

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JUNE 16, 2026

**STREAMLINING HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES FOR FIRE IMPACTED
COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

On January 7, 2025, the Eaton and Palisades Fires devastated the Altadena, Pacific Palisades, Sunset Mesa, Malibu, and Topanga communities, destroying thousands of homes, local businesses, and community spaces, which fundamentally disrupted the financial well-being and long-term housing security of thousands of Los Angeles County residents. Many fire survivors have worked to remain in their community during recovery through creative interim arrangements, including relocation to nearby rentals and temporary accommodations, but those solutions - including hotel stays, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) individual assistance programs, Additional Living Expense (ALE) benefits from insurance, and short-term rentals - are not designed to last the duration of rebuilding timelines. Fire survivors are now simultaneously carrying a mortgage on a destroyed home and paying rent elsewhere, with insurance payouts that are delayed or insufficient to cover full rebuilding costs, which places fixed-income homeowners, and seniors in particular, at acute risk of housing instability and potential homelessness.

In response to the housing crisis created by the wildfires and broader affordability pressures across the region, the County has invested significantly in emergency rent relief to help stabilize at-risk residents and prevent a surge in homelessness. The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) has been at the forefront of administering these relief programs, working to connect eligible County constituents with time-sensitive rental assistance before housing instability escalates. DCBA's experience in emergency rent relief administration makes it a critical partner in building a durable, coordinated prevention infrastructure that can serve residents before and beyond a disaster context.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires, many residents relied on federal assistance programs to address urgent housing needs during the recovery process. As recovery efforts continue, the County is working to better understand the scale of ongoing needs among impacted residents who are currently receiving or have previously received housing assistance through FEMA. Gathering

- - - MORE - - -

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

accurate and timely information is critical to ensuring that available resources continue to be aligned with the realities faced by survivors as they work through recovery and rebuilding. The County has also developed a survey that was shared with survivors to gather information about their current housing status to assess the current scale of need to inform a potential County request for an extension of FEMA housing assistance. The County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is working directly with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and FEMA to uplift the voices of survivors who are facing immense challenges.

Ending homelessness across Los Angeles County requires a sustained and well-resourced commitment to prevention, which research consistently identifies as one of the most cost-effective interventions in the homelessness response system because it is far less costly than shelter, interim housing, or permanent supportive housing placements. The benefits of preventative services are frequently underrepresented in traditional data systems because a crisis avoided does not appear in standard metrics yet demand for prevention services remains significant. Interviews with individuals who have experienced homelessness consistently show that few were aware of available prevention resources before losing their housing. Prevention must be understood broadly and include interventions such as short-term rental assistance, legal services, housing navigation, disaster recovery support, income assistance, mediation, mental health support, and connections to mainstream benefits before a housing crisis escalates. Through this motion, the County seeks to strengthen access to multiple forms of prevention while deepening coordination across Departments, cities, and community partners to better align services and care.

Since the passage of Measure A, the voter-approved half-cent sales tax to fund homeless services across Los Angeles County, the homelessness prevention referral landscape has shifted significantly. The Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) and the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) now serve as primary recipients and administrators of Measure A funds dedicated to affordable housing production, preservation, and homelessness prevention, with local jurisdictions receiving significant portions of this funding. Other County Departments, such as Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Aging & Disability Department (AAD) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) often serve as the first line of defense when people are experiencing a crisis, and they administer key prevention resources. LACAHS is in the process of creating a centralized coordination point for homelessness prevention referrals and the newly established Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH) is now the County's lead department for coordinating the regional homelessness response, including overseeing the transition of functions previously administered by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and is uniquely positioned to serve as a convener of County departments and bridge to partner agencies on the topic of homelessness prevention.

In order to support survivors, and other Angelinos facing housing challenges, there must be a unified, publicly accessible resource created to inform residents about all available homelessness prevention services throughout the County. This online platform should provide information on which agency or partner is best suited to meet their needs, as well as guidance on how to access rental assistance, legal aid, housing navigation, or other time sensitive- supports before housing instability escalates into homelessness. A public-facing prevention resource, paired with an internal referral pathway, will effectively strengthen homelessness prevention by reducing barriers to access.

Access and outreach of available resources will be a critical step to ensuring that fire survivors are aware of the assistance the County is providing. On the ground, Disaster Case Managers and Long-Term Recovery groups, working across our communities, are engaging deeply with survivors on a day-to-day basis and it is paramount that the County coordinate our efforts with them. Expanding our reach into communities will require community-based organizations and partners that can help direct survivors to resources.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in coordination with the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), and any other relevant County departments, and in consultation with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) to develop, launch and update a publicly accessible Homelessness Prevention Resource Page on the County website, and linked on all relevant service partner websites – including HSH – within 45 days, that:
 - a. Identifies available homelessness prevention services across County departments, funded partners, regional agencies, continuums of care, and councils of governments, including but not limited to rental assistance, mortgage relief, legal aid, utility assistance, and housing navigation;
 - b. Designate a person for the County of Los Angeles as single-point-of-contact for other agencies in the region to support intergovernmental coordination;
 - c. Clearly describes eligibility criteria, the appropriate point-of-contact agency, and how to apply or be referred;
 - d. Is written in plain language and accessible in the primary languages spoken across Los Angeles County; and
 - e. Is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in program availability, eligibility, and funding status.

2. Direct CEO, in coordination with the aforementioned Departments and Agencies, to develop and execute an outreach plan that will commence with the launch of the Homelessness Prevention Resource Page to community based organizations working in Altadena and Palisades fire areas, including but not limited to the Eaton Fire Collaborative Long-Term Recovery Group and appropriate subcommittees, the Altadena Town Council, the Malibu and Palisades Long-Term Recovery Groups, Topanga Town Council, Sunset Mesa Homeowners' Association, and other stakeholders and Disaster Case Managers providing support for the Eaton Fire.
3. Direct HSH and DCBA, in coordination with the CEO and other agencies identified above, to report back to the Board in writing within 45 days with a framework for a Coordinated Homelessness Prevention Referral System that:
 - a. Establishes a triage tool that assesses resident needs and develops clear protocols for how County staff, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and other frontline service providers can connect at-risk residents to the appropriate prevention services; and
 - b. Identifies gaps in the current referral infrastructure, including populations such as Eaton and Palisades wildfire survivors, seniors on fixed incomes, transition age youth exiting foster care, justice-impacted individuals and other households who are facing heightened barriers to accessing prevention resources.
4. Direct the Director of HSH, in coordination with DCBA, LACAHS, and other relevant County departments and entities, to develop a framework for how various components of the homelessness prevention ecosystem intersect. This should include a written report on establishing a dedicated Prevention Navigator within HSH using existing resources.

#