

Equitable Access to Supportive Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

The Los Angeles Domestic Violence Council has indicated that as of 2022, their website which includes invaluable resources and a hotline, had a steady increase utilization over the previous four years. We know that overcoming experiences of domestic violence requires many services and resources ranging from safe and affordable housing, economic and legal support, and mental health, among many others. However, for some members of our society, including undocumented individuals, older survivors, and those with older children, among others, these needs are further compounded.

The Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Program (DVSBP) serves all those residing in Los Angeles County. However, the Domestic Violence Supportive Services (DVSS) Program supports those that are California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) eligible clients only, thus creating a large funding gap for life-saving domestic violence services in LA County for those not eligible for CalWORKs. This represents a large portion of the domestic violence survivor population including,

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undocumented individuals, older survivors, those without children or whose children do not live with them, or those with older children. The DVSS program provides a whole range of trauma-informed supportive services, including individual and group counseling, case management (i.e., assisting with resources, arranging for hotel/motel emergency shelter; housing advocacy, etc.); life skills workshops, domestic violence education, parenting skills workshops, outreach, childcare and child counseling, and referrals to legal services. Legal services include family law, Restraining Orders, Benefits Access Assistance, immigration law, and legal services workshops.

DPH's Office of Women's Health (OWH) needs \$6.415 million to provide direct services and for operating expenses to support these unmet needs through new provider contracts for domestic violence services to those who are not CalWORKs eligible. This funding would support services for an estimated 1,417 clients who are not eligible for CalWORKs. DPH estimates that approximately 30-35 agencies would select this funding to expand their reimbursable services for non-CalWORKs eligible clients. The average allocation per agency will likely range between \$50,000 - \$400,000 depending on agency size and readiness.

The services the agencies can be reimbursed for will mirror that of the DVSS program, with some yet to be determined additions, including expanded legal services for undocumented immigrants.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office to:

- 1) Identify \$6.415 million and the needed positions to provide supportive and wraparound services to domestic violence survivors that do not qualify for

CalWORKS.

- 2) Conduct an evaluation and measure outcomes to determine the effectiveness of the program providing supportive services to domestic violence survivors who are not CalWORKS eligible, by the next budget cycle.

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