



**THE POWER OF MUSIC:** Urban Voices Project uplifts the community at the HI Conference —See page 2.

## A Message from the Homeless Initiative

Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of *From Homelessness to Housing: Measure H Quarterly Update*.

Two years ago, the voters of Los Angeles County passed Measure H, the landmark sales tax. With that bold affirmation of public will and new resources, we have accelerated our critical work to improve the lives of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to you, there is a palpable sense of hope across the County. Because of you, we are helping to move families and individuals from homelessness to

housing and stem the tide of this crisis. And working with you, we have built an ever-growing network of partners and community ambassadors, all

focused on helping our most vulnerable neighbors.

The power of this work can be seen in Elizabeth Diaz, a single mother with four children, who now lives in a safe environment where her family can thrive. We see it in Calvin Alford, an Army

veteran who had the courage to ask for help and now has a secure home—and he shares his story as a call for others to embrace our community resources.

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And we see it in Carlos Romero, who was homeless in the Tujunga wash for more than 20 years and is now safe in his own home thanks to outreach workers who kept coming back and didn't give up. ([read more success stories on page 3](#)).

New voices and creative problem-solvers continue to join the movement, including technology companies and visionaries changing the landscape for housing solutions. Dozens of cities are engaged in implementing locally-developed plans. Homeless service providers have filled 2,000 new jobs across the region to bolster the delivery system. And people like you have used the Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal ([LA-HOP.org](http://LA-HOP.org)) to request outreach support for people experience homelessness—submitting more than 5,200 requests to date.

So thank you for being an integral part of this effort. To learn more about the L.A. County Homeless Initiative and find ways to get involved, visit us online or follow us on Facebook—info below

Together, we can bring our homeless neighbors home and create lasting change.



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

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



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<http://homeless.lacounty.gov>



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

## Recent Activities



### L.A. County Makes Awards for Innovative Housing Solutions

#### SPOTLIGHTING OUTSIDE-THE-BOX

thinking, we have awarded \$4.5 million in Measure H funding to the winners of the first-ever Housing Innovation Challenge, a call for proposals that attracted game-changing creative and scalable permanent housing solutions for our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. After receiving more than 50 submissions, the Challenge has made four awards at the \$1 million level and one

at the \$500,000 level for faster, cost-effective construction/renovation and/or creative financing models to produce permanent housing for the County's most vulnerable residents.



The funded project teams are:

- **Community Corp. of Santa Monica with Brooks + Scarpa Architects, Inc.**  
- NEST: A Prefab Modular, Sustainable Kit of Parts that can be assembled on any typical 50 x 150 parcel
- **Flyaway Homes, LLC** – Modular Permanent Supportive Housing Communities, to scale their model of leveraging private equity to develop supportive housing faster and at ¼ the cost per person of conventional supportive housing
- **LifeArk, SPC** – LifeArk Micro-Communities, a kit-of-parts building system that is developable on any lot size or shape
- **United Dwelling** – Detached Garage Conversion into Affordable Studios, for its institutional development of beautifully-designed Accessory Dwelling Units created through garage conversions
- **Restore Neighborhoods Los Angeles**  
– South LA Bungalow Project for its neighborhood shared equity model for accessible units built by-right in a traditional bungalow style courtyard

To view the winning designs plus seven honorable mentions, visit [housinginnovationchallenge.com](http://housinginnovationchallenge.com).

### A Regional Movement

#### IN JANUARY, L.A. COUNTY AND

United Way of Greater Los Angeles' Home For Good Funders Collaborative made an increased investment in partnership with cities by awarding \$3.8 million in Measure H funds to bolster the cities' work in implementing city-specific plans to combat and prevent homelessness. The projects address two priority areas: increasing the supply of supportive and interim housing for people experiencing homelessness; and enhancing the effectiveness of County service systems for those experiencing and/or at-risk of homelessness. This funding award is a significant next step in



strengthening the collaboration between the County and cities in the region, united in our commitment to address this complex humanitarian crisis.

And in February, more than 800

homeless service providers, community, civic and faith leaders, County and City officials, staff and stakeholders convened for the 3rd Annual Homeless Initiative Conference. Themed *Transformative Power of Community: Changing Lives*, the dynamic daylong summit held interactive forward-looking discussions around issues including racism, poverty and housing scarcity; special populations; rapid rehousing; prevention and diversion; and incarceration and homelessness. Stay tuned for videos and a conference report highlighting the sessions and recommendations. And check out our photo gallery at <http://homeless.lacounty.gov/photos/>.



# Measure H Success Stories

## Yes Officer, We Are Homeless

**KEITH GARCES**, his wife and two young sons found themselves homeless for a year. Keith's wife suffered from mental health issues, exacerbated by post-partum depression, and his role as caregiver eventually led to their homelessness. They stayed in familiar areas in Montebello and Monterey Park, and at night, parked their car near the church Keith attended in his youth.



One night Monterey Park Police Officer Gary Sims flashed his light in Keith's car and saw the Garcés family sleeping in their car. The officer asked Keith, "You have kids in there?" When they replied, "Yes officer, we are homeless," Officer Sims became an instrumental link in helping the Garcés family obtain housing.

Despite receiving a Housing Choice Voucher in September 2018, the family had difficulty locating housing due to Keith's time-intensive caregiver role and lack of money to buy gas for the housing search. The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles' Homeless Incentive Program advocated on the family's behalf and helped them lease a two-bedroom apartment in November 2018 and get move-in assistance. Keith is looking forward to using their new housing as a foundation to begin rebuilding their family, their health and their lives.

## From Jail To Top Chef

In early adulthood while attending Long Beach City College, **Eugene** dreamed of becoming a chef. He fell victim to substance use, which eventually led him to drop out of college, experience turmoil in his personal relationships, be in and out of

jail, and eventually become homeless.

Eugene enrolled in Breaking Barriers, a rapid rehousing program serving adults on felony probation, and received housing and case management services from Brilliant Corners and employment services from Chrysalis. He maintained his sobriety at the time of his enrollment, but soon fell back into addiction. With the support of his care team, Eugene worked through a rehabilitation program and sobriety plan, and was then accepted into L.A. Kitchen, a Los Angeles-based culinary training program for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Eugene successfully completed his culinary training while maintaining his sobriety, and shortly thereafter found employment with restaurant CAVA, where he quickly worked his way up to Head Chef and trainer of new chefs. Breaking Barriers provided him with access to stable housing and a strong network of service providers to support him on his journey to self-sufficiency. Eugene is no longer on probation and celebrated two years of sobriety this past October.



"If I didn't have a stable living situation, I probably would have ended back up on drugs and in jail again."

## Criminal Record Clearance Gives Rise To Peer Supporter

**Kristopher** is diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, anxiety, and anger management issues and has misdemeanors and a violent felony on his record. To obtain employment, he needed help to expunge his criminal record.

Kristopher was connected to case management and a variety of supportive services through Mental Health America (MHA) – Los Angeles, Brilliant Corners, Asian Pacific Islander Family Mental Health Center and Neighborhood Legal Services. He is housed in North Long Beach in a two-bedroom unit with a roommate, and is receiving rental assistance. He has been



able to get his misdemeanors expunged and is working on getting a certificate of rehabilitation for his felony. With the support of his case management team, Kristopher is managing his mental health and sobriety and is ready to start the mental health program at Cerritos College. He is currently working as a Part-Time Recovery Peer Supporter for Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 with certification from Project Return Support Network.

Kristopher has developed support groups for individuals experiencing homelessness at the MHA Wellness Center and MHA Village, where he helps individuals cope with barriers and navigate community resources. He wants to continue giving back to the community of Long Beach through his employment, helping others the way he is being helped.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If Measure H has made a difference in your life, or the life of someone you know, please share your story with us:

[homelessinitiative@lacounty.gov](mailto: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. These updates demonstrate the promise and significant progress of this critical initiative. Among many early successes, key Homeless Initiative outcomes include the following\*:

## STRATEGY A1 AND A5:

### Homeless Prevention Program For Families And Individuals

#### IN THE FIRST HALF OF FY 2018–19, 457

new families were assisted with prevention services through the Family Solutions Centers. During the same time period, 339 families exited the program and 308 (91 percent) either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing. In addition, in the first half of FY 2018–19, 631 new individuals were assisted with prevention services. During that time period, 354 individuals exited the program and 327 (92 percent) either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing.

## STRATEGY B3:

### Partner With Cities To Expand Rapid Re-Housing (Rrh)

#### 2,619 RRH PARTICIPANTS MOVED INTO

housing and 1,483 participants exited the program to permanent housing.

## STRATEGY B4:

### Facilitate Utilization Of Federal Housing Subsidies

#### THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY

of Los Angeles and other participating housing authorities provided \$1.45 million in incentives to landlords to help secure 621 units for housing voucher recipients.

## STRATEGY B7:

### Interim/Bridge Housing For Those Exiting Institutions

#### 2,338 INDIVIDUALS DISCHARGED FROM

institutions were provided interim housing.

## STRATEGY C4/C5/C6:

### Establish A Countywide Ssi And Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program For People Experiencing Homelessness Or At Risk Of Homelessness

#### COUNTYWIDE BENEFITS ENTITLEMENT

Services Teams assisted 2,533 new disabled individuals to begin pursuing SSI and Veterans Disability Benefits.

## STRATEGY D2:

### Expansion Of Jail In-Reach

#### 751 INMATES RECEIVED D2 JAIL

In-Reach services.

## STRATEGY D6:

### Criminal Record Clearing Project

#### THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (PD) HELD 70 RECORD

clearing events throughout the County. The PD engaged 517 clients and filed 323 petitions for dismissal or reduction. 148 petitions filed by the PD (including some filed last FY) have been granted since July 2018.

## STRATEGY D7:

### Provide Services For Permanent Supportive Housing

#### 1,968 CLIENTS WERE LINKED TO NEW D7

Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) slots, 986 clients received federal rental subsidies, 545 clients received local rental subsidies, and 1,441 clients were placed in D7 permanent housing (including 490 who were new to D7 but had moved in prior to July 2018, utilizing a different subsidy).

## STRATEGY E4:

### First Responders Training

#### 303 LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

(LASD) deputies and sergeants, 15 non-LASD law enforcement personnel, and 239 non-law enforcement first responders were trained through the LASD first responder training.

## STRATEGY E6:

### Countywide Outreach System

#### 4,476 INDIVIDUALS WERE NEWLY ENGAGED

by Countywide Outreach Teams and a total of 9,231 individuals were engaged by Countywide Outreach Teams (including some who had also been engaged in previous reporting periods). Teams connected 5,199 individuals to services, placed 698 individuals into interim housing, and linked 437 individuals to a permanent housing program.

## STRATEGY E8:

### Enhance The Emergency Shelter System

#### 7,957 INDIVIDUALS ENTERED CRISIS, BRIDGE,

and interim housing funded in whole or in part by Measure H. During the same 6-month period, 1,717 individuals exited interim housing to permanent housing.

## STRATEGY E14:

### Enhanced Services For Transition Age Youth

#### 1,764 YOUTH WERE ASSESSED USING THE

Next Step Tool.

## Strategy Highlights

### 11,616 Permanently Housed Through Measure H Strategies

A total of 11,616 individuals and family members have been permanently housed as a result of Measure H strategies since July 2017. In the first two quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018–19, 4,168 individuals and family members were permanently housed.

### 23,076 Interim Housing Through Measure H Strategies

A total of 23,076 individuals and family members entered interim housing funded in whole or in part by Measure H since July 2017.

\* All highlights feature the first two quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018–19 unless noted otherwise.