



From Homelessness to Housing

February 2018
Volume 1 Issue 1

MEASURE H QUARTERLY UPDATE



The County Homeless Initiative provides oversight and hands-on guidance to deploy the infusion of Measure H funds for services and programs and maximize the alignment and effectiveness of this unprecedented commitment. The Measure H Quarterly Update will keep you apprised of the progress being made—one aspect of our commitment to rigorous accountability and transparency. Visit our website <http://homeless.lacounty.gov/> for more information and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CountyHomelessInitiative>.

This is a community-wide undertaking made possible only with the support of dedicated

service providers, County departments, civic leaders, cities and faith-based institutions—and a galvanized public—who share the mission to prevent and combat homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Working together, we can bring about meaningful and lasting change. Thank you for being a part of this important effort to move individuals and families from homelessness to housing and enable them to improve the quality of their lives.

PHIL ANSELL

Director, Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative

Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the first issue of *From Homelessness to Housing: Measure H Quarterly Update*.

All across Los Angeles County, there are men, women and children experiencing homelessness who desperately need assistance and vital services. Thanks to the support and collaboration of thousands of community members, we have the momentum and new resources to fiercely prevent and combat homelessness. At this momentous time of partnership and cooperation in the region, we are poised to expand this critical work.

With the creation of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative and passage by voters of the landmark Measure H sales tax—which will raise about \$355 million annually to sustain and accelerate the County's strategies to combat homelessness—our

community has made a strong statement. It has affirmed that we care about our neighbors and our future, and we are willing to invest in a movement aimed at building a more inclusive and sustainable future. This is a long-awaited rallying moment.

“Thanks to the support and collaboration of thousands of community members, we have the momentum and new resources to fiercely prevent and combat homelessness.”

While movements take time to build, there have been significant steps forward to advance our efforts to combat homelessness. Thousands of individuals and families already have been helped.

Among many early initiatives and successes, we have increased outreach teams that address the immediate

needs of homeless residents and linked them to programs and services. We have enhanced the emergency shelter system with additional beds. We have placed more individuals and families into permanent housing. And we have enacted an innovative grant program with almost 50 cities to develop city-specific homelessness plans.



The Los Angeles County
HOMELESS INITIATIVE
REAL HELP. LASTING CHANGE.

Office of the Homeless Initiative
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
County of Los Angeles



homelessinitiative@lacounty.gov



<http://homeless.lacounty.gov>



[@CountyHomelessInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/CountyHomelessInitiative)

Recent Activities

Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board

THE MEASURE H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board is a crucial component of the accountability built into Measure H. The Board has met twice—in September and December 2017—and will review and evaluate all Measure H spending and ensure that we deliver on the promise and progress of this watershed initiative. The next two meetings will be held on March 8 and June 7. Thank you to the five members of the Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board for lending your expertise and dedication.

- **MERCEDES MARQUEZ**
- **RENATA SIMRIL**
- **CHRISTINE MARGIOTTA (CHAIR)**
- **ANDREW KERR**
- **GREG MORROW**



Interfaith Summit on Homelessness

FAITH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN on the frontlines of caring for our homeless neighbors long before Measure H. In recognition of the vital role of faith partners, the Homeless Initiative and LA Voice hosted the County's first Interfaith Summit on Homelessness, themed "Pursuing the Promise Together."

The Summit focused on combating homelessness by building a common vision and collaboration between the faith community and the County. Follow-up sessions were held in each Service Planning Area to further strengthen the partnerships between faith organizations, the County, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

A Regional Movement

HOMELESSNESS IS A REGIONAL CRISIS, and one of the top priorities of the Homeless Initiative is to continue strengthening the collaboration between the County and diverse stakeholders, including the 88 cities in this region.

- In September, nearly 300 County and City elected officials, staff, and homeless service providers attended the 2nd Homeless Initiative Cities Summit to End Homelessness to discuss Measure H strategies.
- In November, the City of LA signed a Permanent Supportive Housing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County, which establishes an agreement that the City will create 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing over the next 10 years and the County will provide supportive services for tenants of those units. The County is pursuing similar MOUs with other interested cities.

- Also in November, 47 cities were awarded planning grants to develop city-specific plans to prevent and combat homelessness. This multi-jurisdictional program is enabled by a grant initiative created by LA County and United Way of Greater Los Angeles' Home for Good Funders Collaborative and financed by an allocation of more than \$2 million from the County Board of Supervisors.



Jobs Combatting Homelessness

THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE and the infusion of funds generated by the Measure H sales tax, there are more than 1,000 new employment opportunities with providers in the homeless services delivery system—ranging from entry-level vacancies to management and executive level positions.

This week we launched JobsCombattingHomelessness.org—a dedicated webpage showcasing new jobs across the County in the vital field of homeless services—a meaningful way to contribute to the effort to combat and prevent homelessness across Los Angeles County. Please check back often for new listings and share the page with motivated job-seekers looking to join the movement.

Measure H Success Stories

Help Finding a Home

MS. JOHNSON found herself homeless living in her car. During her search for housing, she lacked the financial means to pay for credit checks, application fees, and a security deposit. A few months later, Ms. Johnson contacted the Housing Advisor Unit of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), and a member of the Housing Advisor Unit drove her to see an apartment the next day. Ms. Johnson was provided with assistance to pay for the application fee through HACoLA's Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) and moved into her new apartment in September.



Home After 10 Years

FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, this 52-year-old client has struggled with homelessness and mental health issues. She was initially engaged at an outreach event by a multidisciplinary outreach team, while living in an encampment with her emotional support dog. The outreach team regularly provided her with food, transported her to medical appointments and coordinated with the Housing Authority of the City of LA to find housing. Her case manager also assisted with obtaining an emotional support certification for her dog.

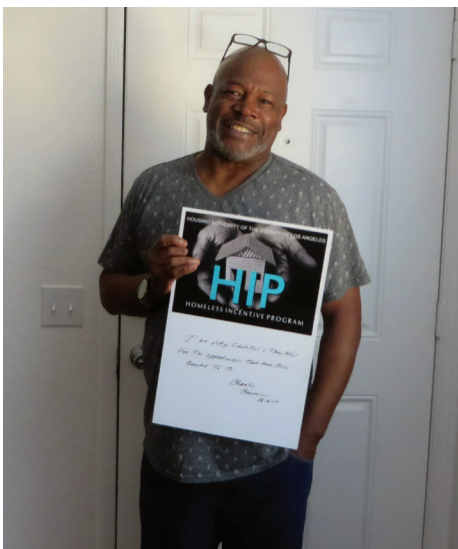
The client was connected to placement at Bixel House and was supported through the application and move-in process by the outreach team. She is now permanently housed with her support dog and is grateful to be off the streets.

"You all are my angels. I don't know what I would've done without you."

Home and Hope

MR. COOPER is a veteran who was living in Portland working as a live-in caregiver, but became homeless when his client passed away. Mr. Cooper took up an offer to live with a friend in Palmdale, but depleted his savings while looking for housing.

Through the Veterans Administration (VA) of Greater Los Angeles, Mr. Cooper received a dedicated support specialist who advocated for him to receive a VASH Housing Choice Voucher. The VA worked with West LA Military Services and the Homeless Incentive Program to provide Mr. Cooper with housing referrals and transportation to view available units.



Mr. Cooper soon found a unit in Lancaster and received assistance for the application and security deposit fees, furniture, and appliances.

"I am grateful and thankful for the opportunity that has been granted to me!"

Vet Finds Security

ITZEL B is a service veteran who became homeless after receiving a 90-day notice from her landlord with plans to sell the apartment complex. She was not able to secure a new home in time and ended up on the streets for one year.

Through a collaborative effort between Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for



Veteran Families (SSFV) and HACoLA's Homeless Incentive Program (HIP), Itzel received a voucher about one month after connecting with HACoLA. She was determined to find a place and called landlord after landlord, who all said "No." Finally, she found a landlord who was willing to rent to her and moved into a one-bedroom apartment where she now feels safe and secure.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If Measure H has made a difference in your life, please share your story with us:

homelessinitiative@lacounty.gov

Strategy Implementation Updates

Los Angeles County's Homeless Initiative is a broad-based action plan with interconnected strategies to effectively combat and prevent homelessness. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the plan in 2016 following an extensive public engagement process. These updates demonstrate the promise and progress of this critical initiative.

STRATEGY A1: **Homeless Prevention Program for Families**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, 658 families received homeless prevention services through the Family Solutions Centers. Of the 143 families that completed the homelessness prevention program, 92 either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing.

STRATEGY B1: **Provide Subsidized Housing to Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing SSI**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, 483 homeless, disabled persons pursuing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) were housed.

STRATEGY B3: **Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, 1,037 participants successfully exited the rapid re-housing program and retained the permanent housing in which they had been placed.

STRATEGY B4: **Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles received 193 requests to participate in the Homeless Incentive Program and provided \$233,998 in incentives to landlords to help secure 157 units for housing voucher holders.

STRATEGY B7: **Interim/Bridge Housing for Those Exiting Institutions**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, DHS provided interim housing to 811 individuals who were discharged from institutions.

STRATEGY C4, C5, C6: **Establish a Countywide SSI and Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for People Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Teams (CBEST) assisted 4,261 disabled individuals with applications for SSI or Veterans Disability Benefits.

STRATEGY D6: **Criminal Record Clearing Project**

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER held the initial record clearing services event at the Los Angeles Mission on January 8, 2018. Twenty-nine clients were engaged and expungement services initiated.

STRATEGY D7: **Provide Services and Rental Subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, 1,280 clients were linked to new Intensive Case Management Services slots, 637 clients were assigned federal rental subsidies, 354 clients were assigned local rental subsidies, and 248 clients were placed in permanent housing.

STRATEGY E4: **First Responder Training**

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017, 33 First Responder Trainings were convened for Sheriff personnel, for a total of approximately 948 deputies and sergeants who have been trained since the inception of the First Responders Training in October 2016.

STRATEGY E8: **Enhance the Emergency Shelter System**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, over 1,050 individuals exited shelter to permanent housing. Contracts were awarded to service providers to provide 302 new crisis and bridge housing beds for youth and single adults.

STRATEGY E14: **Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth**

FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2017, 1,436 youth were assessed using the Next Step Tool.