

Strategy C

Increase Income



Most currently homeless families and individuals have the ability to increase their income to the point where they will be able to pay for their own housing in the future, if they secure the assistance they need to increase their income. A high percentage of homeless adults can increase their income through employment; severely disabled homeless individuals can increase their income through federal disability benefits. Enabling a high percentage of homeless adults to pay for their own housing is key to combating homelessness.

Los Angeles County
Homeless Initiative

Strategy C1 | INCREASE INCOME

Related to Strategy Brief 1.1

Enhance the CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for Homeless Families

POPULATION IMPACT

ALL

✓ FAMILIES

TAY

SINGLE ADULT

VETERAN

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to enhance the existing DPSS CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for homeless CalWORKs Families and those CalWORKs families housed through a Department of Children and Family Services Housing Subsidy.

DESCRIPTION

This would be an enhancement of the existing DPSS CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program that would be targeted to CalWORKs families who are homeless/recently homeless/at risk of homelessness. It is recommended that the program be modeled after the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA: RISE) implemented by LA City in collaboration with the non-profit Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF). The LA: RISE model takes an integrated wraparound approach to job creation and provides hard-to-serve individuals, specifically those with a history of homelessness and/or incarceration, and disconnected youth, with employment, counseling support and training.

LEAD AGENCY

Public Social Services

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Children and Family Services
Community and Senior Services
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Mental Health

This enhancement could be implemented by DPSS as an enhancement of the existing CalWORKs subsidized employment program with the South Bay Workforce Development Board or through an agreement with the Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS) in partnership with the LA City Workforce Development Board (WDB), which has an existing relationship with REDF. In either scenario, the LA: RISE program design and infrastructure could be leveraged and expanded to provide services countywide. The services will be specifically targeted to meet the needs of homeless families. Examples of services include:

- Subsidized employment/bridge jobs provided in a Social Enterprise supportive employment work environment that includes personal supports, case management and job readiness preparation.
- Recruiting and working with employers willing to hire hard-to-serve individuals with non-traditional backgrounds. This will include recruiting and working with small localized (mom and pop) employers.

DESCRIPTION *continued*

- Coordinated training provided through DPSS Greater Avenues to Independence (GAIN) Program and Workforce Investment Boards and Social Enterprise Employers on developing skills needed to obtain self-sufficiency.

Additional supports would be provided as needed to help homeless families maintain their subsidized employment, progress into unsubsidized employment, and retain their employment. This includes linkages to the existing Homeless Families Solution System (HFSS). Currently, CalWORKs homeless families are served through the mainstream CalWORKs Transitional Subsidized Employment Program; however, under this proposal, homeless families would instead be served through this specialized program design to meet their unique needs.

CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

✓ **COMPLEMENTARY**

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could implement this strategy in a complementary manner to the County. They could do this by participating as employers providing placement opportunities for program participants and by actively engaging their Chambers of Commerce to encourage local business participation as both placement sites and in hiring of program participants for unsubsidized employment.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Homeless CalWORKs families with an aided parent who is eligible to participate in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program would be eligible to participate. The definition of “homeless” within the CalWORKs program includes families who lack a permanent fixed residence. This means that the definition includes families that range from literally homeless (e.g., sleeping in car) to those who are “couch surfing.” Additionally, victims of domestic violence and CalWORKs families recently housed through a housing subsidy from the Department of Children and Family Services would be served through this specialized Subsidized Employment program.

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

For Homeless CalWORKs Population

- ◆ Percentage of participants who are placed into subsidized employment and obtain unsubsidized employment.
- ◆ Percentage of participants placed into unsubsidized employment who retain employment for a period of time

For DCFS Population

- ◆ Percentage of families who remain stable and without DCFS involvement
- ◆ Percentage of participants with increased income over a period of time

FUNDING

The estimated cost per person is approximately \$10,500 - \$11,500 for a six-month assignment. Ongoing CalWORKs Expanded Subsidized Employment funding will be utilized for all homeless/at-risk CalWORKs families who qualify for this specialized program.

Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise

POPULATION IMPACT

✓ ALL

FAMILIES

TAY

SINGLE ADULT

VETERAN

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Chief Executive Office to support Social Enterprises/Alternate Staffing Organizations to increase employment opportunities for Homeless Adults as described herein.

DESCRIPTION

Social Enterprises are mission-driven businesses focused on hiring and assisting people who face the greatest barriers to work. They earn and reinvest their revenue to provide more people with transitional jobs to become job ready with the basic skills necessary to compete and succeed in the mainstream workforce. They help people who are willing and able to work, but have the hardest time getting jobs, including individuals with a history of homelessness and/or incarceration, and youth who are out of school and out of work. Obtaining employment increases income and improves the individual’s overall well-being.

Alternate Staffing Organizations (ASOs) operated by Social Enterprises provide temporary workers and act as intermediaries between employers and job seekers, helping employers attract and retain reliable, motivated workers and linking job seekers to competitive employment, opportunities for skills development and pathways to hire by employer customers. Unlike conventional temporary staffing companies, ASOs operated by Social Enterprises have a dual mission to satisfy their customers and promote workplace success for people with obstacles to employment, such as those with unstable housing history, criminal backgrounds, or those participating in recovery programs.

Many services procured by local government could be provided, in whole or in part, by Social Enterprises/ASOs.

LEAD AGENCY

Chief Executive Office

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

All County Departments which contract for goods and/or services

Community and Senior Services

County Counsel

Internal Services Department

Human Resources

DESCRIPTION continued

The County could utilize Social Enterprises/ASOs to help homeless/formerly homeless adults to increase their income through increasing employment opportunities by taking the following actions:

1. Enhance the procurement process to provide preferential treatment of Social Enterprises by awarding extra points during the scoring process and by expanding the County's existing Transitional Job Opportunities Preference Program to provide preferential treatment to bidders that commit to subcontract with Social Enterprises;
2. Support the creation of Alternative Staffing Organizations (ASOs) operated by Social Enterprise entities and designate them as the preferred staffing agency for County Departments, contractors and sub-contractors to use for their temporary staffing needs;
3. Provide a Social Enterprise entity operating an ASO with a subsidy of \$2 per hour worked to reduce the markup passed on to the customer, thus making the ASO a more attractive option. ASOs are able to be self-sustaining by marking up wage rates. For example, a worker that is paid \$10 per hour may be billed to the customer at \$17. This "mark-up" covers employment taxes, workers compensation, mandated benefits, and any other margin needed to maintain the business. At the same time, the subsidies could help ASOs fund the critical support services needed to ensure the employees' success;
4. Leverage the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) transitional subsidized employment program for CalWORKs parents/relative caregivers, by placing some program participants in an ASO for temporary employment as a step toward long-term employment;
5. Develop and distribute a comprehensive inventory of the services currently being provided in Los Angeles County by Social Enterprises and ASOs to County contractors/sub-contractors and County Departments. The enhanced Transitional Job Opportunity Preference Program/ASO Ordinance would encourage every contractor providing services to the County to work with Social Enterprises/ASOs to perform functions consistent with its business needs, as part of its County contract; and
6. Encourage cities to adopt a Social Enterprise Agency Utilization Ordinance and provide a sample ordinance for cities to use, modeled on the County's current Expanded Preference Program.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

All homeless populations, including homeless older adults.

Application for Employment

We accommodate persons with disabilities in the hiring process. If your disability prevents you from completing this form, please let us know, and we will provide assistance.

ng _____ Date of Application _____ Date Available _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

City _____

Are you 18 years of age or over? ☐ Yes ☐ No If No, Date of Birth _____

Education _____

Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise continued

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

Increase in the number of employment opportunities available for homeless people, recently homeless, or those at risk of homelessness resulting from increased utilization of social enterprises/ASOs

Percentage of social enterprise employees who are able to move on to non-supported employment

Number of workers engaged in ASO assignments

Reduction in dependence on public benefits due to ASO assignment

FUNDING

No associated funding is required for enhancing the procurement process.

DPSS – CalWORKs Single Allocation and Enhanced Subsidized Employment funding already allocated for the CalWORKs Transitional Subsidized Employment Program could be used to support the use of ASOs for Paid Work Experience and On-the-Job training for CalWORKs parents/relative caregivers.

\$2 million in one-time HPI funding to provide a subsidy of \$2 per hour worked to ASOs to reduce the markup passed on by ASOs to employers.

CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

3 COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could adopt a Social Enterprise Agency Utilization Ordinance modeled on the County's current Expanded Preference Program.

Strategy C3 | INCREASE INCOME

Related to Strategy Brief 1.8

Expand Targeted Recruitment and Hiring Process to Homeless/Recently Homeless People to Increase Access to County Jobs

POPULATION IMPACT

✓ ALL

FAMILIES

TAY

SINGLE ADULT

VETERAN

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Department of Human Resources to expand outreach and targeted recruitment strategies to include those who are homeless or recently homeless.

DESCRIPTION

There are three fundamental design features of Civil Service Employment:

1. examination for civil service positions are public, competitive and open to all;
2. they rely upon a testing methodology to establish rank-ordered lists for hiring opportunities; and
3. there are often stringent background standards, including a job nexus assessment of an applicant's criminal record.

Given the requirements of the civil service process, a targeted recruitment and flexible job requirements would acknowledge both the institutional barriers and the individual barriers often experienced by those who are homeless or recently homeless. The targeted outreach, recruitment and flexible job requirements would expand hiring opportunities for entry level positions of those who are homeless or recently homeless. This is an expansion of what the County currently does for GAIN/GROW participants and veterans.

LEAD AGENCY

Human Resources

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

All County Departments



Expand Targeted Recruitment and Hiring Process to Homeless/ Recently Homeless People to Increase Access to County Jobs

continued



POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Individuals, including older adults, who are homeless or formerly homeless would be eligible to participate in the targeted recruitment and hiring process upon being stabilized and assessed by a County department or designated homeless service provider as employment-ready.

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

Percent of homeless or recently homeless applicants in targeted recruitments

Percent of homeless or recently homeless applicants participating in targeted recruitment who secure civil service employment

Percent of homeless or recently homeless applicants hired through targeted recruitment who successfully pass their initial probationary period

FUNDING

Existing Departmental funding to hire allocated staff

CONNECTION TO CITIES

3 SAME

COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could implement a similar recruitment and hiring practice for positions within their jurisdiction.

Strategy C4 | INCREASE INCOME

Related to Strategy Brief 3.1

Establish a Countywide SSI Advocacy Program for People Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness

POPULATION IMPACT

✓ ALL

FAMILIES

TAY

SINGLE ADULT

VETERAN

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Department of Health Services to collaborate with the Department of Public Social Services and other relevant County Departments to establish a Countywide Supplemental Security Income Advocacy Program as described herein.

DESCRIPTION

The recommended countywide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy Program would provide assistance to eligible homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness (including all disabled GR participants) in applying for and obtaining SSI or other related benefits Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants. The Program, modeled after DHS' former Benefits Entitlement Services Team (B.E.S.T), should be overseen by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services because of its successful management of B.E.S.T. and its achievement of high outcomes and experience with large-scale contracting with homeless services agencies across the county. A Request for Proposals is targeted for release by the end of June, 2016, to secure two or more contractors, who could use subcontractors, as needed, to meet the geographic needs of the County.

Referrals to the Countywide SSI Advocacy Program should be received via a warm hand-off from: (1) existing homeless entry points and systems of care, such as Housing for Health, the Coordinated Entry System (CES), Homeless Families Solutions System (HFSS), and the Single Adult Model (SAM); (2) the County Departments of Public Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Children and Family Services, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Department; and (3) community-based organizations serving individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

LEAD AGENCY

Health Services

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Children and Family Services
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Mental Health
Military and Veterans Affairs
Probation
Public Health
Public Library
Public Social Services
Sheriff

Establish a Countywide SSI Advocacy Program for People Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness continued

DESCRIPTION continued

The necessary components of a successful SSI Advocacy Program include:

A. Benefits Specialist Resource Team(s) for each Service Planning Area (SPA) who will be responsible for:

- Receiving referrals from the various above-identified points of entry;
- Full-time co-location at DPSS' 14 General Relief offices;
- Conducting and/or leveraging outreach and engagement activities to identify eligible homeless individuals;
- Providing assessment and screening to ensure candidates meet both non-medical and medical requirements for SSI/SSDI or CAPI;
- Coordinating subsidized housing for those individuals enrolling in the program with existing homeless entry points, housing programs and housing subsidies;
- Coordinating record retrieval services with DMH/DHS/LASD based on client's medical/treatment history;
- Coordinating and leveraging Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services and managed care systems to secure health care, mental health care and documentation of disability for clients completing a SSI/SSDI claim;
- Developing and filing high quality benefit applications;
- Coordinating and advocating with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and California Department of Social Services Disability Determination Services (DDS) regarding the status of pending benefit applications;
- Coordinating legal consultation for clients who have complex SSI/SSDI applications;

- Providing assistance for those at risk of losing, or requiring re-certification of their SSI benefits;
- Coordinating Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) with relevant County Departments; and
- Coordinating benefits advocacy with the Veteran's Benefits Advocacy Team for eligible veterans.

B. Ongoing training & technical assistance for Homeless Services Agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and County and other public agencies - Training and technical assistance could be from the Benefits Specialist Team or through a subcontract to maximize the reach to community organizations and clinicians. Training and technical assistance builds the capacity of the system to access SSI/SSDI and CAPI benefits at a faster and greater rate countywide and facilitates the movement of Los Angeles County's homeless disabled population onto federal/state benefits and off County general funds. Training and technical assistance should incorporate the following:

- Leverage training resources provided by the National SOAR Team;
- Provide training regarding specific requirements for SSI/SSDI and CAPI applications in the State of California;
- Incorporate the lessons learned from the B.E.S.T. project and other best practices;
- Develop and train homeless service providers and public agencies on the process for assessment and screening to ensure candidates meet both non-medical and medical requirements for SSI/SSDI or CAPI;
- Provide ongoing training and support to physicians and clinicians on identifying potential applicants and completing SSI/SSDI or CAPI documentation;

DESCRIPTION continued

- Develop a plan for internal quality assurance reviews to ensure the submission of high quality SSI/SSDI applications;
- Provide coordination with the SOAR program;
- Work with community stakeholders to develop a system of data collection for SSI//SSDI applications in Los Angeles County;
- Aggregate and analyze data regarding benefit applications for Los Angeles County;
- Track and report Los Angeles County SSI/SSDI outcomes to the national SOAR program; and
- Pursue continuous improvement of training and coordination to assure high quality benefits support for homeless residents.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Disabled homeless individuals, including older adults, and those at risk of homelessness in need of applying for and obtaining SSI, SSDI, or CAPI benefits.

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

The number/percentage of individuals who initiate SSI/SSDI/CAPI applications

The number/percentage of applications that are completed and submitted to SSA or DPSS

The number/percentage of applications approved at each level of the application process

The time to benefits establishment

FUNDING

\$6.8 million in ongoing annual DPSS funding from the General Relief SSI and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program which would be replaced by this recommended program

CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

3 COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could support the County's efforts by encouraging local community medical facilities to expedite requests for documentation from the Countywide Advocacy Program staff and/or provide funding for housing subsidies for their disabled, homeless city residents who are pursuing SSI. Cities could recover the subsidy amount through Interim Assistance Reimbursement and use the IAR to support a subsidy for another person.

Strategy C5 | INCREASE INCOME

Related to Strategy Brief 3.5

Establish a Countywide Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness

POPULATION IMPACT

ALL

FAMILIES

TAY

SINGLE ADULT

✓ VETERAN

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to contract for one or more Homeless Veterans Benefits Specialist Resource Teams as described herein.

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will contract for one or more Homeless Veterans Benefits Specialist Resource Teams to provide assistance to eligible homeless veterans in applying for and obtaining income and/or health benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program will be operated in partnership with community-based organizations to: (1) provide wraparound case management, health, and mental health supports to house enrolled veterans; and (2) acquire VA Service-Connected Compensation or VA Non-Service-Connected Pension benefits. The components of the proposed Veterans Advocacy Program include:

A. VA Benefits Specialist Resource Teams serving all Service Planning Area (SPA) of the County, including VA will be responsible for the providing services including, but not limited to the following:

- Conduct and/or leverage outreach and engagement activities to identify eligible homeless veterans;
- Receive referrals from DPSS, DHS, DMH and other County departments of veterans who need assistance with veteran's benefits;
- Provide assessment and screening to determine whether veterans meet requirements for VA Service-Connected and Non-Service-Connected benefits;
- Coordinate with existing homeless entry points and housing programs to arrange subsidized housing or VASH Vouchers for those individuals enrolling in the program;
- Access relevant medical records from medical providers based on the veteran's medical treatment, military service, and VA claims history;

LEAD AGENCY

Military and Veterans Affairs

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Community-Based Organizations
Community and Senior Services
Health Services
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Mental Health
Probation
Public Library
Veteran Service Organizations

DESCRIPTION *continued*

- Coordinate and leverage Veterans Health Administration, Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs “Navigator” program, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, and managed care systems to assist the veteran to access health care, mental health care, and documentation of disability and, when applicable, its relationship to military service for veterans completing a VA Service-Connected and/or Non-Service-Connected claim(s);
- Develop and file high-quality benefits applications, including new and original, reopened, and increased rating claims;
- Coordinate and advocate with the Veterans Benefits Administration regarding status of pending benefits applications and appeals, as well as scheduling of compensation and pension examinations;
- Coordinate legal assistance to assist veterans who have complex Service-Connected/Non-Service-Connected claims, including claims that require a character of discharge determination, claims that have been denied and are eligible to enter the appellate phase, and “clear and unmistakable error” claims; and
- Coordinate benefits advocacy with the proposed Countywide SSI Benefits Advocacy team, as needed.

B. Ongoing training and technical assistance for veterans and homeless service agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and County and other public agencies – training and technical assistance will be conducted by a VA Accredited Agent and/or Attorney, and could be from the VA Benefits Specialist Team or through a subcontract to reach government and community organizations and clinicians that serve

veterans. Training and technical assistance should incorporate the following:

- Leverage training resources provided by the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program;
- Train homeless service providers and public agencies on the identification of eligible homeless veterans and the various veteran military discharge statuses;
- Train homeless service providers and public agencies on the process for assessment and screening to ensure veterans meet the requirements for VA Service-Connected compensation and Non-Service-Connected pension; and
- Provide ongoing training and support to physicians and clinicians on identifying potential applicants and completing Service-Connected and Non-Service-Connected documentation.

C. Provide quality assurance to ensure the submission of high quality Service-Connected/Non-Service-Connected applications:

- Access and monitor submitted veterans claims in VA database systems;
- Track and report programmatic outcomes; and
- Pursue continuous improvement of training and coordination to assure high quality benefits support for homeless veterans.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Homeless veterans, including veterans who are older adults, and those veterans at risk of homelessness in need of applying for and obtaining VA benefits or related services.

Establish a Countywide Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness

continued

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

The number of veterans who initiate applications for VA Benefits

The number of veterans transitioned to the SSI Benefits Specialist Resource Team when expected VA Benefits receipt would be less than the SSI/SSP rate

The number of VA/SSI/SSP claims that are approved

FUNDING

\$1.2 million in Homeless Prevention Initiative funds out of the \$5 million approved for implementation of the Homes for Heroes report. Utilization of this funding for this strategy was already identified in the November 19, 2015 memorandum which provided the Board of Supervisors with the Homes for Heroes implementation plan.

CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

3 COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could support the County's efforts by encouraging local community medical facilities to expedite requests for medical records from the Countywide Veteran's Benefits Advocacy Program staff and/or provide funding to support advocacy efforts for their city's homeless veterans.



Strategy C6 | INCREASE INCOME

Related to Strategy Brief 8.3a

Targeted SSI Advocacy for Inmates

POPULATION IMPACT

ALL

FAMILIES

TAY

✓ SINGLE ADULT

✓ VETERAN

✓ CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, to develop an Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy Program for Inmates.

DESCRIPTION

The goal of the program would be to assist disabled, incarcerated individuals in completing and submitting their SSI application prior to discharge or in securing reinstatement of their SSI benefits, if the individual was receiving SSI prior to being incarcerated. This program should be a collaborative with the Countywide SSI Advocacy Program, as described in Recommended Strategy C4.

The following would be components of the program:

Pre-Release

- A. Facility gathers list of release-eligible inmates at least three months prior to discharge, six months is preferable.
- B. Benefits eligibility specialists are assigned to screen for SSI and SSDI eligibility. Screening encompasses:
 - Checking each inmate's social security number, citizenship or eligible immigration status and current benefit status;
 - Meeting with inmate to complete a questionnaire to determine whether individual has a severe mental or physical impairment or is aged (age 65) for potential eligibility for SSI. Also review work history and get earnings record to determine potential eligibility for SSDI.
- C. Inmates who are potentially eligible for SSI or SSDI will be invited to participate in the advocacy program. Once the inmate decides to participate, he/she will be connected to the countywide SSI advocacy contractor (as described in Strategy C6) who will meet with the inmate in the jail to initiate a SSI/SSDI application and the inmate will sign

LEAD AGENCY

Health Services
Sheriff (Care Transition Director)

COLLABORATING
DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Mental Health
Social Security Administration

Targeted SSI Advocacy for Inmates continued

DESCRIPTION continued

release of information documents. Medical and mental health records are obtained from private providers, public providers, incarceration facility providers and other identified providers:

- An assessment is made by the contractor to determine if medical evidence is likely to be sufficient to prove disability according to SSA standards.
 - If assessment determines that available records may not be sufficient to show disability, refer individual to in-house or County medical and mental health providers for assessments and reports.
- D. Once sufficient medical evidence is gathered, forward eligible claims for disability to the Disability Determination Services (DDS) office. The contractor maintains contact with DDS and SSA to check on progress of the application.
- E. DDS/SSA makes the initial determination regarding disability while individual is still incarcerated.
- F. The contractor collaborates with Jail In Reach staff (as described in Recommended Strategy D2), who will work to locate interim or permanent housing to ensure an appropriate housing placement upon the inmate's discharge. The cost of housing from the release date to the SSI approval date can be recovered from the inmate's initial retroactive SSI benefit, through the Interim Assistance Reimbursement process.

Post-Release

- G. If medical eligibility is approved, upon discharge the same contractor will work with the individual to complete the application process. If medical eligibility is denied, the contractor will pursue an appeal.
- H. Once a formerly incarcerated individual begins receiving SSI or SSDI, an appropriate agency will assist the individual in transitioning to appropriate permanent housing, if the individual was placed in interim housing upon discharge.

Disabled inmates with a jail stay shorter than three months will be connected to the Countywide SSI Advocacy Program (Strategy C4) upon discharge.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Homeless individuals scheduled for release from an LA County jail within three to six months who have been assessed to have a severe mental or physical disability (Single adults, older adults, veterans, and chronically homeless).

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

Number of incarcerated individuals assessed for potential SSI eligibility

Number of individuals with sufficient medical evidence of disability to warrant an SSI application

Number of SSI applications made prior to release

Number of SSI applications medically approved prior to release

Number of SSI applications medically approved post release

Number of formerly incarcerated individuals who obtained SSI benefits

Number of formerly incarcerated individuals who obtained housing paid for with SSI benefits.

FUNDING

\$1 million one-time funds from AB 109



CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

COMPLEMENTARY

3 NO CITY ROLE

