



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

August 22, 2019

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

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN (ITEM No. 4, AGENDA OF MAY 21, 2019)

On May 21, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office-Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI), to collaborate with the Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS), Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), and Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS), Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Probation, Sheriff (LASD), the Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), legal services, research organizations, and other experts to assess how to strengthen homelessness prevention efforts within County Departments. The CEO was directed to provide the Board with an interim report within 90 days and an action plan within 180 days. This interim report includes the following information:

- a) An inventory of existing County department homelessness prevention and diversion resources, including mainstream benefits, housing assistance, and eviction prevention assistance programs, with funding source and eligibility criteria, as well as categories and number of staff working directly on homelessness prevention/diversion;
- b) An assessment of which County data systems currently collect and track "homeless status," the value that might be gained by having County departments that do not currently track this data element added to this field, and the value of incorporating the definition of homelessness (used by HUD) into any County data systems;

- c) An evaluation and assessment of recommendations developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, and task forces on Employment and Homelessness, Homeless Older Adults, Women Experiencing Homelessness, Transitional Aged Youth, and Homeless Families, and determinations regarding which recommendations should be considered for inclusion in the Action Plan;
- d) Description of the work being done by the California Policy Lab and the University of Chicago Urban Labs (CPL/UL) on predicting homelessness and the implications of that work for the Action Plan, including any recommendations on how to direct County department resources to those at highest risk of homelessness; and
- e) An update on the consultant procurement process and assistance.

Background

The Countywide homeless services system is doing more today than ever before to assist people experiencing homelessness by providing outreach, services and housing. There have been important successes in the first two years of Measure H (July 2017 – June 2019), such as:

- 16,003 individuals and family members have been permanently housed as a result of Measure H strategies; and
- 31,837 individuals and family members entered crisis, bridge or other interim housing funded, in whole or in part, by Measure H.

Despite these successes, there was a 12 percent rise in homelessness in LA County (2019 Homeless Point-In-Time Count). While the homeless services system has helped thousands exit homelessness, economic pressures have pushed thousands more into homelessness. A high percentage of persons experiencing homelessness have accessed County mainstream systems prior to losing their housing. There is a need to fully leverage, evaluate, and potentially redesign County mainstream system policies and resources to more effectively prevent homelessness.

Progress

The CEO-HI convened a Homelessness Prevention Workgroup (Workgroup) comprised of DPSS, DCFS, DHS, DMH, DPH, WDACS, DCBA, Probation, LASD, ODR, LAHSA, LA County Development Authority (LACDA), Inner City Law Center (legal service provider), CPL/UL (research organization), and Shelter Partnership, which has met three times since adoption of the motion.

- Attachment I is an inventory of the 43 programs related to homelessness prevention administered by the County and LAHSA. The inventory includes programs and/or services that could be used by low-income families and/or individuals to avoid or postpone homelessness, such as rental arrears, rental assistance, moving assistance, utility assistance, diversion programs, landlord mediation, legal services to prevent evictions, case management that assists people in increasing their income, etc. Mainstream benefits, such as CalFresh, General Relief, In-Home Supportive Services, CalWORKs, and any housing assistance programs available at exit from an institution or system were also included. Programs/services that exclusively serve persons experiencing homelessness, such as rapid re-housing (RRH), Continuum of Care (CoC) vouchers, or Section 8 vouchers for permanent supportive housing were not included in the inventory.
- Attachment II is an assessment of which County data systems currently collect and track "homeless status", and of the desirability of incorporating HUD's definition of homelessness into County data systems.
- Attachment III is a matrix that contains an inventory of the recommendations related to homelessness prevention in the various reports identified in the Board motion, as described above. The workgroup reviewed the 79 recommendations and determined that 28 recommendations (identified in Attachment III) need to be further reviewed by the Homelessness Prevention workgroup for potential inclusion in the Action Plan.
- Attachment IV includes a description of the work being done by CPL/UL on predicting homelessness and the implications of that work. Recommendations on how to direct County department resources to those at highest risk of homelessness will be discussed by the Workgroup for inclusion in the Action Plan.

Consultant Update

The CEO has also secured two consultants to assist with the formulation of the Action Plan. The consultants will be working along with the Homelessness Prevention Workgroup to develop recommendations for the Action Plan. In the following months, the consultants will be conducting interviews/focus groups with both program managers and clients from a subset of the programs identified in Attachment II.

Conclusion

The homelessness crisis is complex and requires a multi-faceted approach. Maximizing the role of County departments in preventing homelessness is of utmost importance. The CEO will report back to the Board on November 21, 2019, with an Action Plan to strengthen homelessness prevention efforts within mainstream County departments.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ansell, Director of the Homeless Initiative, at (213) 974-1752 or by email at pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:FAD:PA
JR:RM:tv

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Sheriff
 Children and Family Services
 Consumer and Business Affairs
 Health Agency
 Health Services
 Los Angeles County Development Authority
 Mental Health
 Probation
 Public Health
 Public Social Services
 Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services
 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
 Office of Diversion and Re-entry

INVENTORY OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY AND LAHSA

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
Food Assistance									
DPSS: CalFresh Program	Food benefit program for individuals or families who have limited income and resources to buy food. The monthly CalFresh benefit is transferred to the household's Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which can be used in grocery stores and farmers markets.	31 DPSS CalFresh district offices.	Direct Service Staff: 1,664 Eligibility Workers (EWs) 4th Quarter of FY 2018-2019. In addition, other EWs (allocated CalWORKs and Medi-Cal) can administer CalFresh, as needed.	Individuals or households (including SSI/SSP recipients) may qualify if they: (1) have limited income or no income and (2) are a U.S. Citizen or a qualified non-citizen.	Admin.: \$464,384,100. Assistance Budget: N/A, since this is a federal entitlement program.	Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); State General Funds; and County General Funds.	The monthly average approved CalFresh caseload was 557,862.	334,555 CalFresh cases terminated in the FY.	Not Available

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Access to Health Care Benefits									
DPSS: Medi-Cal (MC)	Provides comprehensive medical coverage to certain public assistance recipients and other eligible persons who are unable to afford the cost of medical care.	All DPSS district offices process Medi-Cal applications.	Direct Service Staff: 2,506 EWs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-2019 allocation). In addition, there are additional EWs (allocated to other programs), that can assist as needed.	(1) California residency; (2) Identification; (3) Citizenship/ Immigration Status; (4) Income; and (5) Property/ Resources. Note: Property/Resources are only included in certain programs.	There is no Assistance Budget for this program. Administration Budget: \$601,792,797.	Federal, State, and local funding.	Average of 3,096,698 individuals/ month. Note: The actual unduplicated number of individuals served is not available.	Not Available	Not Available
Education, Advocacy & Counseling									
DCBA: Consumer Counseling Unit	Serves consumers, businesses and communities through education, advocacy, and complaint resolution. To create a fair and vibrant marketplace for consumers and educate consumer about their rights & responsibilities.	DCBA Headquarters	Direct Service: 6-10 (mix of full-time staff, interns, and volunteers) Admin. Staff: 2 (Supervisor & Chief Consumer and Business Affairs Representative)	None. All consumers in LA County are eligible.	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

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DCBA: Foreclosure Prevention and Real Estate Fraud Program	Provides real estate and foreclosure counseling services at no cost. Also includes the Homeowner Notification Program, which mails a notice to homeowners whenever a deed, quitclaim deed, deed of trust, notice of default, or notice of trustee sale is recorded to protect homeowners of potential fraud.	DCBA Headquarters	Direct Service: 8 Admin. Staff: 2	Any homeowner or resident of the County who has a Deed, Quit Claim Deed, or Deed of Trust recorded on their property on or after 1/1/12. Any homeowner or resident of the County who has a Notice of Default or Notice of Trustee Sale recorded on or after 12/1/13.	\$288,000	Senate Bill 62 Home-owner Notification Program and a portion of recording of deeds, trusts, and notices received by LA County Registrar-Recorder's office.	500	250	102 permanently housed or other positive resolution (or 94%).
DCBA: Mediation/Dispute Resolution Program	Provides conflict resolution services to people in Los Angeles County regarding a variety of topics including, but not limited to, evictions.	DCBA Headquarters	Direct Service and Administrative Staff: 2 staff members and 30+ volunteers	At least one party must be located in Los Angeles County.	Unknown	Grant Funding from Workforce Development Aging Community Services (WDACS)	Not Available	236 Mediations re: Unlawful Detainers handled	Not Available

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DCBA: Rent Stabilization Program	The Interim Mobilehome Rent Regulation Ordinance and the Interim Rent Stabilization Ordinance promotes and provides housing stability by limiting annual rent increases, while affording park owners/landlords to earn a fair return on their investments for covered mobilehome spaces and rental units.	DCBA Headquarters	Direct Service: 7 Admin.: 2	Mobilehome Ordinance: Unincorporated LA County, Renting a mobilehome space, and Lease is 12 months or less Rent Stabilization: Unincorporated LA County, Rental unit on a lot with 2+ units, and Certificate of Occupancy or equivalent issued on or before 2/1/95.	N/A – Program started October 2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Case Management & Supportive Services									
DHS Office of Diversion & Re-Entry: Reentry Intensive Case Management Services (R-ICMS)	R-ICMS connects formerly incarcerated individuals with a Community Health Worker who connects them to services including housing, employment, IDs, benefits, substance use, mental health, etc.	ODR and Whole Person Care (WPC)	Direct Service: 63 Admin.: 9	Adults (18+) with a previous history of incarceration.	There is no fixed budget for this program. Funds are drawn down as needed.	SB 678 Prop 47	1,075	None - clients can stay up to a year.	Not Available
LACDA: Promoting Healthy Community and Living for Older Adults	This program connects older adults living in public housing with resources that address specific vulnerabilities around the aging process and improve their quality of life. The program is a collaboration between the LACDA, DMH and its service providers.	LACDA and DMH	Direct Service and Admin. Staff: 10	Older adults aged 55+ and persons with disabilities.	N/A	DMH contracted service providers serve public housing residents at no-cost to the resident.	290	N/A	N/A

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WDACS: Home Safe	New program will assist Adult Protective Services (APS) clients who are experiencing or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness due to elder or dependent adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation by providing homeless prevention services.	WDACS APS Offices.	Direct Service: nine Administrative: one	APS clients (i.e., older adults 65+ and dependent adults 18-64 years of age) who are determined to be homeless, or at risk of homelessness.	N/A - Program will start FY 2019-20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DPSS: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)	Program pays for services provided to elderly, blind, or disabled individuals (including children), so they may remain safely in their own home. Pays for health and safety-related services, such as personal care and domestic services. IHSS is an alternative to costly nursing homes or board and care facilities.	8 DPSS-IHSS district offices.	Direct Service: 717 Social Workers (as of May 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible/or receive Medi-Cal, • U.S. Citizen or have satisfactory immigration status, • California Resident, • Age 65+, disabled, or blind, • Receive SSI/SSP or meet SSI/SSP eligibility criteria, • Live in his/her own home that is not a nursing home or other out-of-home care facility, • Be resource and property eligible, and • Provide a Health Certification. 	Assistance: \$681,394,000 Administration: \$144,899,000	Federal, State, County, and Realignment Revenue	As of July 2018, the IHSS caseload was 222,903. The unduplicated number of individuals served in FY 2017-18 is not readily available.	40,133 cases terminated in FY 2018.	Not Available

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LAHSA: Problem-Solving	Short-term intervention that assists participants in maintaining their current housing or, in identifying an immediate and safe housing alternative within their own network of family, friends and social supports. By working alongside people facing a housing crisis in an empowering manner, Problem-Solving can assist at the very beginning of their housing crisis, or shortly after they enter the homeless services system.	LAHSA funded Coordinated Entry System (CES) non-profit providers.	Direct Service: Will include a minimum of 65 funded staff in FY 2019-20	Families, Adults and Transitional Age Youth. • Homeless per HUD Definition (Category 1- Literally Homeless); Category 4 (Fleeing Domestic Violence); or Imminently at-risk of becoming homeless as defined by LAHSA. • At or Below 50% Area Median Income (AMI).	N/A	Measure H (Homeless Initiative Strategies A1 and A5); and State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Funding	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Employment and/or Educational Training									
WDACS: INVEST	Basic and individualized career services, training services, follow-up and retention services, access to educational services, and referral to legal services. Supportive services, as needed, and associated with employment or employment training, as well as stipends and incentives are provided.	America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs)	Direct Service: Currently, there are nine Probation Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) and 10 AJCC Staff working on the program.	Adult Felony Probation under the supervision of an LA County DPO, 18 years+, legal right-to-work in the US, unemployed or underemployed, not required to register as a sex or arson offender, with enough time left on supervision to receive INVEST services and achieve outcomes. Eligibility is ultimately determined by referring DPO.	\$2,500,000	SB-678 funding from LA County Probation	76	6	Not Available
WDACS: Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Title I, Adult and Dislocated Worker (ADW)	Provides employment-focused assistance to individuals, including barrier removal and other support structures that guide individuals on a path towards self-sufficiency.	AJCCs	Direct Service Staff: 149 AJCC staff (contracted agencies) Admin. Staff: three managers, as well as other staff from various programs that assist.	Adult: 18 years+, right-to-work in the United States, and registered in Selective Service if born on, or after January 1, 1960. Dislocated Worker: Adult eligibility, plus falling under one of the categories defined by the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD), mostly related to dislocation from a previous employer.	\$13,965,918	EDD through U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)	5,649 individuals	4,111 individuals	Not Available

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WDACS: Youth@Work (Y@W)	Program provides County residents ages 14-24 with services that fall under three tiers: Level I: Work-Based Learning, Level II: Academic and Career Services, and Level III: Advanced Career Services. Each level includes access to paid work experience, supportive services, individualized career counseling, training, placement and post follow-up services (Levels II and III only) through the AJCC system and its partners.	The network of County-operated and non-County-operated AJCCs provide Level I services. The other workforce boards also offer Levels II and III; however, it is under their individual discretion.	Direct Service: Staff are provided by the network of regional AJCCs; a total of approximately 52 agencies. WDACS does not have the staffing breakdown. Admin. Staff: 11 staff.	In general: • Meet specific funding criteria • Residents of Los Angeles County • Right-to-Work status confirmed • Youth ages 14-24 In addition, for Level I: Priority of service is given to youth who are in CalWORKs households, General Relief, Foster Care, Probation, Homeless, LGBTQ, Youth with disabilities, and low income.	\$22,731,341	CalWORKS – DPSS, Foster – DCFS, Other Underserved Youth – Net County Funds, Probation Youth – Department of Probation, WIOA – Federal and State funding, GROW – DPSS	12,698 youth were served	7,047 total youth exited the program	Not Available
WDACS and LAHSA: Home2Work	The program streamlines the process of connecting Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Youth, and Prevention participants to job search assistance, training and supportive services offered by WDACS through the AJCCs.	AJCCs in SPAs 1, 3, and 7 and the Veterans AJCC.	5 AJCC staff (all employees of contracted agencies). The number of LAHSA staff working directly with clients varies.	Eligibility Criteria will vary depending on which workforce program participant is enrolled in. General eligibility requirements for these programs include the following: • Individual must be 18+ years • Be authorized to work in the U.S. • Be registered with Selective Service, if applicable.	This is a non-funded program.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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WDACS: Los Angeles: Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises (LA:RISE)	Employment program that assists adults (18+) into the workforce, who are currently, formerly, or at-risk of homelessness. It is an expansion of the LA:RISE program developed by the City of Los Angeles. In this model, employment social enterprises provide participants transitional subsidized employment, paired with case management and barrier removal services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AJCCs and at the following Social Enterprises: Goodwill, Chrysalis, Center for Employment Opportunity. • LA City WorkSource Centers • Various LA City Social Enterprises 	Direct Service: There are currently 20 AJCC and six Social Enterprise staff working on the program. Administrative Staff: One WDACS manager directly administers the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years+; • Unemployed or underemployed; • Willing to work at least 300 hours with a Social Enterprise; • Express interest in long-term employment; • Los Angeles County Resident; • Not currently enrolled in another LA:RISE program; • Meets at least one of the following barriers: Currently homeless, Formerly homeless, or at-risk of homelessness. 	The County Expansion of LA:RISE was not implemented until 2018. City of Los Angeles EWDD funded by WDACS to administer LA:RISE = \$3 million.	Measure H	800 (LA City EWDD)	468 (LA City EWDD)	Not Available

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Housing & Case Management									
WDACS: Adult Protective Services (APS) Temporary Shelter Program	Program provides immediate need to APS Clients referred to Temporary Shelters who are abused individuals and need to be moved from their home (or location) to a temporary safe environment until either the dangers at home can be resolved, or other long-term care solutions are secured.	APS field office and the APS Governmental Inquiries and Response Unit.	Approximately: • A staff of 150 APS Social Workers work directly with clients. • 12 Managers administer the program.	Elderly individuals (60+ years) or eligible dependent adults (18-59 years) who are the victims of actual or potential abuse, neglect, or exploitation.	\$325,000	State's realignment funds.	40	40	Not Available
DCFS: Los Angeles Housing Services Authority – Independent Living Program (LAHSA ILP)	Housing services for transition age youth, including life skills training, advocacy, mentoring, education, financial literacy, and aftercare services.	Contractors.	LAHSA ILP: 25.	LAHSA ILP: 18 to 21, closed cases.	LAHSA ILP: \$2,871,556	LAHSA ILP: Federal, State and THP-Plus: State.	LAHSA ILP: 150	LAHSA ILP: 60	40 (or 80%)
DCFS: Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)	Housing services for transition age youth, life skills training, advocacy, mentoring, education, financial literacy, and aftercare services.	Contractors.	THPP: 5.	THPP: open cases, 16 to 17 years old.	THPP: \$830,000	THPP: Federal, State, and Net County Cost.	THPP: 3	THPP: 1	1 (or 100%)

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DCFS: Transitional Housing Program – Plus (THP-Plus)	Housing services for transition age youth, including life skills training, advocacy, mentoring, education, financial literacy, and aftercare services.	Contractors.	THP-Plus-20.	THP-Plus, 18 to 24, closed cases.	THP-Plus: \$2,164,800	THP-Plus: State	THP-Plus: 110	THP-Plus: 22	20 (or 91%)
DCFS: Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP-NMD)	Housing services for transition age youth.	Contractors.	THPP-NMD-50.	THPP-NMD open cases, 18 to 21 years old.	THPP-NMD: \$21,140,320.	THPP-NMD: Federal, State, and Net County Cost.	THPP-NMD: 510	THPP-NMD: 275	230 (or 84%)
DMH: DMH Enriched Residential Care also known as DMH Enhanced Rate Program, formerly known as DMH Interim Funding	This program provides a subsidy to cover the rent of the licensed residential facilities, if needed, as well as an enhanced rate for high acuity clients. This program targets highly acute clients with a serious mental illness who, without care and supervision, would likely not be able to maintain housing independently and would likely become homeless.	DMH's Countywide Housing, Employment, and Education Resource Development Division (CHEERD).	Direct Staff: N/A - DMH clinics refer clients into this program and requests are screened/ processed by CHEERD staff. Admin. Staff: three staff	All clients served by this program have diagnoses of serious mental illness. Clients are in need of 24-hour care and supervision including assistance with activities of daily living. Currently, this program accepts referrals from DMH directly operated programs, homeless outreach teams, institutions such as hospitals, Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs), and jails and the Office of the Public Guardian.	This program, in its current form, did not exist in FY 2017-18. Interim Funding existed with an annual budget of approximately \$2 million.	Mental Health Services Act	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

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DPSS: General Relief Housing Subsidy (GRHS)	The Program provides a rental subsidy for GR homeless participants that are disabled and seeking approval for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits or Veterans benefits, or enrolled in the GR Opportunities for Work (GROW) program. GR participants are required to contribute \$100 from the GR grant toward his/her rent. The \$475 subsidy plus the \$100 deduction from the GR grant, a total of \$575/\$1,150 (couple case), is to be paid directly to the landlord once housing is secured.	14 DPSS GR district offices	36 Homeless Case Managers are assigned to the GRHS program.	GR homeless, disabled individuals who are in pursuit of securing an approval for SSI and GR homeless employable individuals.	Admin: \$3,745,000 Housing Subsidies benefits: \$13,241,000	• Net County Cost • Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) • Measure H (Strategy B1) • AB 109	2,432	1,363 exited the program	Not Available
Move-In, Rental & Cash Assistance									
DCFS: Family Preservation Auxiliary Funding (FP)	FP's auxiliary funding provides families assistance with housing and other concrete supports to assist them in remaining safely together or transitioning from placement to home successfully.	DCFS-Community-Based Support Division- Family Preservation Section.	One full-time Administrative Assistant II.	A family must have an open DCFS services case and must be participating in the Family Preservation program.	\$1.25 million – not specific for homeless-related needs/services, but for all the family's basic needs.	DCFS (Net County Cost)	246	All families receiving assistance will exit Family Preservation as it is a time-limited program.	246 (or 100%)

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DHS: Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services (CBEST)	CBEST services include benefits advocacy as described above, linkage to health care, and linkage to any other social services resource(s) as indicated in client's biopsychosocial assessment. CBEST refers clients at risk of falling into homelessness to eviction defense legal services.	DHS administers CBEST with DPSS, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), and DMH while contracted agencies deliver CBEST direct services.	DHS admin: 14; DHS clinical: 26; DMH clinical: 17; Correctional Health clinical: 2; Contracted providers: 177.	Individuals must be participating in, or be eligible to participate in, programs administered by DPSS (General Relief, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, etc.); Veterans experiencing, or at-risk of homelessness; and inmates located in Los Angeles County jail facilities who are in need of applying for, and obtaining SSI, SSDI, or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) benefits.	\$26 million	Measure H (Homeless Initiative Strategies C4, C5, C6)	7,447	937	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DMH Housing Assistance Program (HAP)	HAP's components include security deposits and utility deposits; household goods; ongoing rental assistance; rehabilitation and eviction prevention. (1) Eviction Prevention provides a one-time payment of one month's rental arrears and any reasonable late fees as indicated in the lease agreement for households at risk of eviction. (2) Ongoing Rental Assistance provides ongoing rental assistance to avert an eviction due to an unexpected financial hardship.	Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) administers both components of HAP, in collaboration with Brilliant Corners.	Three DMH staff administer the program (in addition to other duties) along with four Brilliant Corners staff.	For both components, the program participants must be at risk of eviction, and consumers of mental health services from directly-operated or contracted agencies.	The total budget for HAP during FY 2017-18 was \$1,861,023. This funding is used for other components, in addition to eviction prevention and on-going rental assistance.	Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Funding; Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Funding; and County General Funds.	40 applicants who requested financial assistance to avert a possible eviction were approved and received assistance.	After the financial assistance was provided, the individual/ family was exited from the program.	40 applicants (or 100%).

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPH: The Family Stabilization (FS) Program.	DPH nurses provide the following types of services to GAIN participants who are experiencing an identified barrier that is destabilizing their family and interfering with their participation in the welfare-to-work program: • Conduct home visitations to address issues including immunization education, nutrition, strategies for tackling unhealthy habits, disease prevention, disease management; safety and injury prevention, safe sex practices and family planning; and • Assess clients to develop an individualized service plan and provide referrals/linkages.	One public health nurse is co-located at GAIN Region I Office and the other public health nurse is co-located at GAIN Region III office (El Monte, San Gabriel Valley).	Two 100% Full Time Equivalent (FTE) at the level of Public Health Nurse to function as health coordinators for the FS Program Health Coordination Pilot Program and one staff person at the level of Public Health Supervisor 50% FTE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of a screening for potential barriers via the Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool (OCAT). • Participant's self-declaration of a need for Family Stabilization services. • Participant's display of obvious barriers which impair his/her ability to participate meaningfully in assigned welfare-to-work activities. • One or more identified barriers require services outside the scope of DPSS programs and relating to health issues. • The program is available to new and current CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work participants, as well as participants who are not complying with their Welfare-to-Work plan, or are sanctioned. 	\$493,292	CalWORKs.	The total number of GAIN participants and their family members served by the public health nurses = 300	50	7 (or 14%)

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
LACDA: Family Unification Program (FUP)	The Program is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program aimed at keeping homeless families together as well as preventing homelessness among youth aging out of foster care. The program provides housing assistance to families reunifying with their children and for whom the lack of adequate housing is one of the factors in the separation of children from their parents. The program is also designed to help ease the transition into adulthood for older youth in foster care who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.	LACDA	One staff directly working with clients and one supervisor overseeing the program.	Family - Lack of adequate housing is the primary factor for a family for whom there is a possibility of: 1. Imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care or 2. Delay of discharge of a child or children from out-of-home care, to the family . Youth – Ages 18-24, that left foster care at age 16 or older, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan, and is homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Both Families and Youth must also meet HUD's Housing Choice Voucher eligibility criteria.	\$966,042	Currently, expenditures are not available, since the program started July 1, 2019.	Currently, there is none to report as the program start date is July 1, 2019.	Currently, there is none to report as the program start date is July 1, 2019.	Currently, there is none to report as the program start date is July 1, 2019.

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
LACDA: Project Based Voucher (PBV)	The PHA provides low and moderate income individuals and families with rental assistance in specific units contracted with the PHA. PBVs are effectively "attached" to a structure for which the PHA entered into a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract with a developer or owner for specified units. During the term of the contract, the PHA makes monthly rental assistance payments to the owner for units leased and occupied by eligible individuals or families.	The Los Angeles County Development Authority – Housing Assistance Division	Staff consists of three housing specialists and one supervisor overseeing the daily program operations.	Individuals or families applying must meet Housing Choice Voucher criteria (Title 24 Part 982: Code of Federal Regulations), including being within the appropriate income limits, ability to furnish social security numbers for all household members, passing a criminal background check, being a citizen or a non-citizen with eligible immigration status. This is in addition to any requirements established by the property/development, which may include meeting the eligibility requirements for tax credit units.	\$7,341,212	Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	876	83	793 families remained in housing (or 91%). Of the 83 who exited the program: 26 converted to a tenant-based voucher, and 11 passed away.

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
Probation: Comprehensive Services for AB 109 Homeless Population.	Enables the successful reintegration into the community for persons affected by AB 109 or Proposition 147. Services include Reintegration Housing and Case Management that insure all reasonable efforts to prevent homelessness.	The Contract is operated and managed by HealthRight 360, a community-based organization that has over 45 sub-contractors.	Admin Staff: seven staff Direct Staff: 154 Deputy Probation Officers and various staff from 45 sub-contractors.	An individual should be a post-release supervised person under AB 109 who is being released from prison or jail and reintegrated back into the community. Medically and mentally fragile clients are assisted through the collaboration of DHS.	\$12,000,000	Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109)	Housing: 7,909 Employment: 2,168	5,951	Independent Self-Pay Housing: 186 Family Reunification: 77 Housing Complete: 333 (or 10%)
DPSS: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) - Diversion Program	The Diversion Program helps CalWORKs applicants avoid going on long-term aid by offering a lump-sum payment (up to \$4,000 annually) to help with a specific need that will help the applicant get or keep a job.	24 DPSS CalWORKs district offices.	487 EWs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-2019 allocation).	The payment is issued in lieu of a CalWORKs monthly grant as long as the following conditions are met: • Have an unexpected, one-time problem; • Be financially eligible for CalWORKs; • Have a steady work history, a good earning potential, or a good likelihood of finding a job; • Have stable housing and childcare unless that is what is needed; and • Not have any significant barriers to employment, such as problems with mental health or substance abuse.	The Diversion Program is funded as part of the CalWORKs budget.	Funding is obtained from the CalWORKs funding.	6	Not Available	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) – Non-Recurring Special Needs	Non-Recurring special need payments are issued to CalWORKs participants for household emergencies when any one of the following conditions exist: • A household emergency resulting from sudden and unusual circumstances beyond the Assistance Unit's control; or • Homelessness when the Assistance Unit is looking for permanent housing resulting from sudden and unusual circumstances beyond the Assistant Unit's control.	All 24 CalWORKs district offices.	Direct Service Staff: 487 Eligibility Workers are allocated to the CalWORKs Program (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation).	The payment is issued to CalWORKs Assistance Units who have less than \$100 in non-exempt liquid resources. In addition, the non-recurring special need payment cannot exceed \$600 for each incident and cannot be made unless the items belong to a member of the Assistance Unit.	There is no budget for this specific Program because it is funded under the CalWORKs budget.	CalWORKs receives Federal (90%), State (7.5%) and the County (2.5%) funding. Federal funding comes from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program block fund.	Data not readily available.	Not Available	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)	CalWORKs is a public assistance program that provides cash aid and services to eligible families that have a child(ren) in the home and who have little or no cash and need assistance with housing, food, utilities, clothing or medical care. This includes access to education, employment, and training programs to assist families in moving toward self-sufficiency.	24 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) district offices.	487 Eligibility Workers (EWs) (4 th Quarter FY 2018-2019 allocation). There are additional EWs allocated to other programs who can assist, as needed.	Families are eligible for CalWORKs when: 1. Children are deprived of parental support because of absence, disability, or death of either parent; 2. There is an eligible child; and 3. Applicants meet the program requirements, such as citizenship, age, income, resources, assets and other factors. CalWORKs is available to: 1. Families (with a child(ren)) where both parents are in the home, but the principal wage earner is unemployed or not employed more than 100 hours in the four weeks preceding the date of the application; 2. Needy caretaker relative of a foster child; 3. Pregnant teen, age 18 or younger, with no other eligible children in the home; and 4. Pregnant women in their second trimester with no other eligible children in the home.	Assistance: \$1,004,696,000 Admin: \$3,157,963	Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program (90%), State (7.5%) and County (2.5%) funding.	The monthly average CalWORKs caseload during the FY was 132,553. The number of unduplicated cases is unavailable.	From July 2017 (136,790) to June 2018 (127,310), the CalWORKs caseload decreased by 9,480 cases.	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)	CAPI is a State-funded program that provides monthly cash benefits to aged, blind, and disabled non-citizens who are ineligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) due solely to their immigration status.	DPSS District Office - Metro North #38	Direct Staff: 24 Eligibility Workers are allocated to the CAPI Program (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a non-citizen and meet the immigration status criteria in effect for SSI/SSP as of 08/21/96: • Is 65+, blind or disabled. • Is ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their immigration status. • Must reside in California. • Income must be less than the CAPI standards. • Resources must be below the allowable limits of \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple. 	Assistance: \$76,084,000 Admin: \$4,595,041	Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and State (97.5%) and County (2.5%) funding.	1,409	1,635 Note: The above count may include cases that were terminated and later reinstated.	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE)	EAPE provides up to \$3,000 to pay for late rent and/or utilities for up to two months past due.	24 DPSS CalWORKs district offices.	Direct Staff: Of the 487 CalWORKs EWs, 23 are allocated to administer homeless programs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation). However, due to high volume of CalWORKs homeless applicants/ participants, additional EWs can assist with administering homeless programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be CalWORKs approved; • Have exhausted or not be eligible to the State's Permanent Homeless Assistance Arrearages payment; • Be employed full-time or part-time, and actively participating in an approved GAIN WiW activity or Post-Time Limit (PTL) services, or unemployed and actively participating in an approved GAIN WiW activity or PTL services; • Have a verifiable financial hardship resulting from circumstances beyond the family's control that caused the nonpayment of rent and/or utilities; • Provide verification of the financial hardship, past due rent and/or utilities; and • Agree to pay a part of the past due rent and/or utilities. 	Assistance: \$1,303,832 Admin: There is no Admin budget for this program. Adopted Budget \$2,100,000	CalWORKs Single Allocation	1,008 families	1,008	1,008 (or 100%)

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: General Relief (GR)	This is the County's cash benefit program for individuals who do not qualify for other State or federal benefits. The program provides supportive services including assistance to prevent eviction/homelessness, utility shut-off, or utility restoration (with specific requirements and established limits).	14 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) GR district offices.	771 Eligibility Workers are allocated to the General Relief Program (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation).	Basic GR eligibility includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years and older; • Residency in Los Angeles County of at least 15 calendar days; • Cannot be in violation of parole or probation; • Cannot be fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody/confinement after a felony conviction; and • Income and resources below established limits. 	Assistance - \$241,160,000 Admin - GR cases + GR/CF combo cases = \$71,700,000	Net County Costs (NCC)	105,258 applications for GR approved	112,160 (may include approved applications from prior year)	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: Moving Assistance (MA) Program	The Program helps with up to \$2,500.00 for moving expenses (for example, security deposit, moving truck rental) and up to \$405 can be used to buy a stove and/or refrigerator if the rental unit does not have one.	24 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) CalWORKs district offices.	Of the 487 CalWORKs EWs, 23 are allocated to administer homeless programs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation). However, due to high volume of CalWORKs homeless applicants/participants, additional EWs (above the allocated 23) assist with administering homeless programs.	To be eligible for the MA payment, the participant must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be CalWORKs approved; • Have exhausted, or not be eligible for the State's Homeless Assistance Program; • Be employed full time, or employed part-time and actively participating in an approved GAIN Welfare-to-Work (WIW) activity or Post-Time Limit (PTL) services, or unemployed and actively participating in an approved GAIN WIW activity or PTL services; • Be homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless due to a financial crisis (proof is required); and • Secure permanent housing where the family's share of the rent does not exceed 80 percent of the family's Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI). 	Assistance - \$702,063 There is no Administrative budget for this program. Adopted Budget \$1,400,000	CalWORKs Single Allocation	762 families were served.	762 families exited the program.	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) Arrearages	Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) Arrearages provides a payment to an eligible CalWORKs family who is facing eviction due to experiencing a verifiable financial hardship.	24 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) CalWORKs district offices.	Direct Staff: 23 EWs work on homeless programs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-2019 allocation). However, due to high volume of CalWORKs homeless applicants/ participants, additional EWs may assist, as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be receiving CalWORKs/ Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA); • Have \$100 or less in non-exempt liquid resources (does not include the current month's CalWORKs/ RCA grant); • Received a notice to pay rent or quit or an eviction notice; • Provide verification that the eviction is a result of a financial hardship that resulted from extraordinary circumstances beyond the applicant's control, and not for other lease or rental violations; and • Reside in permanent housing where the share of the rent amount does not exceed 80 percent of the family's income. 	The budget for this program is part of the CalWORKs budget.	Federal and State (97.5%) and County (2.5%) funding.	11 families	N/A	11 families (or 100%)

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Program.	The RCA Program provides temporary financial assistance to single adults, couples, and families who are not eligible for other welfare assistance who may be eligible to receive RCA and are within eight months from the date of entry to the United States for assistance with housing, food, utilities, clothing, or medical care.	6 DPSS RCA district offices.	10 EWs are allocated to the RCA Program (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation).	Single adults, married couples and some families with children are eligible for RCA when: they have been in the U.S. less than 8 months from date of entry or granting of asylum; Refugee status is provided; and income and resources are considered. The population of individuals who may be considered eligible for RCA must provide proof of one of the following statuses: Refugee; Asylee granted asylum; Cuban and Haitian entrants; Individuals certified by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) as victims of a severe form of trafficking; Eligible family members of a victim of severe form of trafficking certified by ORR; Certain Amerasians from Vietnam admitted to the U.S. as immigrants; or those admitted for permanent residence, provided the individual previously held one of the statuses above.	Assistance Budget: \$4,930,000 Admin. Budget: \$1,078,430	Federal.	On a monthly average, 205 RCA cases are served. (The unduplicated number is not readily available.)	From July 2017 (470) to June 2018 (113), there was a decrease in the RCA caseload which now reflects a total of 357 cases.	Not Available

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
DPSS: 4-Month Rental Assistance Program	The 4-Month Rental Assistance (RA) Program provides a once-in-a-lifetime rental subsidy of up to \$500 per family (based on family size) for a maximum of four consecutive months to help the family while their housing situation stabilizes.	24 Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) CalWORKs district offices.	Direct Service: 23 EWs administer homeless programs (4 th Quarter FY 2018-19 allocation). However, due to high volume of CalWORKs homeless applicants/ participants, additional EWs are available to assist, as necessary.	Be CalWORKs approved; Be employed full time, or employed part-time and actively participating in an approved GAIN WiW activity or Post-Time Limit (PTL) services, or unemployed and actively participating in an approved GAIN WiW activity or PTL services; Have received, or be eligible to receive the Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) payment and/or Moving Assistance Program payment, or have received the Permanent HA Arrearages and/or the Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE) Program payment, to prevent the family's eviction; Have signed a rental/lease agreement to secure non-subsidized permanent housing within the past 30 calendar days of the request for RA or received the Permanent HA Arrearages payment and/or EAPE Program payment, to prevent the family's eviction; Agree to receive RA payments; and Provide a rent receipt or verification that rent has been paid for each month a subsidy is issued before another subsidy payment is issued.	Assistance Budget: \$576,408 There is no administrative budget for this program. Adopted Budget \$2,200,000	CalWORKs Single Allocation	376 families	N/A	376 (or 100%)

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/ Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/ Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
LAHSA: Homeless Prevention for Families	Short-term assistance for low-income participants who are imminently at-risk of homelessness, to resolve a crisis that would otherwise lead to a loss of housing. Most common prevention activities include: Short-term financial assistance; housing-conflict resolution and mediation with landlords and/or property managers; housing stabilization planning; legal assistance, and/or planning for exit from the program.	LAHSA funded non-profit providers.	This data is not tracked.	Families with minor children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD definition: At risk of homelessness and/or Category 4 (Fleeing DV), • LA Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Prevention Targeting Tool, • At, or below 50% AMI, and • If a participant is in subsidized housing AND currently, or formerly under a homeless housing assistance program (i.e., Homeless Section 8) with income up to 80% of area median income (AMI), they can also qualify. 	\$2,460,000	Measure H (Homeless Initiative Strategy A1.	935 Families served.	477 Families exited.	348 families were permanently housed at exit (or 73%).

Department & Program	Program Description	Program Offices and/or Service Locations	Number of Direct Service & Administrative Staff	Eligibility Criteria	FY 2017-18 Budget	FY 2017-18 Funding Sources	Individuals/Families Served in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Exiting Program in FY 2017-18	Individuals/Families Permanently Housed at Exit in FY 2017-18
LAHSA: Homeless Prevention for Adults and Youth	Short-term assistance for low-income participants who are imminently at-risk of homelessness, to resolve a crisis that would otherwise lead to a loss of housing. Most common prevention activities include: Short-term financial assistance; housing-conflict resolution and mediation with landlords and/or property managers; housing stabilization planning; legal assistance, and/or planning for exit from the program.	LAHSA-funded non-profit providers.	This data is not tracked.	Adults and Transition Age Youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD definition: At risk of homelessness and/or Category 4 (Fleeing DV), • LA CoC Homeless Prevention Targeting Tool, • At, or below 50% AMI, and • If a participant is in subsidized housing AND currently, or formerly under a homeless housing assistance program (i.e. Homeless Section 8) with income up to 80% of AMI, they can also qualify. 	\$4,714,286	Measure H (Homeless Initiative Strategy A5).	241 Adults and Youth served.	81 Adults and Youth exited.	72 Adults and Youth were permanently housed at exit (or 89%).

Tracking and Collecting "Homelessness Status"

The Board requested an assessment of which County data systems currently collect and track "homeless status," the value of County departments that do not currently track this data element added to this field, and the value of incorporating the definition of homelessness used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) into any County data systems.

The County Chief Information Office (CIO) recently submitted a memo to the Board entitled "Identifying and Understanding Los Angeles County's Homeless Population", in response to an October 30, 2018 Board motion. This July 10, 2019 Board memo included the following information on the tracking of homelessness in County administrative data systems for County departments participating in the Enterprise Linkages Project (ELP):

Table 3. Tracking Homelessness and Sharing the Results Over Four Years

Agency	Homelessness Tracked in Administrative Data				Homeless Indicator Shared in ELP			
	March				March			
	2015		2019		2015		2019	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
DCFS	✓		✓			✓	✓	
DHS	✓		✓			✓	✓	
DMH		✓	✓		n/a		✓	
DPH/SAPC		✓	✓		n/a		✓	
DPSS	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Sheriff		✓	✓		n/a		✓	
Probation	✓			✓		✓		n/a
CSS/WDACS	✓		✓			✓	✓	
County Total	5	3	7	1	1	4	7	0
LAHSA/HMIS	✓		✓		n/a		✓	
Overall Total	6	3	8	1	1	4	8	0
	+/- Change:		+2		+/- Change:		+7	

All of the County departments listed above (except Probation), currently have a homeless indicator in their systems. Relative to this list, please note the following:

- Probation is working to add a homeless indicator to its system that will differentiate between "transient" and "literally" homeless population.
- DCFS is not confident that its current homeless indicator is being used accurately and is deliberating internally over how to accomplish better utilization.

- LACDA and DCBA are not included in the table above because they are not currently participating in the ELP; however, both LACDA and DCBA have mechanisms in place to identify homelessness status.

Even though these departments have a homeless indicator, they use different definitions and only LAHSA utilizes the narrow definition required by HUD. HUD uses the literal definition of homelessness, which includes (i) persons whose nighttime residence is a 'public or private place not meant for human habitation,' (ii) those living in temporary homeless shelters, including hotels funded by either charities or government entities, and (iii) those exiting institutions where they have resided for less than 90 days and who, prior to this, resided in either a place not meant for human habitation or a temporary homeless shelter. By contrast, for example, DPSS uses the State definition of homelessness, which includes "temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual", (sometimes referred to as "couch surfing").

The Homelessness Prevention Workgroup determined that it would be beneficial if County data systems could distinguish between people experiencing homelessness based on the HUD definition and those who don't meet the HUD definition, but meet each department's broader definition of homelessness. More discussion is needed regarding the feasibility of adding new homeless indicators into the various data systems, staff training on the different definitions; and workload and cost considerations. The results of that assessment and an associated recommendation will be included in the Action Plan that will be submitted to the Board in November 2019.

Evaluation and Assessment of Recent Committee/Taskforce Recommendations

The Board motion calls for an evaluation and assessment of recommendations developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, and task forces on Employment and Homelessness, Homeless Older Adults, and Women Experiencing Homelessness; and a determination of which recommendations should be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan.

Attached is a matrix of 79 recommendations related to homelessness prevention from the following reports:

- Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness Recommendations (December 2018)
- Addressing the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness (August 15, 2018)
- Ad Hoc Committee on Women Experiencing Homelessness (August 2017)
- Employment and Homelessness Taskforce (February 15, 2019)
- Re-Orienting Transition Age Youth Systems of Care to Support Housing Stability (November 20, 2018)
- Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System for Homeless Families (December 18, 2018)

Of the 79 recommendations, the Homelessness Prevention Workgroup identified 28 recommendations for further discussion and consideration for potential inclusion in the Action Plan. The 28 recommendations are under the purview of the mainstream County departments included in the motion and are highlighted in yellow on the attached matrix. For each recommendation, the impacted County department(s) and/or agencies are identified.

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH Older Adults Women Employment Family CES TAY Systems DPSS DCFS LACDA DCBA DHS DMH LASD Probation WDACS LAHSA All County																			
	Recommendations to be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan	Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency													
1	Shift the paradigm in the approach to funding and serving people experiencing homelessness to focus on systemic challenges and inequities, rather than individual challenges, and to acknowledge the current crisis and disparities as a product of decades of systemic issues and structural racism. Acknowledge that solutions will require sustained support and funding over an extended period to course-correct.	X																X	X		
2	Enhance and require ongoing trainings for relevant provider, LAHSA, City, and County staff in areas such as implicit bias, cultural competency, and the history and impacts of racism and discrimination against Black people.	X																X	X		
3	Enhance DCFS support systems for families involved in the child welfare system, with an increased focus on providing services to families at the outset of child welfare involvement to address the traumas of system involvement and potential family separation.	X							X												
4	Improve system coordination and ensure transition planning commences with sufficient time to achieve best outcomes for youth exiting foster care.	X							X												
5	Establish a law enforcement policy that diverts all homelessness-related bookings to services rather than jail (in jurisdictions where this is not already the case).	X												X	X				X		
6	Based on the results of the global landscape analysis, consider implementing enhancements to programs and services aimed at better supporting those exiting incarceration, such as: • broadening and deepening the scope and scale of criminal justice diversion programs provided by ODR. • increasing the network of reception/transition hubs with culturally relevant services. • ensuring rental and housing search/stability assistance is readily available for those exiting from incarceration. • expanding funding for the existing re-entry navigator programs to provide peer-to-peer mentorship, guidance, and support for re-entry populations in accessing housing, employment, healthcare, and education services. • expanding the use of restorative justice programs.	X							X					X	X			X	X		
7	Enhance education and coordination between the child welfare system and homeless services system, to improve access to services for families and youth.	X							X									X			

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH	Older Adults	Women	Employment	Family CES	TAY Systems	DPSS	DCFS	LACDA	DCBA	DHS	DMH	LASD	Probation	WDACS	LAHSA	All County
8	Enhance the Homeless Initiative Strategy B6 (Family Reunification Housing Subsidy) to include broader supports, such as co-locating CES agency staff at the dependency courthouse (Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse) to support families whose children have been detained and those who are attending with open DCFS cases, to prevent detainment of children.	X					X	X								X		
9	Increase investments in family preservation initiatives and expand support to include housing specialists and rental assistance for parents involved in the child welfare system for the purpose of keeping families together or helping those parents displaced because of child welfare involvement and court orders mandating family separation.	X						X								X		
10	Explore ways DCFS can assess for housing stability at the outset of engagement and continually use a problem-solving approach to assist youth in accessing safe and stable housing.	X						X								X		
11	Identify available DCFS resources that can be utilized to support housing stability for youth exiting foster care.	X						X								X		
12	Examine opportunities to train mainstream systems of care (Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Health Services) so that there can be greater opportunities to help clients involved with these mainstream systems to avoid the homeless services system and connect them instead to appropriate, culturally-sensitive services before they become homeless.	X															X	
13	Shared housing pilot program for older adults.		X											X	X	X		

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH	Older Adults	Women	Employment	Family CES	TAY Systems	DPSS	DCFS	LACDA	DCBA	DHS	DMH	LASD	Probation	WDACS	LAHSA	All County
14	<p>Conduct a racial equity analysis on LAHSA, provider, City, and County contracting requirements, hiring practices, and job requirements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identify strategies to make contracting requirements more equitable and to encourage and support smaller organizations in the contracting process, including the use of joint-venture models (in lieu of sub-contractor models). •Identify any existing barriers for Black people and/or people with lived experience (e.g., language requirements, degree requirements, etc.). •Develop a plan and process to increase the recruitment and hiring of Black people and people with lived experience. •Promote racial diversity at all organizational levels, including leadership, management, boards, and commissions. •Analyze job classifications and pay scales of the homeless service workforce across gender and race. •Ensure that lived experience is a desired and valued qualification in hiring processes. •Ensure that management staff is appropriately trained in cultural competency to effectively manage staff with high vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma. •Create opportunities for education and mentorship to support the development of Black people in staff and board leadership. 	X														X	X	
15	Implement targeted efforts (particularly to seniors) to prevent loss of home-ownership, including education around financial literacy and investment, education to protect against scams, and access to resources to prevent foreclosure. Advocate to protect existing federal and state resources and infrastructure to support this.	X							X	X							X	
16	Partner with traditional and nontraditional sites frequented by Black people that function as points of prevention and early intervention (beauty/barber shops, churches, community colleges), and use these partnerships as opportunities to inform and educate about available services and to engage.	X														X	X	
17	Expand flexible cash or in-kind assistance to participants, independent of training program enrollment.			X			X	X					X				X	
18	Maximize CalFresh Employment & Training resources for innovative program design components identified in the Employment and Homelessness Taskforce process.			X			X										X	

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH	Older Adults	Women	Employment	Family CES	TAY Systems	DPSS	DCFS	LACDA	DCBA	DHS	DMH	LASD	Probation	WDACS	LAHSA	All County
19	DCFS, DMH, LAHSA, and CEO to report back in 90 days with recommendations for how to expand housing resources available to youth in extended foster care, youth exiting foster care, youth exiting the probation system, and highly vulnerable youth exiting these systems.					X	X						X		X			
20	DCFS and Probation to report back on preventing discharges into homelessness.					X	X						X					
21	Develop a diversion framework within DCFS and Probation including aftercare for youth exiting care.					X	X						X					
22	Fund prevention services (e.g. legal services, eviction prevention).			X												X	X	
23	Create longer-term shallow rental subsidies.			X												X	X	
24	Enhance funding and capacity of service providers to be able to serve an aging population and changing demographics.			X												X	X	
25	Target prevention resources to older women, as data indicate women are more likely to become homeless as they age.			X												X	X	
26	Target prevention resources to women who have experienced violence, especially those who do not meet the federal definition of homelessness.			X												X	X	
27	Provide support to women who are separated from their children, reunifying with their children, and women who have lost their children, including women who have different family compositions (e.g., grandchildren removed from custody).			X			X										X	
28	Advocate at the state level to increase the per diem rate for board and care.			X													X	

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH Older Adults Women Employment Family CES TAY Systems DPSS DCFS LACDA DCBA DHS DMH LASD Probation WDACS LAHSA All County																
	Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan	Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency										
29	Enact a civil and human rights ordinance for both the City and County to provide for the development of civil rights policies and mechanisms for investigation of and enforcement against discriminatory practices in housing and employment.	X								X	X					X		X
30	Continue to enhance and expand existing fair hiring practices to reduce barriers to employment, including legislation to restrict the use of criminal history records. Ensure legislation is accompanied by funding and a provision for credible community partnerships to support implementation (through measures such as public awareness campaigns, education, lessor/lessee trainings, and enforcement).	X									X					X		X
31	Ensure that living-wage workforce development programs and employment training programs are aligned with major growth sectors in the Los Angeles region, adequately funded, accessible to people experiencing homelessness (e.g., proximate locations, transportation and childcare assistance, low-barrier eligibility requirements, compensated through stipends, etc.), and offer services tailored to Black people experiencing homelessness—particularly Black youth. Program development should include a broad range of opportunities, including entrepreneurial and small business opportunities.	X						X			X					X	X	
32	Coordinate and work with DCFS, homeless service providers, parent advocates, parent defender advocates, and other relevant partner agencies to leverage resources and maximize services, expertise, and outcomes.	X							X								X	
33	Continue to advocate for policies (e.g., inclusionary zoning) and enhanced funding to support further affordable housing development, to address the deficit in the supply of affordable housing. Apply a racial equity lens to ensure thoughtful and strategic investment that considers the needs of disenfranchised communities.	X								X								X

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		<div> <div>Ad Hoc BPEH</div> <div>Older Adults</div> <div>Women</div> <div>Employment</div> <div>Family CES</div> <div>TAY Systems</div> <div>DPSS</div> <div>DCFS</div> <div>LACDA</div> <div>DCBA</div> <div>DHS</div> <div>DMH</div> <div>LASD</div> <div>Probation</div> <div>WDACS</div> <div>LAHSA</div> <div>All County</div> </div>															
Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
34	Continue to expand tenant protections at the local level, and advocate for changes at the state and federal level where applicable, to ensure more robust protections within the private market, as well as within public housing and voucher programs, including: protections against Section 8 and other housing subsidy discrimination, expansion of "just cause" eviction requirements to all residential rental housing, implementation of broader rent control measures, and prohibition of criminal background checks in tenant screening.	X							X	X						X	X
35	Conduct a system-wide fiscal, cost, and racial equity analysis of criminal justice investments, with the goal of redirecting high-cost system expenditures (e.g., criminal justice system spending) to housing and service investments to help those exiting long-term incarceration, formerly incarcerated individuals, and people with homeless lived experience thrive in the community.	X						X					X	X		X	X
36	Conduct research to identify interrupters of intergenerational cycles of homelessness and develop appropriate coaching strategies to model desired healthy behaviors and essential life skills.	X														X	X
37	Ensure that family reunification programs and services are reflective of low-barrier principles, with an emphasis on providing housing assistance with limited requirements or barriers to entry.	X						X	X							X	
38	Enhance DCFS support systems for families involved in the child welfare system, with an increased focus on providing services to families at the outset of child welfare involvement to address the traumas of system involvement and potential family separation.	X						X								X	
39	Reinstate and restore funding for the Rights of Passage program as an effective model for preparing youth for successful transition to adulthood.	X						X									
40	Expand the use of "cultural brokers" and/or peer navigators to support families in navigating the child welfare system.	X						X								X	
41	Increase the number of Black foster care families by offering incentives and supports.	X						X									

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

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Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
42	Increase targeted investments in appropriate supports for current and former foster care youth, including permanent housing and higher education and/or vocational program scholarships.	X						X							X	X	
43	Broaden the extended foster care program to include youth up to age 24 to provide comprehensive, person-centered services including housing, education, and employment.	X						X									
44	Advocate for a change in federal policy to extend eligibility for independent living programs to age 24.	X						X									
45	Designate funding to provide outreach teams and an expanded network of traditional and nontraditional sites, access to one-time financial/housing assistance that can prevent homelessness further upstream by serving those whose needs are less acute and who may not otherwise access support through the homeless services system.	X														X	X
46	Increase the quality of housing retention services in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) through training, data collection, and evaluation.	X									X	X			X	X	X
47	Enhance funding for Fair Housing investigations and enforcement (to include Section 8 and other sources of income discrimination) and for ongoing education about tenants' rights.	X							X	X							X
48	When making policy and funding decisions, support the development and growth of community-rooted programs, providers, and networks owned and/or led by formerly incarcerated individuals, to guide successful re-entry.	X												X			X

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

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Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
49	Conduct a global landscape analysis within City and County government to identify existing and potential relationships, as well as current efforts related to criminal justice reform and services, to those transitioning to community. This analysis should be conducted in collaboration with re-entry service providers and include a review of Los Angeles County's Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), Project LEAD, and Jail In-Reach program, among other initiatives currently in place.	X											X	X			
50	Fund and build capacity for programs that support people who have been incarcerated and who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing homelessness by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hiring Black people who have been incarcerated and/or have lived experience of homelessness • utilizing effective wrap-around service models • employing trauma-informed care training and practices. 	X													X		X
51	Based on the results of the global landscape analysis, consider implementing enhancements to programs and services aimed at better supporting those exiting incarceration, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadening and deepening the scope and scale of criminal justice diversion programs provided by ODR • increasing the network of reception/transition hubs with culturally relevant services • ensuring rental and housing search/stability assistance is readily available for those exiting from incarceration • expanding funding for the existing re-entry navigator programs to provide peer-to-peer mentorship, guidance, and support for re-entry populations in accessing housing, employment, healthcare, and education services • expanding the use of restorative justice programs. 	X									X		X	X			X

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		<div> <div>Ad Hoc BPEH</div> <div>Older Adults</div> <div>Women</div> <div>Employment</div> <div>Family CES</div> <div>TAY Systems</div> <div>DPSS</div> <div>DCFS</div> <div>LACDA</div> <div>DCBA</div> <div>DHS</div> <div>DMH</div> <div>LASD</div> <div>Probation</div> <div>WDACS</div> <div>LAHSA</div> <div>All County</div> </div>															
Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
52	Cross training for County departments on needs of aging homeless population.	X													X		X
53	<p>Make America's Job Center of California (AJCC) employment services accessible to individuals experiencing homelessness through cross-systems co-location and remote services.</p> <p>a) Develop a program that runs out of a mobile unit, offering direct AJCC employment services onsite at various locations such as: homeless service provider sites, interim, transitional and permanent housing developments, navigation centers, safe parking sites, DPSS GAIN and GROW offices, job club sites, trade and adult schools and community colleges to enhance interagency collaboration.</p> <p>b) Similar to the INVEST program model of co-located Probation staff at AJCCs, hire and embed Coordinators/Navigators to facilitate employment support for justice-involved participants. This must be coupled with appropriate staff training.</p>				X		X								X		
54	Utilize matches between data systems for the homeless, workforce, and benefits systems. Individual and aggregate data drawn from multiple systems can be matched and analyzed to identify patterns of how systems are accessed, inform service improvements and enhance prioritization of income and employment services.				X		X	X							X	X	X
55	Evaluate the benefits of increasing CalJobs database access across systems partners to enable providers to view participant enrollment, activities, and contact persons at AJCCs. Similar to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) visibility amongst service providers, access to CalJobs database may create opportunities for co-case management. Staff utilizing the CalJobs system must attend CalJobs basic case management trainings.				X		X								X		

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Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
56	Develop and implement ongoing performance metrics to assess progress toward systems alignment, shared data tracking around outcomes and increased access to employment for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Framework for goal-setting can be taken from existing County Workforce Alignment Plans, Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) Local & Regional Plans, Economic Development Scorecard, etc.				X		X									X	
57	Offer evidence-based cross-trainings for some existing and newly hired AJCC, and DPSS GAIN, GROW and job club staff to reduce barriers and build capacity to serve individuals and families currently, recently and at-risk of experiencing homelessness.				X		X	X							X	X	X
58	Create an aggregate inventory of homeless income and employment funding sources. Coordinate funding and procurement processes and identify appropriate programs and partnerships to increase systems alignment, maximizing resources, such as SB 678 Community Corrections Performance Incentive (CCPI) funds for adult felony probationers, California Community College's Strong Workforce Program, Career and Technical Education (CTE) and short-term vocational trainings funded by AJCCs and DPSS.				X		X								X	X	
59	DCFS to report back in 90 days on availability of funding to increase capacity in THP+ program by at least 50 percent.						X	X									
60	Probation to report back on funding for housing for youth exiting the juvenile justice system.						X	X							X		X
61	DCFS, Probation, and LAHSA to develop a universal referral process to Youth Coordinated Entry System (YCES).						X	X							X		X

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

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Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
62	DCFS, DMH, Probation, and LAHSA to report back on implementing streamlined enhanced data collection.					X		X							X		X
63	Standardize DV performance measures across funding agencies, including the LA Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and LAHSA.			X				X	X								X
64	Support cross-system training and capacity building between the homeless services and workforce development systems.			X											X		X
65	Make trainings (on serving women experiencing homelessness and at-risk of homelessness) available to all providers, not only those funded by LAHSA.			X												X	X
66	Integrate the following topics into regular, ongoing training opportunities for providers throughout the homeless service delivery system: Safety planning; Human trafficking; Domestic violence; Gender and sexual diversity; Navigating the foster care and child welfare system.			X												X	X
67	Support policies that strengthen the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) in the City of LA as well as efforts to establish rent control in other cities and in unincorporated areas in LA County.			X													X
68	Advocate at the state level to increase the Presley Fund.			X													X
69	Provide stronger management and support from CES LAHSA coordinators to better assist the providers with technical assistance to support regional infrastructure and SPA workplan priorities.					X											X

MATRIX OF EXISTING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES

		Ad Hoc BPEH Older Adults Women Employment Family CES TAY Systems DPSS DCFS LACDA DCBA DHS DMH LASD Probation WDACS LAHSA All County																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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70	Evaluate how the Health Agency (DPH/DMH/DHS) health records can be connected to the vulnerability index (VI-FSDPAT) so that the participant's acuity and need can more accurately reflect a family's barriers.					X																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								

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Additional Recommendations which will not be considered for potential inclusion in the Action Plan		Workgroups and Task Forces						Impacted County Departments and Agency									
77	Expand use of RRH holding fees that can be paid to landlords to hold vacant units to increase access to private market housing units.					X											X
78	Explore use of government-owned properties, including Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) properties, to increase stock of affordable housing sites with minimal zoning restrictions.					X											X
79	Explore implementation of shared housing strategies for families. Engage in robust research around best practices for family shared housing and develop clear technical assistance for providers to implement shared housing.					X	X	X	X							X	X

Legend:

Ad Hoc BPEH: Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness Recommendations (December 2018)

Older Adults: Addressing the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness (August 15, 2018)

Women: Ad Hoc Committee on Women Experiencing Homelessness (August 2017)

Employment: Employment and Homelessness Taskforce (February 15, 2019)

Family CES: Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System for Homeless Families (December 18, 2018)

TAY Systems: Re-Orienting Transition Age Youth Systems of Care to Support Housing Stability (November 20, 2018)



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Predicting and Preventing Homelessness in Los Angeles

Summary: *The California Policy Lab at UCLA and the University of Chicago Poverty Lab have used County data on multi-system service use to predict homelessness among single adults receiving mainstream County services.¹ By identifying people at high risk of first-time homelessness or returns to homelessness and understanding risk factors associated with future homelessness, the County can more effectively target its homelessness prevention efforts to ensure limited resources are going to those most likely to benefit from them.*

Background - policy context

On any given night, nearly 60,000 people experience homelessness in Los Angeles County,² and an estimated 141,000 are homeless in any given year.³ In response to this growing crisis, voters in Los Angeles County passed Measure H, agreeing to increase their taxes to add an estimated \$355 million in homeless services each year.⁴ As reported in the 2018-19 Measure H 15-Month Report Card, 9,635 individuals entered permanent housing due to Measure H funding; 18,714 people entered crisis, bridge and interim housing funded in part or in whole by Measure H; 4,165 clients were linked to intensive case management services (ICMS); and about 3,300 have been assigned to either a federal or local rental subsidy for permanent supportive housing.⁵ While the County has successfully navigated homeless individuals into available housing and other services, the homeless population continues to grow as inflow outpaces exits to permanent housing. In 2019, despite the influx of Measure H services, the homeless population in LA County (as measured by the

¹ For the purposes of this project, "mainstream County services" include services provided by LA County departments reporting data to the Enterprise Linkage Project. Those departments include the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Probation, Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Health (Substance Abuse Treatment & Control), and Department of Public Social Services.

² 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, available at <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=3423-2019-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-los-angeles-County.pdf>.

³ This figure is calculated using a combination of enrollment data in homeless projects from LAHSA's HMIS system, and the homeless flag in DPSS's data for General Relief (GR) recipients. Note that while individuals who are homeless in the HMIS are required to meet the HUD definition of homelessness, this is not a requirement to be flagged as homeless in the GR data.

⁴ "The Homeless Initiative," Los Angeles County, available at <http://homeless.laCounty.gov/>.

⁵ Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2019, available at http://homeless.laCounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/03.07.19-COAB-Mtg-Documents_FINAL2-2.pdf.

Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count) grew by 12%.⁶ Given the broader market forces driving housing costs and housing instability in Los Angeles, it is critical that the County and its research partners better understand the cause of inflows into homelessness and who is at highest risk in order to develop and test prevention strategies. It is also critical that the County rigorously evaluate services funded by Measure H so that County residents better understand what would have happened in the absence of these services.

For the past two years, the California Policy Lab at UCLA and the University of Chicago Poverty Lab ("the research team") have been working in close collaboration with the LA County Homeless Initiative and LA County Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to predict homelessness among single adults receiving mainstream County services. The purpose of this work is to help identify people at high risk of homelessness and then leverage our growing understanding of risk factors to design and test homelessness prevention strategies. The research team has provided this analysis and research at no cost to the County.

In recognition of the importance of preventing homelessness, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion in May 2019 directing the LA County Homeless Initiative to collaborate with County departments, legal services, research organizations, and other experts to assess how to strengthen homeless prevention efforts within County departments. The Board directed the Homeless Initiative to include a description of the work being done by the research team on predicting homelessness and the implications of that work in the Interim Report. To that end, the research team is providing this summary of our work to date.

What we know about preventing homelessness

Experts note that homelessness prevention programs should be both *effective* and *efficient*.⁷ *Effective* programs stop people at risk of homelessness from becoming homeless. *Efficient* programs target individuals and families who are at high risk of homelessness, i.e. those who would become homeless in the absence of assistance, rather than those who would find a way to maintain stable housing even without assistance. While there is very little existing research to help guide policy decisions on prevention, two recent studies in Chicago and New York offer reasons to be hopeful that prevention programs can be effective at preventing homelessness. However, effective targeting to ensure programs are efficient remains a challenge.

A prevention program managed by Catholic Charities in Chicago offered one-time cash assistance to families who called a hotline and self-identified as being at risk of

⁶ LAHSA: "Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Shows 12% Rise in Homelessness." (June 4, 2019), available at <https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=558-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-shows-12-rise-in-homelessness>.

⁷Shinn, M. & Cohen, R. (Jan. 2019). "Homelessness Prevention: A Review of the Literature." Center for Evidence-Based Solutions to Homelessness. Available at http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Homelessness_Prevention_Literature_Synthesis.pdf.

homelessness. Callers demonstrating a minimum level of financial self-sufficiency and experiencing an eligible crisis qualified for one-time financial assistance up to \$1,500. The program reduced shelter entry by 76% for program recipients when compared to a comparable control group who were eligible but happened to call on a day when funds were not available. While the program succeeded at reducing shelter entry, homelessness remained a rare outcome among this population: 99.5% of the individuals in the treatment group never entered shelter, compared to 98% of the control group. While this finding demonstrates that the vast majority of eligible callers were able to resolve their housing crisis by themselves, the prevention program was still cost effective because the cost savings to the shelter system exceeded the cost of running the program.⁸ However, study authors noted that the program would be more efficient and cost beneficial if it were more effectively targeted to higher-risk callers.

A study in New York offers insight into how prevention services may be more effectively targeted to enhance their efficiency. The Homebase prevention program offers a variety of homelessness prevention service in community-based settings, including cash assistance, benefits counseling, case management, legal assistance, job placement, and other services. Shinn *et al.* (2013) developed and evaluated a screening model for families in New York City who applied to the Homebase program, though service providers could override the tool and exercise their own judgment. This model used demographic, employment, education, housing, disability, criminal justice history, domestic violence history data and other administrative data to predict risk of shelter entry for individuals who applied to Homebase.

An evaluation of Homebase found that during a 27-month follow-up period, Homebase reduced the average length of shelter stays by an estimated 22.6 nights when compared to a control group. The average number of nights in a shelter for all Homebase participants (including those with no nights in a shelter) was 9.6 nights and the average number of nights in a shelter for all individuals in the control group (including those with no nights in a shelter) was 32.2 nights. In addition, Homebase reduced the percentage of families who spent at least one night in a shelter from 14.5% to 8.0%.⁹ Like the Chicago prevention program, the Homebase program was cost effective even though it had relatively modest effects. The evaluators of Homebase did, however, conclude that the program would have been even more effective had it been more efficiently targeted. Shinn *et al.* compared the families that the model identified as being at the greatest risk of homelessness with the families that Homebase program staff judged to be eligible for the program. As compared to program staff judgment, the Shinn *et al.* model had substantially higher precision (*i.e.*, correctly predicting shelter entry) at the same level of false alarms (*i.e.*, family that did not enter shelters in the absence of prevention services).¹⁰ Greer *et al.* created a similar model to target individuals for Homebase. Greer *et al.* found that their model increased correct

⁸ Evans, W. N., Sullivan, J. X., & Wallskog, M. (2016). The impact of homelessness prevention programs on homelessness. *Science*, 353(6300), 694-699.

⁹ Rolston, H., Geyer, J., Locke, G., Metraux, S., & Treglia, D. (2013). Evaluation of Homebase community prevention program. *Final Report, Abt Associates Inc, June, 6, 2013.*

¹⁰ Shinn, M., Greer, A. L., Bainbridge, J., Kwon, J., & Zuiderveen, S. (2013). Efficient targeting of homelessness prevention services for families. *American journal of public health*, 103(S2), S324-S330.

predictions by 77% (the model correctly predicted over 90% of shelter entry) and reduced missed cases of future homelessness by 85%.¹¹

Both the Chicago and the New York programs demonstrate that short-term, relatively modest cash assistance and other temporary services can in fact prevent homelessness and reduce inflows by keeping individuals and families out of the emergency shelter system. That said, both programs also demonstrate the difficulty of efficiently targeting prevention programs. When a group of people all appear to be vulnerable, how do we know who is at highest risk of falling into homelessness?

Research questions

In Los Angeles County, little is known about who among the millions of residents living in poverty are at high risk of homelessness. In any given year, the County interacts with approximately 1.9 million single adult clients through mainstream County services, including emergency room services; inpatient and outpatient medical treatment; mental health and substance abuse treatment programs; social safety programs like General Relief ("GR") and CalFRESH; and in the County jails and probation. In any given year, 76,000 single adults will experience homelessness, most of whom (~42,000) are experiencing an ongoing episode of homelessness continuing from the previous year. Roughly 34,000, however, are experiencing a new homeless spell, either returning to homelessness after being stably housed for at least six months (20,000) or experiencing homelessness for the first time (14,000) (see figure 1).¹² The challenge facing homelessness prevention efforts is identifying who is at highest risk of experiencing a new homeless spell and connecting these individuals to services that effectively address their housing instability.

¹¹ Greer, A. L., Shinn, M., Kwon, J., & Zuiderveen, S. (2016). Targeting services to individuals most likely to enter shelter: Evaluating the efficiency of homelessness prevention. *Social Service Review*, 90(1), 130-155.

¹² These figures are restricted to single adults with prior County service history. When considering all single adults, 90,000 experience homelessness, with 48,000 of those individuals experiencing new homeless spells and 28,000 experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Figure 1. Homelessness among single adults in the ELP in calendar year 2017 (restricted to individuals with prior service histories)



This research team's hypothesis is that advances in data science and predictive analytics can help identify who among those receiving mainstream County services is at greatest risk of homelessness. If we can efficiently target prevention resources, we can then use our understanding of risk factors to design more effective prevention strategies. These are the research questions that motivate our work:

- What are the key risk factors associated with future homelessness?
- Can predictive analytics help identify who is at risk of homelessness?
- What types of prevention programs reduce homelessness and for whom?

Methodology & data sources

Using Los Angeles County data,¹³ the research team has developed a model for predicting homelessness in the County. The data sources for the project are derived from the Enterprise Linkage Project (ELP), which holds over 85 million service utilization records on 1.9 million single adults from seven agencies covering health services, benefits payments, law enforcement, and homeless services. The sheer scale of the data makes it ideal for the application of *predictive analytics*, which is the use of statistical models to make predictions about the future based on patterns and interrelationships between current and historical data. For example, for this research we predicted whether single

¹³ The research team and LA County take data privacy extremely seriously and there are multiple measures in place to ensure that privacy. Individual County agencies participating in the Enterprise Linkage Project (ELP) run an encryption code that scrambles personally identifiable information such as names, birth dates, and social security numbers of the individuals in their data. The data is then uploaded to a secure server for inclusion into the ELP. The California Policy Lab has a data sharing agreement with the County CEO providing access to this de-identified data for the purposes of this project. The research team also used Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data provided by the Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority (LAHSA). The County encrypts the personally identifiable data in the HMIS using the same method that is applied to the rest of the ELP, and then shares the data with the research team. The research team does not have access to any information that would re-identify the individuals in the data set.

adults experienced a new homeless spell in the 12-month outcome window of calendar year 2017, using data derived from calendar years 2012-16 as the prior service period.

Using predictive analytics, the research team has created models to predict two types of new homeless spells (NHS): *returns to homelessness* (RTH), in which the individual is not homeless in the six months prior to the outcome window, and *first-time homelessness* (FTH), in which the individual has no record of homelessness prior to the outcome window.¹⁴

Accurately measuring homelessness as an outcome is challenging. Individuals enrolled in homeless services in the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) must meet the definition of homelessness set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but relying solely on this measure risks underreporting the population experiencing homelessness. An alternative measure of homelessness is the homeless flag maintained by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) for GR clients. However, DPSS does not assess status using the HUD definition. In training the predictive models, we have used a combination of the HMIS and GR homelessness flags. Approximately 8% of all single adults who are flagged as homeless in these two systems are flagged in both, representing 24% of the HMIS-homeless and 11% of GR-homeless.

Results – can we predict homelessness in LA County?

Given its statistical rarity, it is difficult to predict homelessness. In fact, just 1.7% of approximately 1.9 million single adult County clients (33,600 people) experienced new homeless spells in calendar year 2017, of which 1.0% experienced a return to homelessness and 0.7% experienced first-time homelessness. To evaluate the performance of our model, we generated a list of people rank-ordered from highest to lowest risk of homelessness. The risk list can include any number of the highest risk individuals, depending on how it will be used. For example, the County could use a list of the 3,000 people at highest risk of first-time homelessness for a more focused, intensive intervention, or a list of 1% of people at greatest risk (19,600), which more closely approximates the actual size of the first-time homeless population in any given year. To offer options for various ways in which the County and its departments and agencies could use the risk list, we cut it into different sizes and assessed performance by calculating the *precision* of the lists, i.e. how many people on each size list actually became homeless?

For a risk list of the top 3,000 people at highest risk of experiencing any new homeless spells (including both first-time homelessness and returns to homelessness), 45.9% actually became homeless, including 27.1% in the HMIS. For a risk list of the top 3,000 people at highest risk of experiencing first-time homelessness in calendar year 2017,

¹⁴ Because predictive analytics requires prior risk factors in order to make predictions about the future, only those County clients who have had interactions with County services prior to the outcome window (approximately 70% of individuals experiencing new homeless spells, and just over 50% of individuals experiencing first-time homelessness) can be included in the model.

33.5% became homeless, including 12.9% who were homeless in the HMIS according to the HUD definition.

Tables 1 and 2 report the precision of the models for lists of various sizes. They also report how much more likely the entire list, including people who didn't become homeless, is to experience homelessness compared to average County clients.

Table 1. Model Evaluation Results for Any New Homeless Spells among Single Adults, CY2017

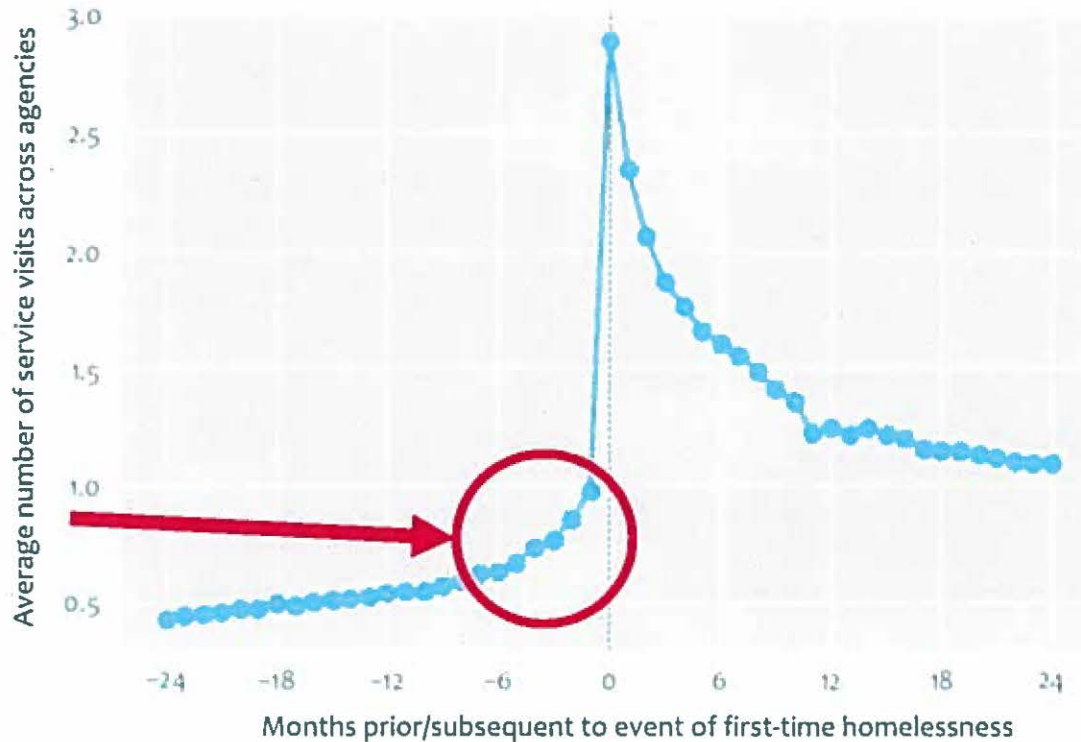
Risk List	Precision	Risk of Becoming Homeless Compared with Average County Client
Top 3,000	45.9%	27 times more likely
Top 1% (N=19,600)	35.1%	21 times more likely
Top 2.5% (N=49,000)	28.6%	17 times more likely

Table 2. Model Evaluation Results for First-Time Homelessness among Single Adults, CY2017

Risk List	Precision	Risk of Becoming Homeless Compared with Average County Client
Top 3,000	33.5%	48 times more likely
Top 1% (N=19,600)	23.6%	34 times more likely
Top 2.5% (N=49,000)	14.8%	21 times more likely

The phenomenon of homelessness is very time sensitive, with the immediate six months prior to the event of first-time homelessness containing, on average, a sharp spike in service usage (see Figure 2). Our analyses suggest that the predictive accuracy of the model in the field would be highly dependent upon the ability to continually refresh the model with data that is as current as possible.

Figure 2. Service utilization spike in six months prior to first-time homelessness (FY2013-17 data)



Who is on the homelessness risk lists?

It is worth noting that with these precision scores, some individuals on the risk list are “false positives”, i.e. people who the model predicted are at risk but who did not actually experience a new homeless spell. However, all people on the risk lists, including the false positives, are vulnerable. The top 3,000 individuals who are at highest risk of experiencing first-time homelessness are *48 times more likely* to experience first time homelessness than average County clients. Those in the top 1% of the risk distribution are *34 times more likely* to experience homelessness in the next 12 months, and they are also intensive utilizers of services, with *nine times* as many arrests and jail bookings and *12 times* as many interactions with substance abuse prevention and control. People experiencing a new homeless spell are more likely to be male (69% vs. 54% of non-homeless County clients), and individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time are significantly younger than average (35 vs. 40).

What do we know about risk factors for homelessness?

In the prior five years of service history, 94% of those at risk of returning to homelessness¹⁵ were receiving CalFresh; 86% were receiving General Relief; 88% had been in jail; 88% were Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients; 81% were Department of Health Services (DHS) clients; and more than 85% had contact with four or more agencies.

Much of our work thus far has been focused on maximizing the accuracy of the predictive models and performing descriptive analysis to understand who is at risk. The next phase of the project involves *interpreting* the predictive models in order to understand *risk factors for homelessness* – in other words, what are the underlying correlations in the data that have the most predictive power? What makes this next phase particularly challenging is the very large number of potentially important risk factors or ‘features,’ with almost 1,000 in the current model. Our current focus has been on the task of *feature selection* to determine which of these are most important.

We have found that a minimum of approximately 50 features is required to obtain acceptable performance in predictive models, with optimal performance requiring somewhere between 150 to 200 features. Although the most important features selected by the models tend to change frequently with the acquisition of new data and the application of new modeling techniques, some of the most important features include prior receipt of social safety net benefits, along with interactions with DHS, DMH, Sheriff, and Probation. The occurrence of multiple service types within one agency – for example, having both inpatient and outpatient visits – appears to be an important risk factor, along with temporal patterns such as the number of days since last visit (with shorter periods of time between visits suggesting higher risk). Certain geographical and spatial patterns are also emerging: having visited multiple service locations within one agency is a strong predictor, and certain zip codes appear to be at higher risk than others.

Key insights

Our preliminary modeling results give us new insight into the individuals who are at risk of experiencing any new homeless spell, including first-time homelessness and returns to homelessness.

- The majority of single adults who will experience first-time homelessness or a return to homelessness are already clients of mainstream County agencies, which presents opportunities for intervention.
- Predictive analytics can greatly improve our ability to identify single adults at risk of homelessness and more precisely target prevention programs.

¹⁵ Because the risk lists that capture the top 1% of individuals at risk of a first-time homeless spell or new homeless spell is closest in size to the actual homeless population in any given year, the statistics below are all reported for the top 1% of the list.

- Effectively serving the 1% of County clients who are at greatest risk of a new homeless spell would prevent nearly 6,900 homeless spells in one year.
- The 3,000 people at highest risk of first-time homelessness are 48 times more likely to experience first-time homelessness than average County clients.
- These clients are very vulnerable and are interacting with multiple systems, such as the mental health and criminal justice systems.
- Falling into homelessness happens very fast. The County and service providers must react quickly.

The insights gained from the modeling results can be used as guidance for existing and new prevention efforts. Stakeholders can:

- Proactively find people who are very high risk but who many not self-identify for services.
- Target scarce resources for people at highest risk.

Recommendations & Next Steps

The research team's goals in predicting first-time homelessness and returns to homelessness are (1) to efficiently target scarce prevention resources and (2) to test whether prevention programs are effective at reducing homelessness.

Improving efficiency: Over the coming months, the research team will continue to improve the precision of the models by adding data and working with LA County to optimize the pace at which the models are refreshed. The research team is also creating models to predict risk of homelessness among highly vulnerable populations, like older adults, single adults exiting the jail, or clients of mental health services. In these customized models, we can predict who among the subpopulation is at highest risk. The next step will be to work with County departments and other stakeholders to determine the best way to implement the risk models. Options could include (1) generating a high priority risk list for a multi-disciplinary problem-solving team, (2) generating customized risk lists for County departments, (3) creating customized risk lists by geography or population, and/or (4) testing the feasibility of creating a risk flag or risk score in County data systems.

Testing effectiveness: Given that tens of thousands of clients of mainstream County services are falling into homelessness each year, there is an enormous opportunity to leverage existing funding and service infrastructure to slow or halt a housing crisis before an individual becomes homeless. At the same time, there is very little research or evidence to help determine what level and type of assistance is needed to prevent homelessness. In its May 21, 2019 Motion, the Board of Supervisors highlighted the importance of assessing the efficacy of mainstream County systems in preventing homelessness. As the County mobilizes agency resources to prevent homelessness, we recommend that the County plan for evaluation of its prevention programs.

To that end, homelessness prevention experts have highlighted some high priority areas of research. Experts note that research on prevention programs for individuals leaving

institutional settings (*e.g.*, correctional facilities or the foster care system) would be fruitful. Experts also note that research on housing subsidy programs could be particularly useful because this type of prevention has not been well-studied. In evaluating homelessness prevention programs, it is important to rigorously assess both effectiveness and efficiency and to not conflate the two. In other words, a homelessness prevention program that appears to be highly effective because enrollees do not experience homelessness in the outcome window might be inefficient if it targets people who are at very low risk. To differentiate between effectiveness and efficiency, evaluators need to measure outcomes against a counterfactual—what would have happened without access to the prevention program.¹⁶

The California Policy Lab and the University of Chicago Poverty Lab look forward to continuing to partner with County agencies to significantly advance this work in the coming months. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Janey Rountree at janey@cpl.ucla.edu.

¹⁶ Shinn, M. & Cohen, R. (Jan. 2019). "Homelessness Prevention: A Review of the Literature." Center for Evidence-Based Solutions to Homelessness. Available at http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Homelessness_Prevention_Literature_Synthesis.pdf.