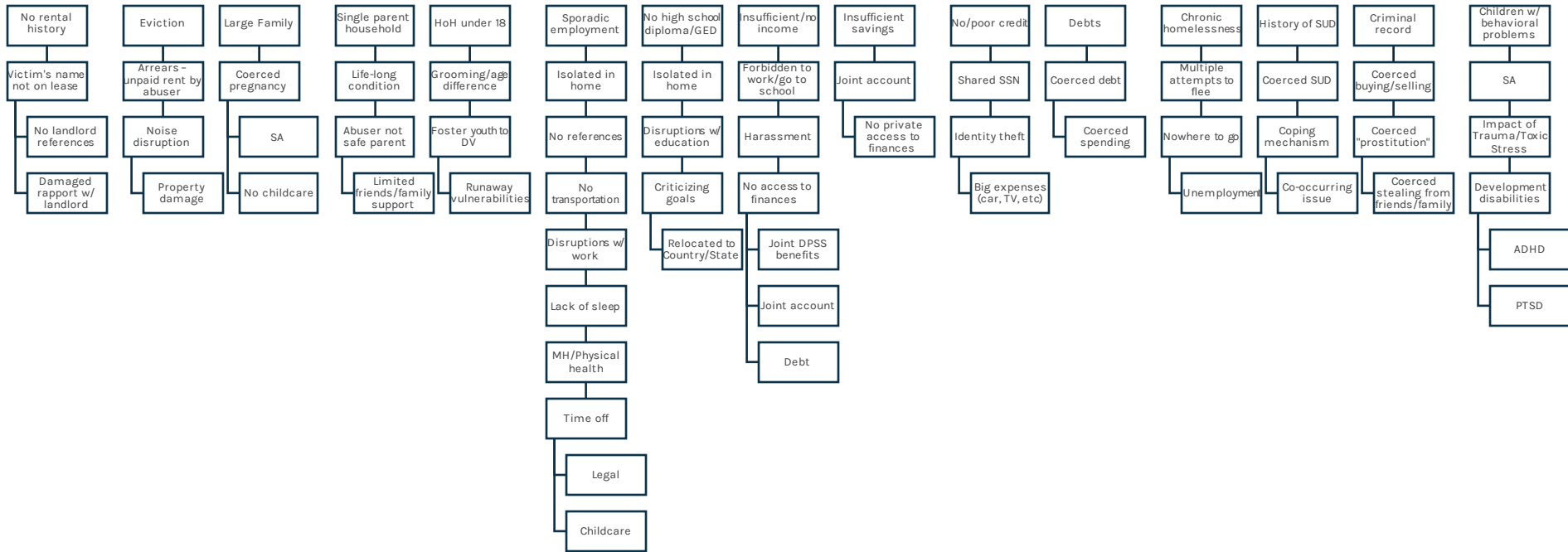
Standard barriers to housing apply to DV/SA/HT victims and survivors, due to the nature of their victimization

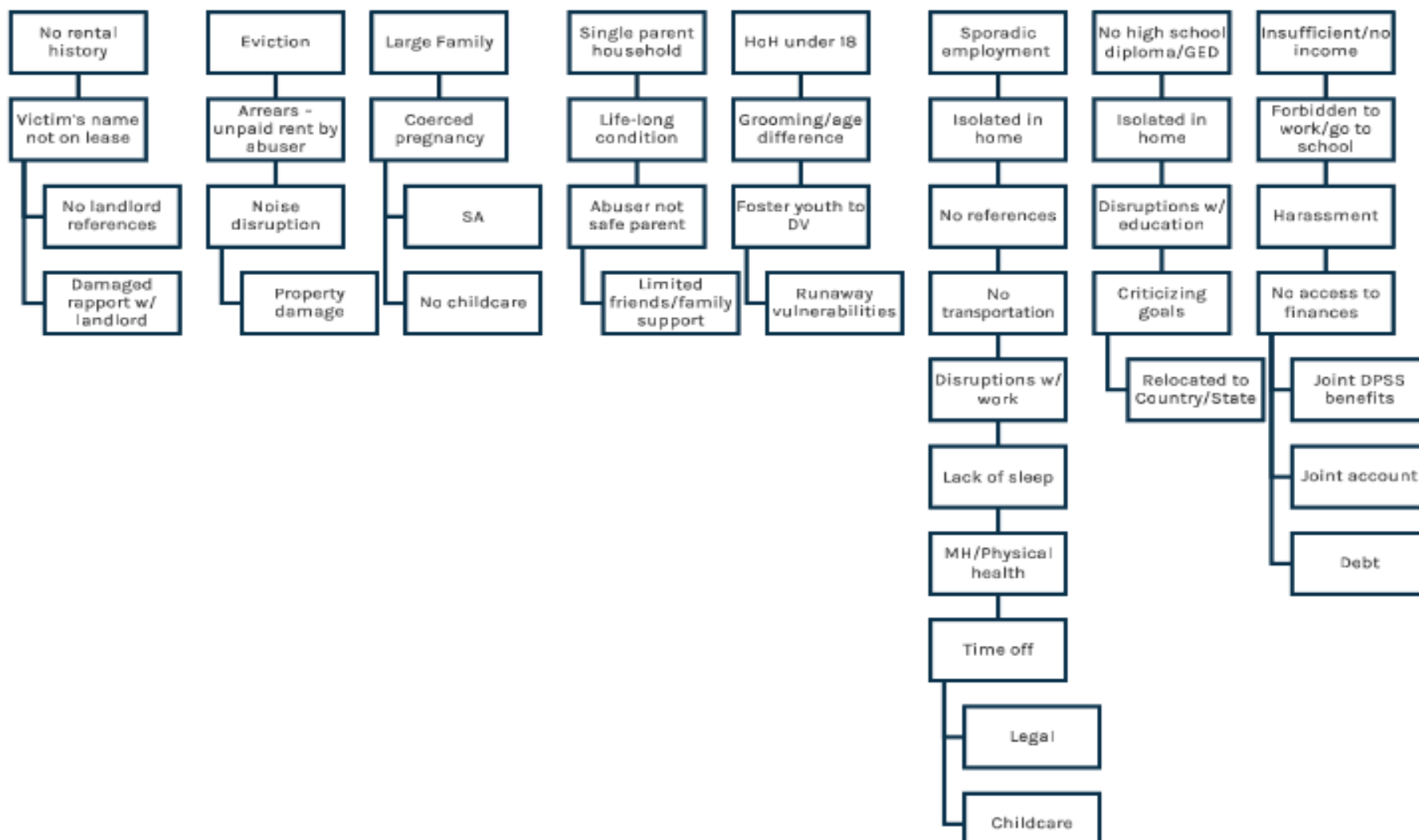
## Part 1. Housing Barriers

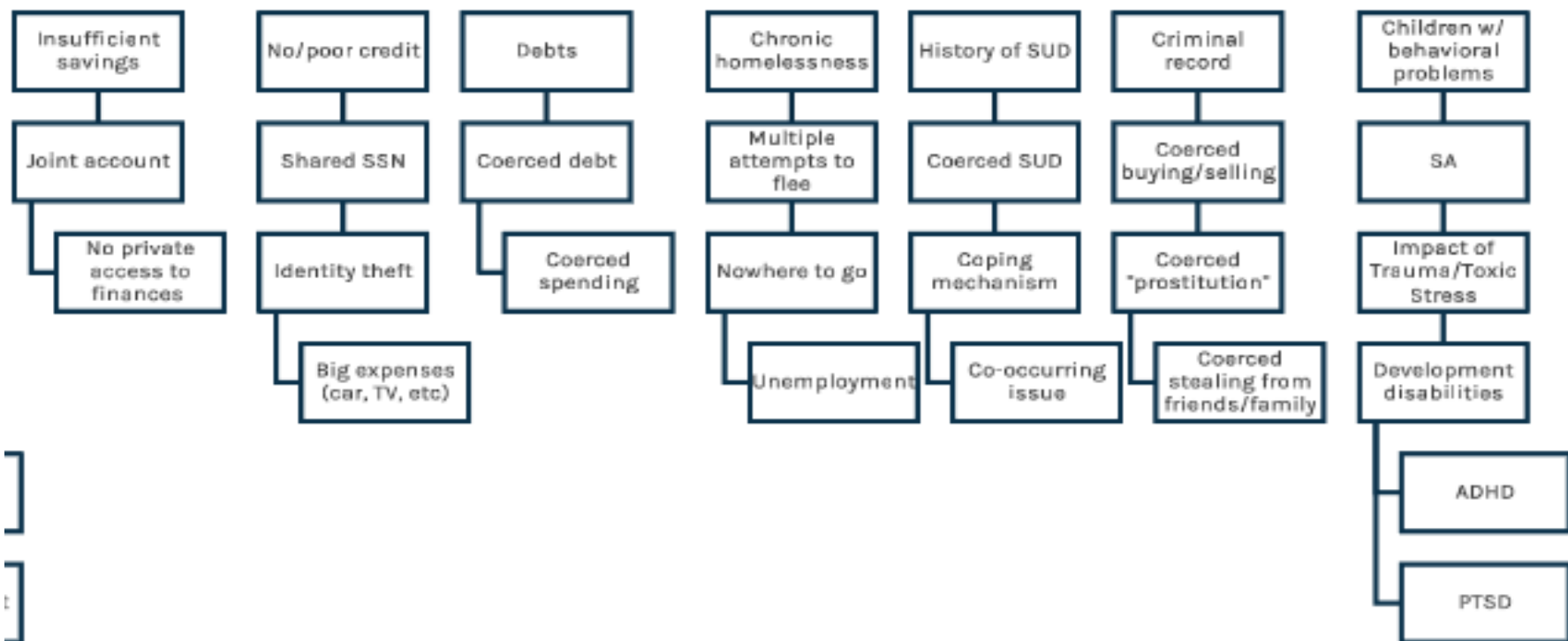
**Barriers to Housing** *(Review the list of barriers with the client and use this information to guide the rest of the discussion.)*

- No rental history
- Eviction(s) \_\_\_\_
- Large family (3+ children)
- Single parent household
- Head of household under 18
- Sporadic employment history
- No high school diploma/GED
- Insufficient/no income
- Insufficient savings
- No or poor credit history
- Debts
- Repeated or chronic homelessness
- Recent history of substance abuse or actively using drugs or alcohol
- Recent criminal history
- Adult or child with mild to severe behavioral problems
- History of abuse and/or battery but abuser not in the unit
- Recent or current abuse and/or battering (client fleeing abuser)

# Housing barriers specific to victims and survivors of Domestic Violence









# "When"

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Recommendations for Future Direction of the Work

**What gaps have you  
observed that contribute  
to victims/survivors  
being inadequately  
served?**

# Recommendations for Service Providers

Foster co-case management opportunities

Invest in cross-sector training

Create multidisciplinary teams

Establish a general understanding of different service systems

Engage in partnership building

Hire specialized staff in DV and/or housing

Encourage leadership to be familiar with DV and housing

# Flexible Funding in Practice

## DV Housing First in California (2017)

- CalOES funded a total of 33 non-profit agencies across the state to implement the DV Housing First model; 19 agencies participated in a statewide evaluation
- Between July 2017 - April 2019, a total of \$3,002,355.48 in flexible financial assistance was distributed to 925 survivors and their families
- Several payments under \$10 supporting cost of food, court parking fees, safety measures, processing fees for utility payments, and bike licensing and registration fees
- Larger amounts are often needed to meet survivors' needs, such as \$6,385 for legal fees related to an eviction
- Most survivors received flexible funding assistance more than once
- Variety of needs, such as transportation, basic needs, employment assistance, and legal assistance
- Rental assistance accounted for the largest percentage of payments (62%) made to survivors, with move-in costs (17%) and essential furnishings (5%) following, while 3.5% of payments were used for transportation assistance

## Survivors First with LA City's CIFD (2022)

- Almost a third of Survey respondents said that they had additional expenses with which the program was unable to assist
- 86% – “I was able to either remain in my home or secure safe housing”
- 70% – “I needed additional financial help that the program was not able to provide”
- “Still never found a place. It’s harder to find a place than being on this earth
- \$8,000 cap per household placed constraints on programs, especially those assisting survivors leaving hotels, shelters or other temporary housing and facing a rental market with move-in and rental costs that quickly depleted that amount
- Providers noted that requests that security deposits not be included in the \$8,000 cap were often approved, but high rents often translated into less than the intended six months of rental subsidy

# Flexible Funding in Practice

[DVHF-CA-2019\\_FULL-REPORT-Multipronged-Evaluation\\_final.pdf \(wscadv.org\)](#)

## DV Housing First in California (2019)

### Results

- The majority (71%) received flexible financial assistance more than once
- From flexible funding, 58% survivors used funds to prevent homelessness
  - 46% stayed in own home
  - 40% found new home
- Agencies with unclear guidance on allowable costs used the vast majority of their funding (85%) on rental assistance
- Agencies with a guide on allowable costs dedicated only 62% of the total funding toward rental assistance, using the rest of the funding on a wide range of expenses, including employment assistance, furniture, and car repairs

### Client Feedback

- 88% able to remain in their home or obtain safe housing
- 85% much better able to plan for their safety
- 76% better understanding of the resources available to them
- 59% more financially stable
- 80% better able to budget


## Survivors First with LA City's CIFD (2022)

### Program Wish-List:

- Education and job training costs
- Legal costs
- Furniture, appliances, and household items
- Subsidies for informal rental arrangements
- “VISA-type” gift card
- Landlord guarantees

### Recommendations:

- Consider awarding funds on an individualized basis negotiated with each agency
- Set a range for per household amount rather than a cap
- Provide clear guidance about allowable costs, and expand the list if funding allows
- Explore ‘paperwork reduction’



**Do you have any  
recommendations?**

**Thank you!**

**Questions, comments, & concerns?**

Termeko Coplin, [tcoplin@avdvc.org](mailto:tcoplin@avdvc.org)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 1  
Valley Oasis

Andrea Estrada, [aestrada@lafh.org](mailto:aestrada@lafh.org)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 2  
LA Family Housing

Takiya Benjamin, [tbenjamin@unionstationhs.org](mailto:tbenjamin@unionstationhs.org)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 3  
Union Station

Diana Grant, [dianag@cpaf.info](mailto:dianag@cpaf.info)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 4  
Center for the Pacific Asian Family

Stephanie Whack, [swhack@stjosephctr.org](mailto:swhack@stjosephctr.org)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 5  
Saint Joseph Center

Laura-Elena Garza, [lgarza@thewholechild.org](mailto:lgarza@thewholechild.org)  
Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator SPA 7  
The Whole Child

Iajhiah Giraud, [igiraud@lahsa.org](mailto:igiraud@lahsa.org)  
Manager  
DV Systems Alignment LAHSA

Sarah Whitman, [swhitman@lahsa.org](mailto:swhitman@lahsa.org)  
Coordinator  
DV Systems Alignment LAHSA