

The Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement Program

Supporting Los Angeles County’s Most Vulnerable

Challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness are often complex and multi-faceted. For individuals who are also struggling with severe mental illness, accessing the services and supports needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing can be an insurmountable obstacle to wellbeing. The Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME) Program is just one example of how the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) is meeting clients where they are and providing support through a wide range of re-entry services.



Broadening Outreach and Engagement

Using current LPS laws in innovative ways, LACDMH has expanded and consolidated its specialized street outreach program, and specifically, the HOME team. The HOME team has redoubled its prior efforts that were focused on Skid Row and Hollywood only, to become a comprehensive Countywide program with over 120 staff (and growing) that covers all eight service areas. This expansion derives from the integration of two outreach programs into one, and the addition of new staff.

Through “relentless engagement” and access to the full scope of services offered by LACDMH and its partners, the HOME team is able to provide:

- Street psychiatry;
- Connection to primary medical care;
- Immediate assistance with basic needs;
- Access to shelter/housing;
- Psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services;
- Benefits and conservatorship establishment;
- Intensive follow-up care; and
- Initiate court-ordered treatment on an outpatient basis

Encouraging Recovery and Reconnection

By walking arm in arm with participants, HOME develops treatment and (re)housing plans that meet the unique needs of our most vulnerable clients using this relentless engagement approach. Instead of so-called “warm hand-offs” to clinics and housing providers, HOME relies on “live handoffs” for overlapping support services to ensure secure connections with ongoing treatment, and a healthy reconnection to housing in the community. HOME engagement strategies – built upon a comprehensive, tailored and “heart forward” style of service delivery – helps to reduce homelessness, incarceration and hospitalizations and instead promotes rehabilitation and independent living.