

# From Homelessness to Housing

### MEASURE H QUARTERLY UPDATE



# A Message from the Homeless Initiative

Because of you, our

homeless services system is

doing more today than ever

before in helping thousands

of people move from

homelessness to housing.

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

Los Angeles County is two years into a ten-year effort to combat and prevent homelessness funded by Measure H, thanks to the affirmation and support of voters across LA County. We knew when we got started that this complex crisis was many years in the making and would not be solved overnight.

Because of you, our homeless services system is doing more today than ever before in helping thousands of people move from homelessness to housing—more than 21,000 across the Countywide homeless services system in

2018. And thanks to you, we have doubled the number of people moving into housing over the course of each year, and tripled our prevention and outreach efforts.

Even with these record housing placements, the news that homelessness in L.A. County has increased by 12 percent in the 2019 Homeless Count revealed

some hard truths about the complexity of our housing crisis and the multifaceted response it demands. Read the Homeless Count results here. Economic disparities and the combined forces of skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions and a severe lack of affordable housing are driving more and more people into homelessness. In 2018, 133 people per day moved from homelessness into permanent housing in L.A. County, but 150 people fell into

homelessness.

The news is disheartening, but we are undeterred. The magnitude of this issue will not impact our perseverance and commitment to serving the men, women and children in need of our support.

Looking at our

neighboring counties who have seen increases from 20–50 percent, we know that without Measure H, our increase would have been far greater. Our dedicated resources are making a meaningful difference.

And we're all in. Addressing homelessness is a top priority among our local and

State policymakers. Last month, the Board of Supervisors made a \$460 million investment to scale up our fight against homelessness by approving the (FY) 2019-20 Measure H spending plan. The County's unprecedented investment is reinforced at the State level as the FY 2019-20 State budget includes \$650 million for localities to combat homelessness, and Governor Newsom has created the California Homelessness Task Force to accelerate progress, co-chaired by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. And, we're working with our State leaders to strengthen tenant protections and address the housing issues at the heart of this crisis.

We have a long road ahead as the economic and housing factors driving people into homelessness persist. But, we are not discouraged. Los Angeles is investing, responding and working together and we are making a difference. And with your active involvement, we will continue to bring our homeless neighbors home and create lasting change.

Thank you for being an integral part of this effort.



### **Recent Activities**

# Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Recognized For Community Policing

### IN APRIL. THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S

Department Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) received the prestigious Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County Centurion Award for Excellence in Community Policing. In honoring their work, the Association declared, "The HOST Team is truly committed to providing specialized homeless outreach to the residents of Los Angeles County.



The efforts of HOST have improved public safety and successfully engaged the homeless population, resulting in stronger relationships and enhanced trust." This

trust was earned by adhering to Community Policing principles, which include preserving the rights and dignity of persons experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

The HOST Team is a critical partner to the Office of Emergency Management and the

Homeless Initiative, and their continued collaborative efforts are focused on improving outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

# The Community Rallies at HomeWalk

### SINCE IT BEGAN IN 2007, UNITED WAY

of Greater Los Angeles' HomeWalk has mobilized more than 95,000 participants and has transformed the lives of more than 19,000 people, helping them move from homelessness to housing. It's the largest annual event to end homelessness in the country and a strong demonstration of support to serve our most vulnerable.

In May, thousands of people rallied together with the Los Angeles Rams at the 12th annual HomeWalk *Bringing Everyone In To End Homelessness* in Grand Park, in support of housing solutions to

tackle our homelessness crisis.

Thanks to thousands of supporters, the community raised more than \$1.1 million. Those funds will amplify our work combating homelessness by helping our most vulnerable neighbors move off of the streets and into the stability of a home.



# County Acts to Keep People in Their Homes

### INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION

is paramount to stemming the tide of homelessness. In May, the Board of Supervisors approved two groundbreaking homelessness prevention motions. The first calls for an assessment of local eviction data and eviction

defense programs nationwide to inform the design of a program to provide legal counsel to at-risk low-income renters in L.A. County—to address disruptive evictions that often lead to homelessness and displacement. The second calls for a comprehensive homelessness prevention assessment and action plan, requiring County departments to identify ways to leverage mainstream health, social

services, and criminal justice system resources to prevent homelessness—and provide our neighbors with social services and support before they become homeless. Recommendations will be submitted to the Board around these motions, with the goal of enacting new tools and program efforts that will strengthen our ability to keep people in their homes.

## **Measure H Success Stories**

# Sober-Living Home Provides A Fresh Start

After falling on some troubled times, **Gerardo** came to Chrysalis eager to return to the workforce. Balancing a job search while also receiving treatment in a sober living home proved challenging. His Employment Specialist referred him to Chrysalis Works, a social enterprise that offers clients transitional employment providing street maintenance and trash removal throughout the community. He enrolled in LA:RISE and was matched with the West Los Angeles America's Job Center of California.



With support from his case manager, Gerardo gained access to supportive services while continuing to receive guidance on his job search. Thanks to this wraparound approach, Gerardo landed a dishwashing job. However, a few months later, he decided to pursue a more rewarding career path and enrolled in community college to study alcohol and drug counseling. Today, Gerardo is in school, eight months sober, and recently reunited with his daughter.

"I came from the treatment center, I came from being in the street and having nothing going for myself, until coming here. Keep doing what you're doing. Put hard work into job searching, getting to your interviews, and keeping your head up. Just focus on hard work and try your best, you can do it."

# Foster Care Alumna On The Advanced Education Path

After aging out of foster care, **Erika** had limited resources, family or social supports. Pathways Housing program



provided a window of hope for Erika to evade the devastation of homelessness, especially as a transition age youth.

She has already begun to make amazing strides in both her professional and academic career. Erika maintains an ambitious schedule as a full-time MSW student at Cal State LA and a full-time Caseworker at Children's Law Center LA, while she makes strides towards her own well-being. She also shares information on foster care resources with her fellow residents and staff.

Stable housing in one of Pathways' apartments in East Los Angeles gave Erika the foundation to continue her journey and pursue her education and employment opportunities.

"Living in Pathways housing has provided me with the housing stability I need to continue to pursue and pay for my own education."



### 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

### **Claudia Finds Renewed Hope**

**Claudia** lived in a vehicle for more than a year with her two sons due to a breakdown of her family support system. She walked into St. Joseph Center in December 2017 and was assigned a case manager.

Thanks to St. Joseph, Claudia obtained multiple motel vouchers and a host of support, including a housing choice voucher, job leads, gift cards, groceries, beds and bus tokens. These essential resources gave Claudia a deeper sense of self-worth and hopefulness, and a renewed trust in relationships that would help her create a safe environment and stick to her stable-housing plan.

Recently, Claudia showed her case manager a video of her son walking into their new home, with joy and excitement and tears in her eyes. Since being housed, Claudia has found a job and has both children in school.



"St. Joseph Center provided me with one of the best case workers ever, Donovan. He has stuck by me through everything, even when I felt like giving up, and he made sure I had a place to stay when I was sleeping in my car with my two boys. If I didn't walk into the St. Joseph office, I wouldn't be the person I have grown into today and I thank everybody."

# **Key Outcomes/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 NINE MONTHS OF FY 2018-19,

**593** new families were assisted with prevention services through the Family Solutions Centers. During the same time period, 575 families exited the program and 470 (82 percent) either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing. In addition, 889 new individuals were assisted with prevention services; 602 individuals exited the program and 553 (92 percent) either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing.

### STRATEGY B3:

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

### IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF FY 2018-19,

4,734 RRH participants moved into housing and 1,422 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 \$2,922,133 in incentives to landlords to help secure 1,223 units for housing voucher recipients.

### STRATEGY B7:

# Interim/Bridge Housing For Those Exiting Institutions

2,789 INDIVIDUALS DISCHARGED FROM

institutions were provided interim housing in

the first nine months of FY 2018-19.

### 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 4,361 disabled individuals to begin pursuing applications for SSI and Veterans Disability Benefits.

### STRATEGY D2:

Expansion Of Jail In-Reach 1,060 INMATES RECEIVED D2 JAIL In-Reach services.

### STRATEGY D6:

### **Criminal Record Clearing Project**

### THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (PD) HELD 107 RECORD

clearing events throughout the County.
The PD engaged 751 clients and filed
644 petitions for dismissal or reduction. 396
petitions filed by the PD (including some filed
last FY) have been granted since July 2018.

### STRATEGY D7:

### Provide Services And Rental Subsidies For Permanent Supportive Housing

### IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF FY 2018-19.

2,934 clients were linked to new D7 Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) slots, 1,725 clients received Federal rental subsidies, 1,117 clients received local rental subsidies, and 1,599 clients were placed in D7 permanent housing.

### st All highlights feature the first three quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 unless noted otherwise.

### STRATEGY E4:

### **First Responders Training**

### 492 LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

(LASD) deputies and sergeants, 15 non-LASD law enforcement personnel, and 275 non-law enforcement first responders were trained using the LASD First Responder Training.

#### STRATEGY E6:

### **Countywide Outreach System**

### 7,232 INDIVIDUALS WERE NEWLY ENGAGED

by Countywide Outreach Teams and a total of 11,776 individuals were engaged by Countywide Outreach Teams (including some who had also been engaged in previous reporting periods). Teams connected 7,876 individuals to services, placed 1,184 individuals into interim housing, and linked 735 individuals to a permanent housing program.

### STRATEGY E8:

# Enhance The Emergency Shelter System

### 14,928 INDIVIDUALS ENTERED CRISIS, BRIDGE,

and interim housing, funded in whole, or in part by Measure H, and 2,965 individuals exited interim housing to permanent housing.

### STRATEGY E14:

# **Enhanced Services For Transition Age Youth**

**2,461 YOUTH WERE ASSESSED USING THE** Next Step Tool.

### **Strategy Highlights**

**14,241** Permanently Housed Through Measure H Strategies

A total of 14,241 individuals and family members have been permanently housed as a result of Measure H strategies since July 2017. In the first three quarters of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19, 6,865 individuals and family members were permanently housed.

28,458 Interim Housing Through Measure H Strategies

A total of 28,458 individuals and family members entered interim housing facilities, funded in whole, or in part by Measure H since July 2017.