

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

January 7, 2025

Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count 2025

An estimated 3,277 young people in the Los Angeles County Continuum of Care on any given night experience homelessness according to the 2024 Los Angeles Youth Count. This number derives from the annual Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count (LA Youth Count). The LA Youth Count is administered differently than the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, but it is just as critical to ensuring that there is accurate and current data regarding one of our most vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness— youth. The Youth Count is a survey-based count of unsheltered transition age youth (TAY), unaccompanied minors, and young families. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), University of Southern California, youth service providers, and volunteers partner to complete this count yearly.

While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance use, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to being trafficked. Furthermore, being unhoused at a young age increases the risk of prolonged and chronic homelessness. These risks and the

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overwhelming harm to young people compel Los Angeles County to continue establishing stable housing for youth, as well as supportive connections to caring adults and access to services.

In addition to supporting the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, it is necessary to focus efforts and attention on the LA Youth Count to ensure young people are represented in estimates of those experiencing homelessness in our community. The longer someone is unsheltered the harder it becomes to obtain permanent housing. It is crucial that we count youth experiencing homelessness to identify the causes of youth homelessness, better connect youth to services, and inform the County's homeless services system to eliminate youth homelessness.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count (LA Youth Count) from January 22 to January 31, 2025;
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and County departments to encourage County staff, as well as the broader Los Angeles County community to volunteer for the LA Youth Count.

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