



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

March 2, 2020

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: Sachi A. Hamai   
Chief Executive Officer

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## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS FOR MEASURE H FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS PROCESS**

On August 13, 2019 (Agenda Item No. 37), the Board directed the CEO to implement a process to develop funding recommendations for Measure H-funded Homeless Initiative (HI) Strategies, including a robust public engagement strategy to gather input from policy experts, key stakeholders, and members of the public. The first phase of this process, which took place between September and November 2019, included three elements: eight policy summits, an online input form, and eight community input sessions. Additional public engagement will take place following the release of the draft FY 2020-21 Measure H funding recommendations in June of this year. The purpose of this memorandum is to share the results of this initial public engagement process with the Board.

The CEO-HI convened a series of eight policy summits focusing on the following key themes: opening and closing sessions that addressed the homeless services system as a whole, prevention and diversion, outreach, interim housing, permanent housing, employment, and partnerships with cities. The Policy Summit Report (Attachment 1) includes all materials from the policy summits, including each summit's agenda, key data, presentations of interim findings from strategy evaluations, list of attendees, key points, notes, and public comments.

An online form on the HI website was open to the public to provide input on the range of topics being considered during the Policy Summits. A compilation of the comments submitted through this mechanism can be found at the following link: <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/PublicCommentsNoNames2.pdf>.

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Finally, in partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the HI held eight community input sessions across the County—one in each of the County's eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs). Each session enabled members of the public to provide input on how Measure H funds and State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding should be used to prevent and combat homelessness. The Community Input Session Report (Attachment 2) is a compilation of recommendations from the input session participants and synthesizes trends within and across SPAs.

This extensive community input will be utilized by the CEO-HI and County departments/agencies with lead responsibility for Measure H-funded Homeless Initiative strategies in the development of Measure H funding recommendations for FY 2020-21. All three reports can also be found on the HI website at [homeless.lacounty.gov/funding/](http://homeless.lacounty.gov/funding/).

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ansell, Homeless Initiative Director, at (213) 974-1752 or [pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov).

SAH:FAD:TJM:PA  
JR:EBI:MGP:tv

#### Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Sheriff  
Children and Family Services  
Health Services  
Los Angeles County Development Authority  
Mental Health  
Public Defender  
Public Health  
Public Social Services  
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

## **Public Input: Homelessness Funding Allocation – 2020**

### **Introduction**

On any given night, approximately 58,936 people are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, according to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Thanks to unprecedented increases in funding from local and state sources, the Los Angeles County Homeless Services System has undergone rapid expansion to help bring our homeless neighbors into housing. To effectively deploy these resources, Los Angeles County public agencies, non-profits, philanthropic partners, community members, and people with lived experience of homelessness are coming together to coordinate efforts and tap into a wide range of expertise.

The following report summarizes community feedback on LA County’s homelessness programs and funding, which was collected during a series of public input sessions held in November 2019.<sup>1</sup> These sessions were conducted by two entities:

- The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a joint-powers authority of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, which coordinates federal, state, and local funding to address homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), and administers the provision of over \$300 million in annual funding to address homelessness;
- The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI), which oversees the expenditure of Measure H funds, an estimated \$355 million generated annually from a special County sales tax designated for programs that combat and prevent homelessness, along with coordinating all County efforts to address homelessness. The HI is housed within the Chief Executive Office (CEO) of the County of Los Angeles.

LAHSA and the HI sought input on how best to utilize funding from two sources in order to bolster efforts to address homelessness over the next several years. Participants in the input sessions provided input on Measure H funding allocations, as well as on the allocation of funds from a new one-time source of state funding, the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). Both of these funding streams are discussed below.

Over 550 people attended the in-person input sessions, with another 100 contributing input through an online form. This input, along with separate input from LAHSA’s lived experience advisory groups, has been or will soon be shared with LAHSA’s leadership team, HI leadership, the LAHSA Commission, County Lead Agencies administering Measure H-funded programs, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to inform the creation of proposed funding allocation recommendations for both Measure H funding and HHAP funding. These recommendations are intended to reflect community and expert input on the most strategic uses of funding to prevent and combat homelessness while creating coordinated, seamless systems of care across the many agencies that work every day to house vulnerable people.

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<sup>1</sup> For a full list of input sessions, locations, and dates, please see Appendix A.

In addition to the comments gathered at the public input sessions, LAHSA and HI will draw on feedback provided through other mechanisms, including eight policy summits convened by the HI in the fall of 2019.

## About HHAP and Measure H

Public input centered around two flexible sources of funding to address homelessness that, taken together, will comprise the majority of homelessness program funding in Los Angeles County over the next several years. These sources include HHAP and Measure H. They are detailed below.

### *HHAP*

The HHAP program was created as part of the 2019-20 budget bill approved by the State Legislature in June 2019 and subsequently signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The program was allocated \$650 million from the state, which will be distributed to local jurisdictions in the following way:

- \$275 million to the 13 cities with populations in excess of 300,000;
- \$190 million to the 44 continuums of care within California;
- \$175 million to the 58 counties within California.

Funding allocations are based on 2019 Point-in-Time Count estimates. As such, the Los Angeles Continuum of Care is expected to receive \$66 million in funding, while Los Angeles County is expected to receive \$65 million. Uses of funding are flexible and include supportive housing, interim housing, rental assistance, homelessness prevention, and other uses. Grantees are required to spend at least 8% of their funding on services for transition aged youth (TAY).

Jurisdictions have approximately five years to spend the funding, and grantees must have obligated 50% of their award by May 31, 2023. Jurisdictions are required to submit applications for funding to the state by February 15, 2020, with the state required to make award determinations by April 1, 2020.

### *Measure H*

Measure H is a ¼ cent sales tax that was approved by Los Angeles County voters in March 2017 to fund homeless services. The sales tax generates approximately \$355 million annually, which is collected by the state and remitted to Los Angeles County.

Measure H provides funding for 21 strategies to combat homelessness. These 21 strategies are components of a comprehensive 51 strategy plan that was developed over the course of multiple input sessions hosted by Los Angeles County, which brought together key stakeholders over the course of 2015 and 2016. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the action plan on February 9, 2016.

After the passage of Measure H, the County HI began a stakeholder engagement process to develop recommendations for Measure H funding to implement the approved strategies. On June 13, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved the recommended funding allocations for each of the Measure H-eligible HI strategies. Measure H-funded strategies began implementation in July 2017.

## Listening Sessions

LAHSA and HI hosted eight listening sessions, with one held in each of the County's eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs). Please see Appendix A for a full list of dates, and locations of each listening session. The structure of each listening session was as follows: LAHSA and HI staff opened with a short presentation on the homeless service delivery system and the sources of state and local funding being discussed.

Attendees were then asked to circulate between six input stations, which were based on the following components of the homeless services system:

- Homelessness Prevention and Problem Solving
- Outreach and Access to the System
- Services
- Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Other Considerations

Within each of these stations, participants were asked to consider three guiding questions:

- What strategies are working well in the system and should be augmented?
- What gaps exist within the system and need to be filled, both in terms of services that need to be increased and populations that are inadequately served?
- What service delivery or program design changes should be considered?

Participants spent an hour giving input at stations and having discussions with LAHSA and HI program staff and other attendees. They recorded their input on post-its which were then placed on chart paper at each station. Facilitators at each station then shared the input themes they heard at their respective stations with the larger group. Participants were then asked to identify which themes at each station they felt were the most important.

The following sections summarize the key themes that participants lifted up within each of the six categories of input station. Included also are responses from LAHSA and/or the HI, highlighting recent efforts and ongoing initiatives that are aligned with the issues that participants raised with these comments. LAHSA and HI will be carefully considering these comments in assembling HHAP proposed expenditure plans, and the HI will consider these comments in making recommendations for Measure H expenditures.

## Homeless Prevention and Problem Solving

*Tenant Protections and Greater Inventory of Affordable Housing:* Regarding system improvement to more effectively prevent homelessness, many participants raised macroeconomic factors that drive people into homelessness. Participants discussed the need for stronger rent control and tenant protections to prevent large spikes in rent or large numbers of evictions (SPAs 3, 5, 6, 7). Additionally, many participants brought forward the need for more affordable housing production and preservation as key tools to prevent vulnerable people from falling in to homelessness (SPAs 1, 6, 7, 8).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* At present, Measure H funds legal services for individuals and families facing imminent homelessness as a result of eviction through Measure H Strategies A1/A5. While LAHSA and HI are not the primary stakeholders driving policy to protect tenants from large rent increases or evictions, both bodies have engaged in advocacy to support stronger tenant protections and increased production of affordable housing. Both entities worked to support AB 1482, a recently-enacted state law that caps rent increases and restricts landlords from issuing arbitrary evictions, and are working with partners to support implementation of this important new law. In addition, both entities will be supporting efforts to strengthen the legal framework for protecting tenants, including exploring creation and implementation of City and County eviction defense programs and additional state support for these programs. Finally, both entities are committed to supporting efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing.

More information can be found at the conclusion of this section in the paragraph titled “County Comprehensive Homeless Prevention Action Plan.”

*Increased Overall Level of Prevention Resources, Including Rental Assistance:* Throughout public input sessions, participants expressed the need to scale up prevention programs (SPAs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Special emphasis was placed on the need for rental assistance funding as a prevention tool (SPAs 4, 5, 6), as well as flexible funding (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8). Finally, multiple partners emphasized the need for outreach and education, both on what prevention services are available and to educate community members on existing tenant rights (SPAs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA and HI view homelessness prevention as a critical systemwide priority that must be scaled up among all partners, including key mainstream public agencies that interface with vulnerable clients who are at risk of falling into homelessness. In addition, LAHSA is scaling up “Problem Solving” programs in response to ongoing feedback about the need for rapid resolution and prevention programs. These Problem Solving programs are predicated on the idea that for many people, homelessness can be avoided or rapidly resolved with flexible interventions including mediation, empowerment, and financial assistance. As such, the Problem Solving program is delivering robust training on mediation and problem solving to system partners to build their capacity to support clients facing a housing crisis and assist them to find solutions to their housing crisis. In addition, as part of the Problem Solving program, LAHSA is in the process of rolling out flexible funding to pay for a variety of expenses that can prevent or rapidly resolve homelessness (rental arrears, security deposit on a new apartment, car repairs, grocery cards). In addition, efforts via the County’s Mainstream Systems Homelessness Prevention Workgroup seek to address some of the above concerns (See description below).

*Need for Financial Empowerment and Other Skills Training for At-Risk Populations:* Several participants raised the need for financial empowerment training for people that are at risk of homelessness, noting that such training could assist with stabilizing these households in the future (SPAs 2, 4, 6, 7). In addition, participants noted the need for links to existing job training programs to assist vulnerable people to, when applicable, re-enter the workforce and increase income (SPAs 2, 3, 5, 7).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Both LAHSA and HI are at work to strengthen links between the mainstream workforce programs operated by the County Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS) agency, the Department of Public Social Services, and the homelessness services system.

The County has formed an Employment and Homelessness Taskforce, which includes HI, LAHSA, WDACS, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. The Taskforce is working with agency partners to implement strategies to improve training for staff so they are equipped to connect clients to employment, streamline assessment to identify employment resources that best fit a client's needs, and engage businesses to offer employment opportunities to people that have experiencing homelessness, among other efforts. The Taskforce has identified two geographic "clusters" within which Taskforce recommendations will be piloted; one cluster is located in South LA and another is located in the San Gabriel Valley.

Additionally, WDACS administers funding for several programs that target people experiencing homelessness, including LA:RISE, HIRE UP, and the Alternative Staff Organizations (ASOs). More information on LA:RISE and HIRE UP is below in the "Services" section.

*Housing Retention Efforts for Formerly Homeless:* Participants raised the need for prevention efforts to include assistance for those who are housed by the homeless services system to retain their housing and prevent them from falling back in to homelessness (SPA 7).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Within supportive housing units with services funded by Measure H, the Department of Health Services (DHS) provides wraparound Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) that include retention services to ensure that those in supportive housing stay housed. Additionally, as a complement to the Rapid Re-Housing program and the case management services provided, LAHSA has launched the shallow subsidy program. This program provides a longer-term supplemental rental subsidy to some vulnerable households at risk of falling out of their housing after their Rapid Re-Housing subsidy expires.

*Key Populations—Transition Aged Youth:* One population that was highlighted as needing additional prevention services was transition-aged youth (TAY). Input sessions highlighted both those TAY exiting the foster care system and other systems of care (SPA 5), as well as TAY that are students and at-risk of homelessness (SPA 7).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* The homeless system is extending prevention and problem-solving training to key youth partners, such as the Department of Children and Family Services, to address the need to prevent TAY from exiting systems of care without stable housing. In addition, LAHSA and HI are in discussions with higher education partners about how to best utilize new peer navigators located at community colleges to better connect at-risk students with prevention resources. Los Angeles County has allocated an additional \$4 million for TAY homelessness strategies through the County's Supplemental changes budget process for the 2019-2020 budget. Finally, HHAP allocations will include at least 8% of funding for TAY in accordance with HHAP regulations.

*Prevention Partnerships with Cities:* At one session, many participants highlighted the key role that city staff can play in preventing homelessness (SPA 3). Key city departments as well as particular locations within cities offer opportunities for city staff to interface with vulnerable households; these locations and city staff can be better positioned to assist clients with their housing crises if more training and resources were made available.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA will be making problem solving trainings available to staff from all cities throughout Los Angeles County to better position these staff to prevent homelessness. In addition, HI has made Measure H funding available for cities to develop their own

homelessness plans and implement strategies within these plans. Several of these plans include a prevention component.

Other Homelessness Prevention Themes:

- More flexibility with rental assistance programs
- Greater efficiencies needed in deploying vouchers to prevent homelessness
- Viewing prevention efforts across multiple systems of care
- Increasing access and eligibility for prevention services

*County Mainstream Systems Homeless Prevention Action Plan:* In addition to the efforts described above, the County has developed a Mainstream Systems Homeless Prevention Action Plan, created in response to a Board of Supervisors directive. The Workgroup which developed the Action Plan is comprised of County policymakers and expert stakeholders. The Workgroup has assessed existing prevention programs within mainstream County departments and developed recommendations to enhance coordination across these programs, utilize predictive analytics methods to better target prevention resources, enhance current homeless prevention programs, and modify policies that may contribute to the flow of people into homelessness.

## Access and Engagement

*Mental Health Specialist-Led Outreach:* Many participants emphasized the need for outreach teams to incorporate mental health services and include specialists trained in mental health interventions into more outreach teams (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5). These participants cited lack of adequate training among generalist teams to work with clients with acute mental health needs, along with the improved outreach outcomes for people with mental health needs that arise when they work with a trained specialist, rather than generalists.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Measure H-funded multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) have been deployed across the County. These teams include mental health professionals. In early December 2019, LAHSA led an orientation training for over 100 new MDT staff. These efforts continue to accelerate.

*Peer-Led Outreach:* When discussing outreach, many participants noted the effectiveness of these efforts being led or incorporating peers with lived experience of homelessness (SPAs 4, 6). These participants noted that peers with lived experience are better equipped to build trust with people experiencing homelessness.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* At present, nearly half of LAHSA outreach staff have lived experience of homelessness and each of the MDTs funded by Measure H include a staff member with lived experience of homelessness. In addition, HI and LAHSA are continuing to invest in bringing more people with lived experience of homelessness into the system as employees—for example, peer navigators are currently being onboarded by CES Lead Agencies to be co-located at LA County's Community Colleges to assist homeless and at-risk students.

*Mobile Access Points:* At several SPAs, participants noted the need for innovations such as mobile access points (SPAs 3, 8). These access points could rotate between different “hot spots” within a particular jurisdiction where people experiencing homelessness tend to be concentrated, such as parks,



underpasses, or other encampment sites. These mobile access points can provide services while also conducting assessments and enrolling people experiencing homelessness into the CES.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA will release an RFP, funded through the State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), to create new access points in early 2020, pending LAHSA Commission approval. In this RFP, mobile access points are expected to be an eligible activity.

*City/Neighborhood Council-Led Outreach:* Multiple participants expressed the need for outreach to be conducted in partnership with cities and for cities to be able to access funding to train and deploy their own outreach staff and services (SPA 3). In addition, some participants noted Neighborhood Councils as another potential partner for outreach work (SPA 6).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA and the County will encourage cities to apply for funding for access points when the RFP is released in 2020. In addition, partnerships between outreach leads and cities and opportunities for co-location continue to be essential components of the comprehensive outreach strategy across the County.

Other Access and Engagement Themes:

- More family-targeted outreach
- More resources in specific regions of the county (West San Fernando Valley, for example)
- One-stop shops for services and access to the system

## Services

*Need for More Hygiene Services:* The need for more hygiene infrastructure was one of the most frequently raised themes at the input sessions (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). Participants noted the need for more bathrooms, showers and mobile showers, laundry services, trash receptacles and regular trash pick up, among other services. Participants noted that, while increased permanent housing and interim housing are critical goals, so too must be a public health response to homelessness while thousands of clients continue to wait for placement in interim and permanent housing. Session participants also noted that such a response would dually benefit both housed and unhoused Angelenos.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA and HI support a public health response to homelessness that brings key hygiene services to the streets. LAHSA's Policy Guidance for Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness advises local jurisdictions to respond to unsheltered homelessness with resources to improve the hygiene and health of all residents, including bathrooms, showers, garbage disposal, safe needle and hazardous waste disposal, and safe storage, among other responses. LAHSA and HI will continue to encourage cities to use local resources to invest in these services and infrastructure for the benefit of all residents. In addition, LAHSA released an RFP in 2019 for mobile shower providers; the results of the RFP are pending. The HI has partnered with non-profit shower providers to support their efforts to expand access to hygiene services.

*Increase Employment Services:* In several SPAs, participants noted the need for more employment services to help connect people experiencing homelessness to job training and job placement (SPAs 4, 5). These participants also noted that employment services need to be trauma-informed to better serve people that are experiencing or have recently exited homelessness.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Several Measure H strategies provide employment services for people experiencing homelessness. Strategy C2/C7: Increase Employment for Homeless Adults, which is administered by WDACS, provides funding for a number of employment programs targeting people experiencing or exiting homelessness. In addition, for the past year, the HI has been convening an Employment and Homelessness Taskforce, which has issued a set of recommendations to increase employment among people experiencing homelessness. The recommendations are being piloted in two regions, as described above. Included among the recommendations are improved access to training for both homeless services and workforce development system staff to enable them to better meet the needs of homeless job seekers. Trainings on trauma-informed care are among the planned offerings.

*Substance Use Disorder Services Need to Be Made More Widely Available:* A wide array of comments in the input sessions discussed both the availability and quality of substance use services (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). Participants mentioned both that these services are limited, but also the need for harm-reduction approaches, including use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) and safe consumption sites.

*Population Specific Services:* Several populations were identified by session participants as needing additional services that are tailored to their needs. These populations include TAY (SPAs 1, 8), seniors (SPAs 2, 7), survivors of domestic violence (DV) (SPAs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8) and single mothers (SPA 2).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA and the County will both be required to expend at least 8% of HHAP funding on homeless youth. Enhanced services for TAY will become available through TAY Access Centers that are currently being procured by LAHSA. In addition, LAHSA has utilized state funding to increase the number of slots for youth in the Rapid Re-Housing program. Problem-solving specialists are being allocated to the highest utilization TAY shelters, while new campus peer navigators will assist TAY in the higher education system. Measure H-funded Strategy E14 supports a range of services for TAY.

For seniors, Los Angeles County's Adult Protective Services (APS) and LAHSA have launched the HomeSafe program, which provides targeted homeless prevention services to seniors that have an open case with APS. In a separate effort, County-funded outreach teams are providing weekly outreach to meal and nutrition sites in order to engage seniors experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The County and LAHSA are also working together to strengthen services for survivors of domestic violence. DV Regional Coordinators have been hired in each SPA and are providing training to CES lead agencies on Safety Planning as well as referral pathways for people experiencing or fleeing DV. Over 260 provider staff have received this training to date. LAHSA is also continuing to operate a DV Rapid Re-Housing pilot as part of County Strategy B3, which provides targeted housing subsidies and supportive services to victims of DV.

Other Services Themes:

- Transportation services with warm handoffs
- Better linkages to health services
- More availability of credit repair, legal services
- Need for smaller caseloads among case managers
- Accountability for quality of services

## Interim Housing

*Insufficient Shelter Resources of All Types:* Participants in all SPAs articulated concerns about a shortage of interim housing beds for the 75% of homeless Angelenos that are unsheltered. Multiple types of interim housing were brought up by session participants: bridge housing beds, crisis housing beds (including Winter Shelter beds), as well as alternatives to interim housing such as Safe Parking programs.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Over the past year, Measure H funds have supported a significant increase in funding and availability of interim housing beds through strategies E8 and B7. In addition, the County has assembled an Interim Housing Capital Funding Pool, which includes an additional \$50 million to increase the overall number of beds throughout the County. Further, LAHSA and Los Angeles County are collaborating with the City of Los Angeles to open and operate hundreds of new beds through the City of Los Angeles' "A Bridge Home" program.

Both LAHSA and Los Angeles County continue to advocate to the state for more resources to further increase interim housing, as current funding is insufficient to both significantly increase interim housing stock while also investing in permanent housing solutions.

*Need for Interim Housing that Allows for Storage, Pets:* Participants in input sessions also commented on program design and restrictions in existing interim housing. Multiple participants brought up restrictive shelter programs with barriers such as not allowing pets or having sufficient storage to be an acceptable option for unsheltered individuals (SPAs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Best practices for interim housing, as described in LAHSA's Interim Housing Practice Standards, recommend that interim housing operators accept pets, create opportunities for participants to store belongings, and adhere to other low-barriers practices. LAHSA continues to provide technical assistance to interim housing providers to ensure widespread implementation of best practices.

*Shared Housing as a Form of Interim Housing:* Participants noted that shared housing, in which multiple people share a single housing unit, can be used as a bridge between unsheltered homelessness and permanent housing. Participants highlighted shared housing as an intervention that can be used across generations (SPA 3), including for seniors (SPA 6), with encouragement to pilot on a smaller scale (SPA 1).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* At present, shared housing is used extensively within the Rapid Re-Housing program, with approximately 25% of housing placements through Rapid Re-Housing occurring in shared housing settings.

*Increase Mental Health Services in Interim Housing:* Participants in several SPAs emphasized the need to support people in interim housing with mental health services (SPAs 3, 4, 5, 6) and in some cases, create interim housing specially tailored for people with mental illness.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* DMH and DHS have now expanded trainings for interim housing service providers—these trainings include capacity-building on providing mental health services in interim housing settings. In addition, in September, DHS launched an interim housing program for older adults with complex health needs, including mental health needs.

Other Interim Housing Themes:

- Need for more motel vouchers
- Allow for longer stays in interim housing
- More transportation services at interim housing to assist clients with getting to appointments
- More outreach to property owners to use sites as interim housing

**Permanent Housing**

*Increase Availability of Affordable Housing:* Numerous participants raised the overwhelming need for more affordable housing throughout Los Angeles County (SPAs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8). Participants noted that affordable units set aside for low-income households serve a dual purpose, both as a key resource to stabilize vulnerable households to prevent homelessness, and as units that are well suited for people experiencing homelessness to move in to.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* While LAHSA and HI do not have authority over either land use policy to expedite the availability of affordable housing nor significant capital funding to make new investments in affordable housing, both entities are strongly supportive of efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing. At the state level, new funding for affordable housing is becoming available to local jurisdictions through SB 2 and the passage of Propositions 1 and 2. More advocacy is needed to continue to move State policy and funding towards increasing affordable housing. Additionally, at the local level, the County of Los Angeles has invested in an Affordable Housing Programs Budget since it was established in 2015; investments in this budget will reach \$100 million annually beginning in FY 2020-21. Both entities are supportive of policy changes to expedite and incentivize creation of affordable housing as well.

*Centralized Housing Location Website:* While participants noted that the overall availability of affordable housing is a persistent barrier in the system, so too is the availability of information about what affordable housing exists (SPAs 4, 5, 8). Participants also noted the need for information on available market rate housing in which subsidies and vouchers can be utilized to support clients exiting homelessness. Information on when and where housing units are available, both market-rate and subsidized, is neither centralized nor consistent. This creates significant difficulties for people seeking to access these resources and barriers for those most in need of housing. Participants noted that there should be a central repository of affordable housing information that can be accessed by clients, provider agencies, and landlords.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Within the homeless services system, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) has created a housing location website funded by LAHSA that is available for people in the Rapid Re-Housing program, where landlords can make their vacant units available to housing providers and case managers seeking housing for their clients.

*Shared Housing:* Participants noted that shared housing is a low-cost intervention that can assist people to move in to housing faster. Additionally, participants noted that this intervention may be especially appropriate for TAY (SPAs 1, 2, 4, 6).

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* At present, shared housing is becoming a larger part of the response to homelessness. In LAHSA-funded Rapid Re-Housing, shared housing accounts for about 25% of all housing placements. Both LAHSA and HI are also seeking additional flexibility from both the state

and federal government to use shared housing more broadly. Finally, LAHSA and HI worked with LeSar Development Consultants on a new shared housing toolkit, which will help share best practices for how to use shared housing effectively.

*More Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:* Many participants have noted the need for much more tenant-based rental assistance. Participants suggested that the homeless system would benefit from increases in Rapid Re-Housing resources (*SPAs 2, 6*), shallow subsidies that are available to Rapid Re-Housing participants or other voucher holders upon exiting the programs (*SPA 1*), Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (*SPAs 2, 5, 6, 7, 8*), HUD-VASH vouchers for veterans (*SPAs 2, 8*) and any other resources that can pay rental assistance.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* Both LAHSA and HI continue to engage in ongoing advocacy to the federal government to increase Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher resources, as well as to the state government to increase flexible funding to local jurisdictions that can be used for rental assistance. Additionally, Los Angeles County approved over \$85 million in funding for Measure H Strategy B3: Rapid Re-Housing as part of the FY 2019-2020 budget. The Rapid Re-Housing program enrolled 10,747 participants over the FY 2018-2019 program year, with 5,065 placements in permanent housing.

Finally, Measure H is also funding subsidies and services for clients in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) through Strategy D7. For the FY 2019-20 budget, Measure H is providing \$77 million in funding for rental subsidies and services for PSH clients. Additionally, LAHSA continues to fund rental subsidies for PSH clients through the federally-funded Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

Other Permanent Housing Themes:

- More rehabilitation of older buildings for use
- More robust incentives for landlords and homeowners to participate
- Policy changes to extend expiration of vouchers
- More training for clients prior to PSH placement
- Models that allow for payment of rent to family/friends

#### **Other Considerations**

*Educate Public on How to Get Involved:* One of the most salient themes in the input sessions was better overall communication with the public, with several goals in mind. One goal that was raised was the need to better convey to the public how to get involved in local efforts to address homelessness (*SPA 5*). Additionally, many people raised the importance of having people with lived experience front and center in conversations and campaigns to educate the public about homelessness, as part of broader efforts to humanize people experiencing homelessness with the rest of the public (*SPAs 3, 4, 5*). Finally, participants also raised the need to better involve faith-based institutions, which are seeking to align their resources with efforts to combat homelessness.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA and HI have both partnered with United Way's Everyone In campaign, which is building a movement around Los Angeles County to connect neighbors and advocates with opportunities to move forward housing solutions to homelessness. LAHSA and HI encourage community members to join the Everyone In campaign, both to find opportunities to address

homelessness in their communities and to learn more about the issues from people with lived experience of homelessness.

*Increase Administrative Support for Growing Agencies:* Several participants described the challenges that growing service provider agencies face as they seek to scale up their operations (SPAs 4, 5, 8). Participants noted that these agencies need additional administrative support from LAHSA and HI to support their growth and ensure they can meet the needs of the homeless services system.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA continues to make technical assistance available to agencies through its capacity building team and the Centralized Training Academy.

*Improved RFP Process:* Several session participants, both from homeless service providers and representatives of cities within the county, noted experiencing difficulties with the RFP process (SPA 8). For example, one applicant pointed to an example of an RFP being released, with requirements to attend a mandatory bidders' conference only several days later and noted that this was particularly onerous.

*LAHSA/HI Aligned Efforts and Initiatives:* LAHSA will be further examining its RFP process in early 2020 to seek improvements both in process and in scoring methodology. A Request for Information will be released in early 2020, and sessions will be held throughout the county to better understand the barriers that providers face.

Additional Considerations and Themes:

- Expansion of jail in-reach
- Greater accountability of providers to the public
- More TAY-specific interventions
- More funding for cities
- Need for regional/SPA-based homelessness plans rather than city plans

### Next Steps

Both LAHSA and HI will be weighing input from these sessions while finalizing respective HHAP applications, which are due to the state by February 15, 2020. Both the County Homeless Initiative and LAHSA will take their respective proposed HHAP applications to the Board of Supervisors and the LAHSA Commission, respectively, for approval in late January. Following approval in late January, both entities will submit HHAP applications for funding to the state, which is expected to respond with award determinations by April 1, 2020.

The HI will present recommended Measure H funding allocations to the Board of Supervisors later in 2020.

LAHSA and HI are grateful to the hundreds of people that attended input sessions or commented online for their thoughtful, helpful feedback on many aspects of the homeless services system.

**Appendix A: List of Public Input Sessions**

<b><u>Service Planning Area</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Date and Time</u></b>
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	Antelope Valley Partners for Health, 44226 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lancaster, 93534	Tuesday, November 19, 2:30-4:30 PM
SPA 2: San Fernando Valley	Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center, 7555 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, 91406	Wednesday, November 13, 3:00-5:00 PM
SPA 3: San Gabriel Valley	Emanate, 1115 S. Sunset Avenue, West Covina, 91790	Wednesday, November 13, 9:00-11:00 AM
SPA 4: Metro Los Angeles	New Genesis Apartments, 456 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, 90013	Thursday, November 14, 12:00-2:00 PM
SPA 5: West Los Angeles	St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, 725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, 90403	Tuesday, November 12, 9:30-11:30 AM
SPA 6: South Los Angeles	Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), Phoenix Hall, 10950 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, 90059	Friday, November 8, 9:00-11:00 AM
SPA 7: East Los Angeles County	Barbara Riley Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, Downey, 90242	Thursday, November 14, 2:00-4:00 PM
SPA 8: South Bay	Hawthorne Memorial Medical Center, 3901 W. El Segundo Blvd, Hawthorne, 90250	Wednesday, November 13, 9:30-11:30 AM