

Collaborating for Survivors Advocacy: The ABC's of Advocating for Safe Housing

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Welcome & Introduction



Millie Brown



Elizabeth Eastlund

Overview of Session

- Understanding local, regional, state & federal advocacy efforts
- Use of collective data in impactful storytelling
- Importance of Survivor voice
- Group Breakouts to develop one minute advocacy pitches
- Centering Community Care & Wellness

What are we Advocating for?

Specific to ensuring access to and support of safe housing for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV)

From shelter & interim housing - including TRANSITIONAL - to rental support to permanent housing - **ALL** options are welcomed & needed to support the needs of survivors of GBV

Is there something specific within the intersection of GBV & Homelessness you are passionate about advocating for?

Local to National Advocacy Groups

- From neighborhood councils to supporting the efforts of the City's DV Alliance and the County's DV Council, there are many ways to engage in local advocacy efforts
- Equally, there are a number of national groups advocating for housing across the county
- Several groups provide some level of messaging during critical advocacy efforts
 - important to sign up for list serve to keep up to date on messaging

Local Networks



LACITY.GOV

Neighborhood Councils



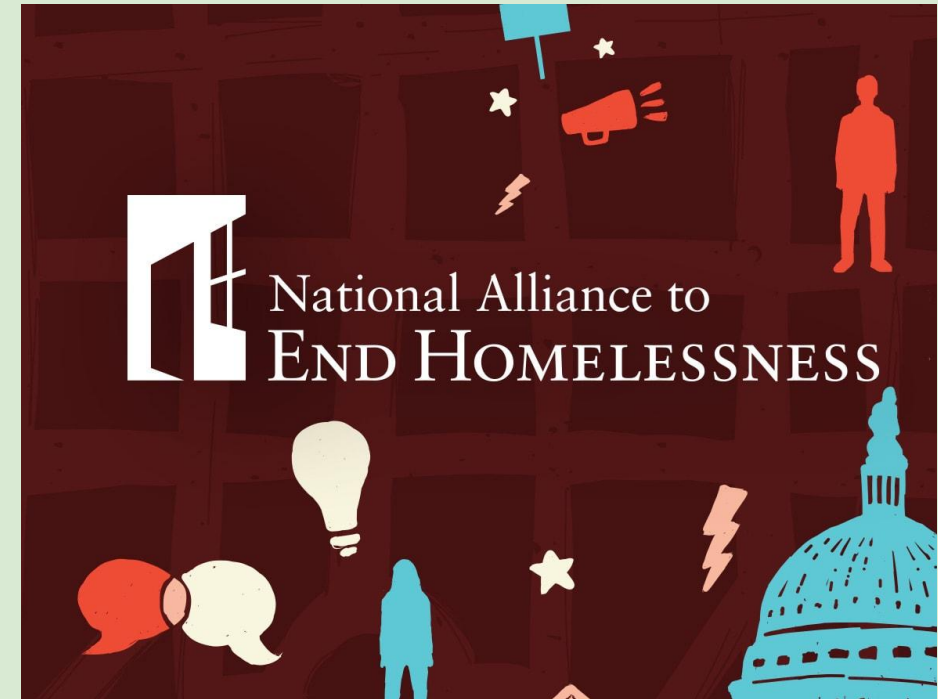
Regional & Statewide Networks



Greater LA Coalition on Homelessness



National Networks



Collective Data & Advocacy

Coordinating data among multiple organizations to support advocacy efforts in effecting change

- Initial DVHF program statistics used to influence the creation of the Survivors First funding in the City of LA
- Collective advocacy among GBV organizational leaders re-established \$3.8 M that was slated to be cut from LA City Survivor Programs



Survivor Voice

Millie's Journey towards Survivor Advocacy



Engaging survivors to share their voice in our advocacy strategies, ensures our communities and elected officials understand the very real intersection between GBV and homelessness.

ABC's Of Advocacy



DVHSC Advocates at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Advocacy

Buddy System -
Survivor Advocate

Clear messaging

Developing Talking Points

- Use clear, recent data points whenever possible
- Will a Survivor with Lived Experience join your in person visit?
Ensure they understand the amount of time they will have to share their story
- Share any experiences that highlight the need for funding
- Discuss the impact of your work by sharing a personal story

Utilize DVHSC and other messaging to be consistent in our efforts with local opportunities, the CPEDV for CA efforts, and NAEH, NNEDV for national advocacy efforts



TAKE ACTION From DVHSC push on to ensure funding for City of LA Survivor Programs

There are three ways to provide Public Comment:

- 1. Submit Public Comment online.** You can submit your comment online [here with the City Clerk](#) (Council File: 25-0600) by Thursday, May 21.
- 2. In-person Public Comment.** There will be one accepting public comment in person (no virtual/call-in option) on **Wednesday, 5/21, at 10am**, in the John Ferraro Council Chamber 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (entrance is on 193 N. Main Street). Arrive by 9am.
- 3. Email your Council Member directly.** You can find out [what Council District you are in here](#). Each office [email address is listed here](#).
 - 1. If you are a Constituent of a Budget and Finance Committee Member, this option is especially helpful.** The members are: Councilmember Yaroslavsky, Councilmember Blumenfield, Councilmember Hutt, Councilmember McOsker, and Councilmember Hernandez.



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

How to Advocate to your lawmakers

NAEH Point In Time Count



THEY COUNT, WILL YOU?

Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

[2024 Point In Time Data](#)

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR SURVIVORS
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
A Toolkit for Victim Service Providers



CALIFORNIA
**PARTNERSHIP TO END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Together, We're Stronger.

Breakout: Working in groups or pairs, participants will have an opportunity to develop an advocacy pitch and strategy, with an emphasis on engaging survivors as advocacy partners.

Small groups develop 1 to 2 minute public comment pitches for:

- County Advocacy to the Board of Supervisors to establish general fund support of survivor programs
- City Advocacy to increase funding Survivor Programs at the Budget Hearings
- State Advocacy to support Homeless funding for survivors of GBV
- National Advocacy to ensure continuation of DV Bonus Funding through the Continuum of Care (CoC)

Share out talking points



Centering Community Care & Wellness

How do we take care of ourselves while doing advocacy?

Remember self care is important: maintaining **mental, physical & spiritual health**

Checking in on your partners, team - debriefing after a visit or meeting



When you care for yourself you are contributing to the overall health of our community

Other tools to use in advocacy efforts

Social media

Letter writing campaigns

Calling electeds

Wrap Up & Gratitude

Please sign up for the Systems & Funding Workgroup for updates on our collective advocacy efforts

We are so grateful you took the time to learn more about ABC's of Advocacy and the importance of centering survivor voice in our work and advocacy efforts

THANKS