

From: Eugenia Rukhin

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:20 AM

To: CommServ <CommServ@bos.lacounty.gov>

Subject: Urgent: Public comment for today's meeting - Preventing Homelessness Among Vulnerable Populations - proposed ideas for emergency measures regarding Ellis Act and SSDI Applications

Hello,

If public comments are admissible, thank you for considering the following advocacy email. Thank you for your assistance.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Rukhin (with assistance)

To the esteemed members of LACAHSAs,

I am a concerned resident of Los Angeles deeply invested in addressing the homelessness crisis in our county, and I applaud your efforts. I thank you for your continued leadership and dedication.

I am writing to bring to your attention two critical avenues through which we can proactively prevent homelessness among vulnerable populations in our community. They have to do with Ellis Act evictions and current delays in Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) claims processing. These two suggestions aim to be conscious of the costs involved for the state budget. I also understand you may not have jurisdiction over these areas of government, so I ask you to consider advocacy.

Ellis Act Evictions

Ellis Act evictions continue to displace elderly and disabled tenants, often leading to homelessness. I ask for emergency measures to halt these displacements outright. If displacement becomes unavoidable, I propose implementing comprehensive support measures:

- relocation assistance reflecting market rate rents for duration of displacement
- physical assistance with moving
- aid in finding new lodging within the renter's own neighborhood
- priority placement on affordable housing lists within the renter's neighborhood. The sooner we act on this issue, the fewer tenants fall through the cracks into homelessness.

SSDI Applications

Delays in SSDI claims processing are resulting in disabled applicants becoming homeless while awaiting benefits they rightfully deserve. While I understand the limitations of your direct authority over federal and state programs such as the Social Security Administration and Disability Determination Services, I urge you to advocate for expedited processing of SSDI claims. Fast-tracking approvals - not just processing times - for disabled individuals can prevent homelessness before it becomes a reality.

These two initiatives represent proactive steps we can take to stem homelessness and ensure that vulnerable populations receive the support and assistance they need to maintain housing stability.

I recognize the complexities involved in addressing these issues but believe that your leadership and advocacy can make a significant difference in the lives of many Angelenos.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your continued efforts to address homelessness in our state.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Rukhin (with assistance)