From Homelessness to Housing

MEASURE H QUARTERLY UPDATE

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INNOVATION AT WORK A new way to request outreach support via LA-HOP—*See page 2.*

A Message from the Homeless Initiative

Welcome to the Summer 2018 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.

Three years ago this month, the County Board of Supervisors made a bold move and created the LA County Homeless Initiative, which underscored homelessness as a top regional priority. With the creation of the Homeless Initiative and passage by voters of the landmark Measure H sales tax last year, we have accelerated our critical work to improve the lives of homeless individual and families.

The Homeless Initiative's 10th quarterly report includes 12 months of Measure H outcomes and shows that we are making measurable progress across the full scope of the County's commitment to combat and prevent homelessness.

Through this unprecedented movement, thousands of individuals and families already have been helped through a major expansion of outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, supportive housing, as well as benefits advocacy for homeless disabled adults–in all parts of the County.

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There is a powerful sense of hope and community across Los Angeles. We have an ever-growing countywide network of partners and stakeholders. With funding from the County, 41 cities have developed locally-driven plans to prevent and combat homelessness. We are harnessing technology and innovation to attract new voices and new solutions. The homeless services delivery system is ramping up with almost 1,000 new employees committed to the cause. And we are successfully advocating for increased State budget dollars to bolster our work throughout the County and keep the momentum high.

The road ahead is long, but working together, we can and will have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Measure H Quarterly Update will keep you apprised of the progress we are making; it is just one aspect of our commitment to rigorous accountability and transparency. Visit our website homeless.lacounty.gov for more information and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/CountyHomelessInitiative/.

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.

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

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Recent Activities

Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal

IN JULY, THE HOMELESS INITIATIVE and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority launched the Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal (LA-HOP), the new Countywide Web-based portal that channels support to people experiencing homelessness. The first-of-its-kind mobile-friendly platform—available in seven languages—empowers members of the general public, first responders and service providers to provide information and request outreach for vulnerable homeless persons on the street.

LA-HOP makes it easier and more efficient for the public to request help and have outreach workers dispatched to connect with unsheltered homeless individuals. The portal takes the guesswork out of requesting help, by seamlessly routing requests and tracking the response. An outreach coordinator in each region serves as the "air traffic controller" for all requests and deploys the most appropriate outreach team, with the goal of reducing response times to those in need. To learn more and get started, visit: www.la-hop.org.

Housing Innovation Challenge

IN JUNE, WE LAUNCHED the Housing Innovation Challenge, a call for proposals that will award $4.5 million in Measure H funding for creative and scalable permanent housing solutions for those experiencing homelessness in LA County. At a time of heightened partnership and collaboration in the region, this first-of-its-kind award is designed to inspire and activate stakeholders and creative strategists across the region to contribute sustainable solutions to homelessness.

The Challenge will make multiple $500,000 or $1 million awards for faster, cost-effective construction/rehabilitation and/or creative finance models to produce permanent housing for the County's most vulnerable residents. Projects must result in the production of permanent housing for homeless families or individuals in LA County. This is a unique opportunity to solicit new approaches and continue to advance our efforts to help people move from homelessness to housing.

Registration is open through September 5, 2018. To learn more or to register for the Housing Innovation Challenge, please visit: www.housinginnovationchallenge.com.

ADU Ordinance

IN MAY, L.A. COUNTY FORMALIZED another opportunity for creative solutions to combat homelessness. Bolstering the countywide movement to fight homelessness, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance providing homeowners in the unincorporated areas with new opportunities to build or convert existing spaces into Accessory Dwelling Units, also known as "Backyard Homes" or "Granny Flats."

The ordinance gives homeowners more flexibility in creating ADUs and enables property owners to be a part of the solution. Building 'granny flats' can help alleviate our affordable housing crisis, while providing additional rental income for the families who build them. The goal: to help increase the region's seriously depleted housing stock though the development of safe and livable low-cost housing options. For more information on the ADU ordinance, visit: https://bit.ly/2MbDcyh

Jobs Combatting Homelessness

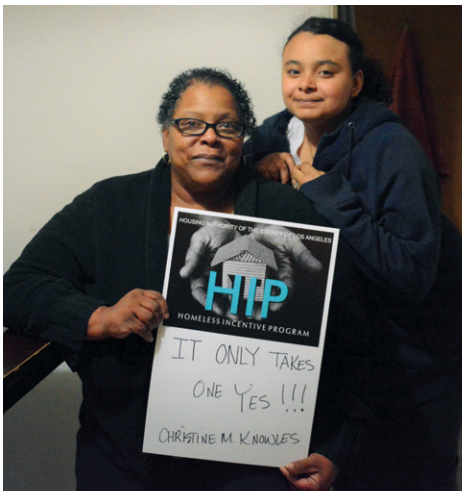
ALMOST 1,000 NEW JOBS in the homeless services delivery system have been filled across the region—an important achievement to build capacity and enhance our collective ability to serve our homeless neighbors. We are co-hosting the next LA City/County homeless services job fair on September 26th at LA Valley College in the San Fernando Valley. And we continue to support this rapid expansion via www.jobscombattinghomelessness.org—our online portal linking jobseekers to nonprofits offering a "paycheck with purpose."

Measure H Success Stories

Christine Knowles' Journey

AFTER CHRISTINE KNOWLES mother passed away, her sister took over the estate, changed her lease agreement, and ultimately displaced her from her home. Being involved in an Unlawful Detainer court action hurt Ms. Knowles' finances, her credit, and ultimately her spirit to fight for herself. She became homeless living on the streets for six months.

Christine found shelter at Union Station Homeless Services' Euclid Villa Transitional Housing for two years and was able to save



70% of her income. Beyond Shelter referred her to the Continuum of Care Program. Despite receiving a Section 8 certificate, Christine had a difficult time finding a unit where the landlord would accept her voucher. When she started working with a Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) Housing Advisor, she began to regain her drive, dedication and patience to keep searching for housing despite the long process. Her patience and persistence paid off when, finally, she was accepted for an apartment. HIP provided Christine with a security deposit, and her dream of having her own place to call home came true.

"It only takes one 'yes'. Even though 50 have said 'no', I only need one 'yes'."
- Christine Knowles

Calvin Alford: A Vet Who Sought Help

CALVIN ALFORD is an Army Veteran from the 11th Bravo Infantry. His experience with homelessness began in December 2017 due to an unfortunate chain of events while living with family members. While homeless, he lived in the Los Angeles, Lancaster and Palmdale areas and spent five months on the streets.

Calvin faced major obstacles in locating a unit, including finding landlords willing to accept his credit. The Housing Incentive

Program (HIP) Housing Advisor team in Palmdale helped Mr. Alford search for, and secure, a home that was safe and comfortable enough to have his daughter visit regularly. HIP also helped Calvin pay for move-in fees and furnish his new home.

Calvin is thankful for HIP in assisting him find a home. It has taken a heavy load off his shoulders, allowing him to focus on other important issues, such as addressing health problems and searching for a job.

"As vets, we aren't too strong to ask for help. The help is there for us; let's use every resource we have to make our situation better."
- Calvin Alford

After 20 Years, Carlos Romero Has A Home

CARLOS ROMERO had been homeless in the Tujunga wash for over 20 years. He felt invisible to the world until an Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) Street Based Engagement team found and engaged him.

The medical doctor on the team notified LA Family Housing ICMS staff of Carlos' rapidly deteriorating condition due to significant and untreated health issues, and urged them to get him into housing after assessing that he

would not last much longer living outside.

LA Family Housing staff worked to create a trusting space for Carlos to find suitable permanent housing. With the help of Brilliant Corners, they were able to house Carlos within a week by utilizing a Housing for Health Flexible Housing Subsidy Program housing subsidy since he did not qualify for federal housing subsidies at that time.

Carlos is excited to be in a safe and comfortable home and was overjoyed when his furniture arrived.

He loved the company of feral cats in the wash and still goes out to feed them every day.

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. These updates demonstrate the promise and significant progress of this critical initiative.

Among many early initiatives and successes, key Homeless Initiative outcomes include the following:

***All highlights feature FY 2017-18 (July 2017 – June 2018) unless noted otherwise.*

Permanently Housed Through Measure H Strategies

A total of 7,448 families and individuals were permanently housed through specific Measure H strategies.

A1:

Homeless Prevention Program For Families

935 families were assisted with prevention services through the Family Solutions Centers. Of those 935 families, 477 families exited the program and 348 (73 %) either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing.

B1:

Provide Subsidized Housing To Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

842 homeless, disabled adults pursuing SSI were housed.

B3:

Partner With Cities To Expand Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

2,609 RRH participants moved into housing and 3,336 participants exited the program to permanent housing.

B4:

Facilitate Utilization Of Federal Housing Subsidies

The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles provided $1,285,217 in incentives to landlords to help secure 498 units for housing voucher recipients.

B7:

Interim/Bridge Housing For Those Exiting Institutions

2,179 individuals discharged from institutions were provided interim housing.

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 6,824 disabled individuals with applications for SSI and Veterans Disability Benefits.

D2:

Expansion Of Jail In-Reach

3,489 inmates received D2 Jail In-Reach services.

D6:

Criminal Record Clearing Project

Since the January 2018 launch of D6 expungement services, the Public Defender held 51 record-clearing services events throughout the County, engaged 553 clients, and filed 264 petitions for dismissal or reduction, 153 of which have been granted so far.

D7:

Provide Services For Permanent Supportive Housing

2,842 clients were linked to new Intensive Case Management Services, 1,317 clients received federal rental subsidies, 1,229 clients received local rental subsidies, and 733 clients were placed in permanent housing.

E4:

First Responders Training

49 First Responder Trainings have been convened for Sheriff personnel, for a total of approximately 1,315 deputies and sergeants trained since the inception of the First Responders Training on October 26, 2016.

E6:

Countywide Outreach System

Countywide outreach teams engaged 8,933 individuals, connected 6,483 to services, placed 938 individuals into interim housing, and linked 521 individuals to a permanent housing program.

E8:

Enhance The Emergency Shelter System

13,524 individuals entered crisis, bridge, and interim housing funded in whole or in part by Measure H. During the same period of time, 2,752 individuals exited interim housing to permanent housing.

E14:

Enhanced Services For Transition Age Youth

3,537 youth were assessed using the Next Step Tool.

VIEW OUR NEW ONLINE GRAPHIC PRESENTATION Measure H Quarterly Performance Outcomes: Charting the Progress of Measure H - https://data.lacounty.gov/stories/s/Homeless-Quarterly-Report-by-Theme/7xtx-jbvj