



Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition

Policy Priorities

FY 2023-2024

Los Angeles County

- 1. Measure H Funding to Include DV Survivors, Human Trafficking Survivors and Sexual Assault Survivors.** There are less than 1000 emergency domestic violence beds in the County.¹ In FY 21-22, 15,894 adults called Los Angeles County domestic violence hotlines to request shelter services.² Only 2,696 (17%) adults and children received shelter services.³ There are only 15 shelter beds for human trafficking survivors in the County, and no shelter beds for sexual assault survivors in Los Angeles. There are also very few resources for sexual assault and stalking victims and survivors. Funding additional shelters and resources will ensure that survivors do not end up on the street or return to their abuser. Further, most shelters cannot accommodate pets or emotional support animals. As many as 25% of survivors have reported returning to an abusive partner out of concern for their pet.⁴ Funding shelters to accommodate pets and emotional support animals will support survivors trying to flee abuse. We also must ensure that all shelters are ADA-accessible. Funding should be set aside for County-funded shelters to make appropriate ADA renovations.
- 2. Set aside motel vouchers for survivors, specifically unaccompanied women, and LGBTQ+ survivors.** Unaccompanied women are homeless women (including transgender women) without children. According to the 2022 Point in Time Count, unaccompanied women make up 22% of the unsheltered homeless population in LA CoC.⁵ Further, 75% of unaccompanied women have experienced domestic violence or are homeless due to fleeing domestic violence or intimate partner violence.⁶ Unaccompanied women have a harder time accessing domestic violence shelters because shelters prioritize families with children. Unaccompanied women are often forced to seek non-domestic violence interim housing, where many do not feel safe, or sleep on the street.⁷ Additionally, LGBTQ+ survivors are often hesitant to seek emergency shelter due to a lack of appropriate and trauma-informed LGBTQ victim services.⁸ Many domestic violence programs focus on a heterosexual paradigm that denies LGBTQ survivors access to essential services, including shelter.⁹ Setting aside motel vouchers for these populations of survivors would lessen the number of LGBTQ and unaccompanied women survivors experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- 3. Provide wraparound services for survivors in permanent housing to ensure they do not fall into homelessness.** The necessity of wrap-around services is essential for preventing homelessness for survivors and keeping survivors housed after homelessness. Providing case

¹ Data provided by the Department of Public Health

² Data provided by the Department of Public Health

³ Data provided by the Department of Public Health

⁴ [Addressing the Link Between Pets and Domestic Violence \(nnedv.org\)](https://www.nnedv.org)

⁵ [6591 - Unaccompanied Women Hc22 Data Summary \(lahsa.org\)](https://www.lahsa.org)

⁶ [6591 - Unaccompanied Women Hc22 Data Summary \(lahsa.org\)](https://www.lahsa.org)

⁷ [DWC-2019-Executive-Summary.pdf \(downtownwomenscenter.org\)](https://www.downtownwomenscenter.org)

⁸ [Shelter-Toolkit.pdf \(lgbtqipvoinstitute.org\)](https://www.lgbtqipvoinstitute.org)

⁹ [Shelter-Toolkit.pdf \(lgbtqipvoinstitute.org\)](https://www.lgbtqipvoinstitute.org)



management, supportive services, mental healthcare, and flexible funding is essential to ensure survivors have safety and security. Survivors are always at risk of falling into victimization again since the abuser may continue to perpetuate violence even after a survivor has fled. Stalking can continue up to two years after a survivor has fled abuse. Ensuring that survivors have access to supportive services will keep them housed and keep people off the streets and out of shelters. This has been proven by the Domestic Violence Housing First Statewide Evaluation.¹⁰

Los Angeles City

1. **Continued Funding for Survivors First that also supports single adults.** The Survivors First Homelessness Prevention Program is the first of its kind in a locality to offer flexible financial assistance to help survivors establish or maintain permanent housing. Unfortunately, during a renewal of the program, the funding acquired can only be utilized for families, not single adults. According to the 2022 Point in Time Count, unaccompanied women make up 22% of the unsheltered homeless population in LA CoC.¹¹ Further, 75% of unaccompanied women have experienced domestic violence or are homeless due to fleeing domestic violence or intimate partner violence.¹² Unaccompanied women have a harder time accessing domestic violence shelters because shelters prioritize families with children. Unaccompanied women are often forced to seek non-domestic violence interim housing, where many do not feel safe, or sleep on the street.¹³ It is essential that we continue to support this population. We request that the Community Investment for Families Department and the City Council look into additional funding that can support unaccompanied women and single adult survivors.
2. **Funding for renovations and additional DV, HT, SA shelter locations.** There are 228 emergency domestic violence beds in the city.¹⁴ In FY 21-22, 15,894 adults called Los Angeles domestic violence hotlines to request shelter services.¹⁵ Only 2,696 (17%) adults and children received shelter services.¹⁶ There are only 15 shelter beds for human trafficking survivors, and there are no shelter beds for sexual assault survivors in Los Angeles. Funding additional shelters will ensure that survivors do not end up on the street or return to their abuser. Further, most shelters cannot accommodate pets or emotional support animals. As many as 25% of survivors have reported returning to an abusive partner out of concern for their pet.¹⁷ Funding shelters to accommodate pets and emotional support animals will support survivors trying to flee abuse.
3. **Provide wraparound services for survivors in permanent housing to ensure they do not fall into homelessness.** The necessity of wrap-around services is essential for preventing homelessness for survivors and keeping survivors housed after homelessness. Providing case management, supportive services, mental healthcare, and flexible funding is essential to ensure survivors have safety and security. Survivors are always at risk of falling into victimization again since the abuser may continue to perpetuate violence even after a survivor has fled. Stalking can

¹⁰ [DVHF-CA-2019 FULL-REPORT.pdf \(rainbowservicesdv.org\)](#)

¹¹ [6591 - Unaccompanied Women Hc22 Data Summary \(lahsa.org\)](#)

¹² [6591 - Unaccompanied Women Hc22 Data Summary \(lahsa.org\)](#)

¹³ [DWC-2019-Executive-Summary.pdf \(downtownwomenscenter.org\)](#)

¹⁴ Information provided by the Community Investment for Families Department

¹⁵ Information provided by the Department of Public Health

¹⁶ Information provided by the Department of Public Health

¹⁷ [Addressing the Link Between Pets and Domestic Violence \(nnedv.org\)](#)



continue up to two years after a survivor has fled abuse. Ensuring that survivors have access to supportive services will keep them housed and keep people off the streets and out of shelters. This has been proven by the Domestic Violence Housing First Statewide Evaluation.¹⁸

4. **Establish the Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness.** The Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition has been advocating for a Lived Experience Commission in the City of Los Angeles since August of 2019. Now, in 2023, we ask that the City Councilors finally vote yes and establish a Lived Experience Commission. According to LAHSA’s Lived Experience Advisory Board, “Each PWLE has a different need and has faced varying hardships of trauma and discrimination. Expanding opportunities for PWLE through a citywide commission greatly diversifies input and reflects the diversity of perspectives and experiences that exist in our population. With over 300,000 constituents in every council district, perspectives from individuals with lived experiences from every corner of Los Angeles is necessary to properly address homelessness.”¹⁹ We also ask that a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking survivor is appointed to the Commission. In the original report from the Chief Legislative Analyst, a Board seat was not allocated for a survivor.²⁰ However, survivors make up 49% of the homeless adult population in LA City. Please consider appointing a survivor to represent this population.
5. **Hire a Domestic Violence Specialist in the Office of Housing and Homeless Solutions.** To create an accurate response to the emergency declaration on homelessness, the Office of Housing and Homelessness must include a Domestic Violence Specialist who can speak to the experience of the 18,000 homeless survivors of domestic violence.²¹

¹⁸ [DVHF-CA-2019 FULL-REPORT.pdf \(rainbowservicesdv.org\)](#)

¹⁹ [19-1020_PC_PM_02-06-2023.pdf \(lacity.org\)](#)

²⁰ [19-1020_rpt_cla_03-20-22.pdf \(lacity.org\)](#)

²¹ [6516 - City Of LA Hc22 Data Summary \(lahsa.org\)](#)