#### HOMELESS POLICY DEPUTIES MEETING AGENDA

#### DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL INTO THE MEETING.

Date:
Time:
Microsoft Teams Link:
<b>Teleconference Number:</b>

Thursday, March 23, 2023 2:00 PM <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> +1 323-776-6996,,214215956#

AGENDA ITEM		LEAD	
I.	Welcome and Introductions	Ivan Sulic, Fourth District	
II.	State of Emergency on Homelessness	Cheri Todoroff, CEO-HI	
111.	Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Project Based Vouchers (PBV)	Molly Rysman, Marina Genchev, Kiara Payne, LAHSA	
IV.	Metro's LIFE program	Michael Cortez, Metro	
V.	Domestic Violence and Homelessness	Stephanie Whack, St. Joseph Center; Laura Elena Garza, The Whole Child	
VI.	Items Recommended for Future Discussion		
VII.	Public Comment*		

\*THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. Those interested in speaking should raise their hand on Microsoft Teams and can unmute themselves once called upon by the Chair. Those on their phones should press \*5 to raise their hand and \*6 to unmute. Public Comment is limited to 1 minute.

#### NEXT MEETING: APRIL 6, 2023

**MARCH 23, 2023** 

# Homeless Policy Deputies Meeting

State of Emergency on Homelessness





County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative



- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. State of Emergency on Homelessness
- 3. City of Los Angeles Inside Safe Initiative
- 4. Scaling up **County Efforts**
- 5. Delegated Authority Update



County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative



## **County State of Emergency**

- January 10, 2023 Board of Supervisors voted to proclaim a local emergency for homelessness in the County of Los Angeles.
- Under the State of Emergency, the County allows for:
  - Faster, more streamlined housing creation
  - Expanded services
  - More effective and efficient use of funds
  - Expedited contracting and procurement
  - Accelerated hiring
  - Coordinated efforts with State and Federal governments, cities within LA County

#### Mission 1: Encampment Resolution in Partnership with Local Jurisdictions

- LA County will collaborate with Cities and Councils of Government (COGs) develop plans and funding for encampment resolution, including:
- **Outreach** to those residing in an encampment.
- Identifying and offering them interim housing
- Matching them to resources and providing housing navigation services to move them into permanent housing.
- Providing supportive services in both interim and permanent housing.

## **Mission 2: Housing**

The County must be able to more quickly transition people from interim housing, such as a shelter, into permanent housing, such as an apartment where the rent is subsidized and supportive services may be available for those with acute needs. The County will:

- Accelerate interim housing turnover and maximize capacity of existing beds.
- Make strategic investments in new interim housing linked to encampment resolution.
- Accelerate timelines to produce permanent housing.
- Increase permanent housing resources in partnership with local jurisdictions.

#### Mission 3: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

LA County seeks to provide mental health and substance use disorder services to unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness at the level needed to meet their needs, including by:

- Coordinating field-based mental health and substance use disorder assessments and services with outreach workers and interim housing providers.
- Reducing wait times for services by prioritizing delivery of services to people experiencing homelessness unless otherwise prohibited.

## **Encampment Resolution**

 The County's SOE focuses on three missions, the first of which is Encampment Resolution, which seeks to reduce unsheltered homelessness in partnership with local jurisdictions.

 Expanding collaboration and co-investment opportunities with Cities and COGs

## **Communication Plan**

- Proactive approach to engaging with contract cities, independent cities, and COGs
- Enhance and leverage infrastructure to share what is new or different under the emergency declaration as well as establish stronger connections, particularly around the Encampment Resolution mission.
- We will develop or expand regular times to provide periodic updated information and use various communication channels to ensure effective and convenient communication spaces.



County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative

## County Support for City of LA's State of Emergency & Inside Safe

## Supporting the City of LA's SOE

 December 12, 2022 - City of Los Angeles issues a Declaration of Local Emergency regarding the crisis of homelessness

 December 20, 2022 – Board of Supervisors unanimously vote to support the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Declaration on homelessness and partner in the emergency response to the homelessness crisis.

## Inside Safe

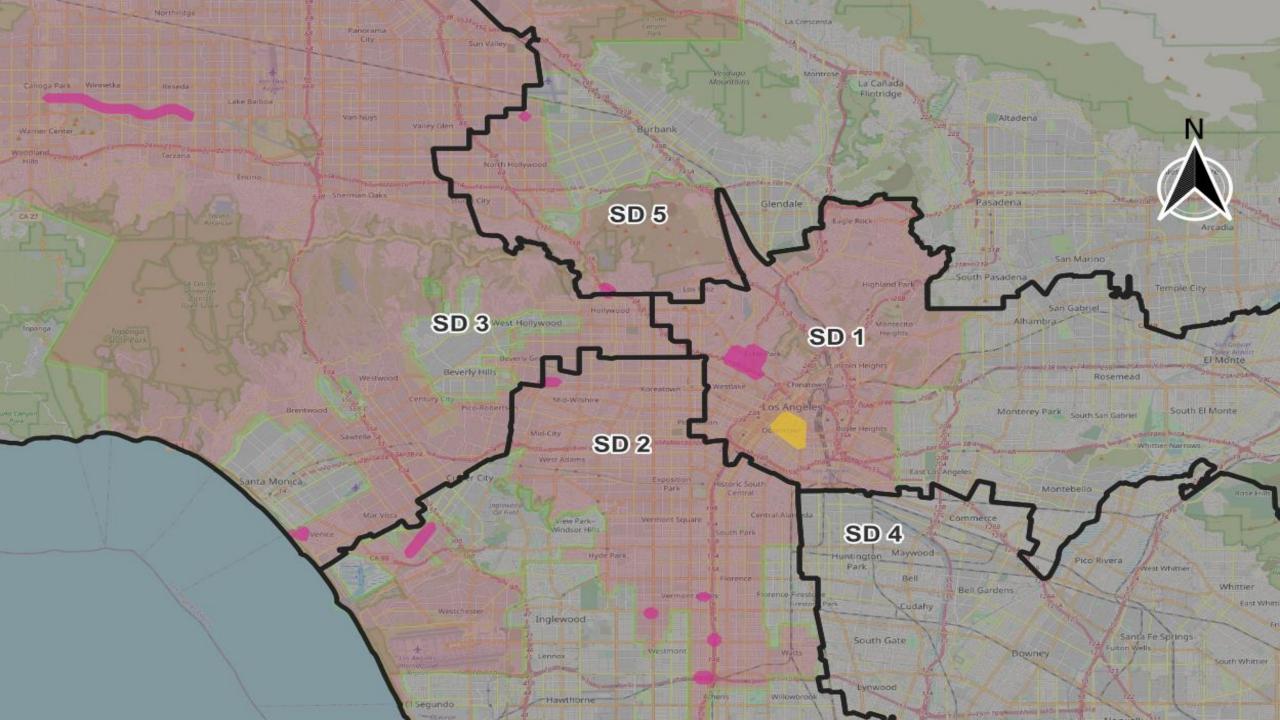
 December 21, 2022 – City of Los Angeles launches the Inside Safe Initiative: housing-focused solution to combating homelessness, coupled with immediate interim housing and linkages to permanent housing

• The success of Inside Safe is dependent on a strong and meaningful collaboration between the City and County

## City of LA 100 Day Update

- Inside Safe:
  - 13 operations completed
  - Total number of PEH brought inside 945\*

- Additional Housing Placements:
  - Interim Housing 1,336
  - Permanent Housing 615
  - Emergency Vouchers 883
  - VASH Vouchers 94





County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative



#### **Delegated Authority Update**

## **Delegated Authorities**

#### Delegated Authorities Approved By The LA County Board of Supervisors February 7, 2023 Board Motion

On February 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved significant increases in delegated authorities across the five below areas to our Chief Executive Officer and County departments to facilitate faster more nimble service implementation in response to the Emergency Declaration to advance the three PEH Missions.

- Hiring Authority
- Contracting Authority
- Purchasing Authority
- Funding/Grant Authority
- Acquisition and Leasing Authority



County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative

## Homeless Emergency Implementation Protocols - Hiring

## **Implementation Protocols - Hiring**

Hiring Authorities will allow for:

- Emergency/Rapid Hiring (Civil Service Rule 13.04)
- Recruitment and Retention Bonuses
- Special Step Placements
- Ordinance Position Authority
- New positions

## **Implementation Protocols - Hiring**

#### Implementation Protocols issued March 7, 2023

- Forms for each authority to be completed and submitted to: <u>HomelessEmergency@ceo.lacounty.gov</u>
- For emergency/rapid hiring requests, DHR will require:
  - Draft job announcement
  - Self-certification checklist
- ARDI has prepared a checklist and guidance for equitable recruitment and hiring practices.
- CEO Survey responses under review for nexus to PEH Missions
- Central Review Team consists of CEO (Homeless Initiative, Budget, Class/Comp, Employee Relations) and DHR



County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative

Homeless Emergency Implementation Protocols

Contracting and Purchasing

#### **Implementation Protocols – Contracting**

Contracting Authorities will allow for:

 New agreements or amendments without adhering to the County's Sole Source Policy or other competitive requirements.

Note: This does not waive the County's obligation to comply with competitive solicitation requirements from other entities (e.g. State and federal)

### **Implementation Protocols – Contracting**

#### Implementation Protocols issued March 14, 2023

- Forms for each authority to be completed and submitted to: <u>HomelessEmergency@ceo.lacounty.gov</u>
- Requests submitted prior to the issuance of the implementation protocols have been reviewed and approved
- Central Review Team consists of CEO Homeless Initiative and Budget and Operations Branches

### **Implementation Protocols – Purchasing**

Purchasing Authorities will allow for:

- Increase of County departments' delegated authority to \$50,000.
- Expedited acquisition of goods, services, equipment, and services without adhering to the requirements of the County's Sole Source
   Policy, Purchasing Policies, or other competitive procurement requirements.
- CEO approval of purchases that otherwise would have required Board approval.

Note: This does not waive the County's obligation to comply with competitive solicitation requirements from other entities (e.g. State and

#### **Implementation Protocols – Purchasing**

#### Implementation Protocols issued March 14, 2023

- Forms for each authority to be completed and submitted to: <u>HomelessEmergency@ceo.lacounty.gov</u>
- Central Review Team consists of CEO Homeless Initiative and Budget and Operations Branches



County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative

#### Homeless Emergency Implementation Actions –

**Next Steps** 

## **Next Steps**

- Finalization of forms and workflow for grants and real estate authority.
- Guidance on delegated authority requests for purchases up to \$50,000.
- CEO Report Back to Board on Implementation Protocols DUE MARCH 24, 2023
- Ongoing coordination meetings with program and administrative staff to facilitate implementation.

Thank you.





County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative



## LAHSA

**Los Angeles County Homless Deputies** 

Redesigning CES to Improve Project Based PSH Leasing LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY Marina Genchev – Acting Director Systems and Planning Kiara Payne – Associate Director Permanent Housing

Molly Rysman – Chief Program Officer

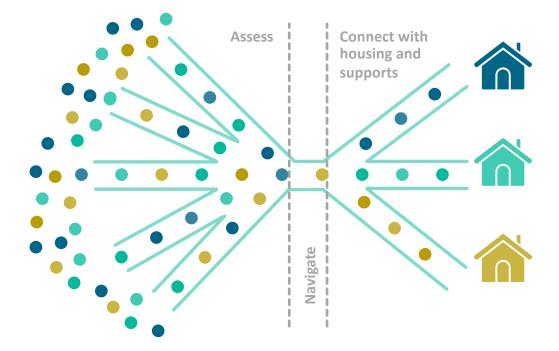
Thursday, March 23, 2023

#### Why was CES created?

CES was created to streamline access for people experiencing homelessness to limited housing resources



- Before CES, homeless service providers largely operated in silos with diverse program models and different program rules
- People experiencing homelessness had no clear front door for accessing services
- Those most in need of housing and services were left to navigate a complex system without support



- CES created a network of service providers working together across the county under a common framework
- CES increases transparency for how to access homeless services and housing resources
- CES relies on standardized assessment processes to understand housing and services needs, and works to connect people to the most appropriate resource to end their housing crisis

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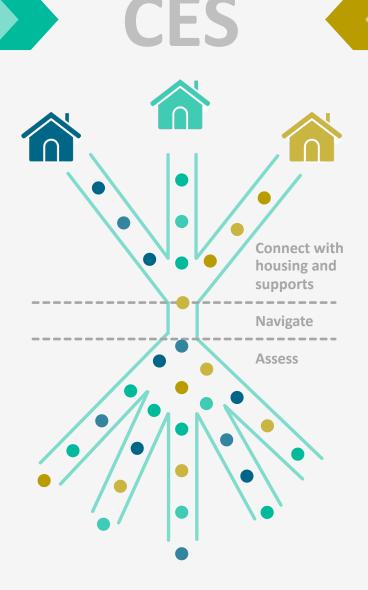
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#### WHAT CES IS

HUD requires all CoCs have a Coordinated Entry process governed by common policies and procedures

CES coordinates various housing and services models including Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Emergency Housing Vouchers, Interim Housing, Housing Navigation, Integrated Case Management Services, Access Centers, etc.

The VI-SPDAT is a CES triage tool that is currently used as part of the CES assessment process



CES does not increase available housing resources

WHAT CES IS NOT

CES does not govern voucher issuance or lease up processes

CES does not set PSH unit funding or who buildings are designed to serve

CES is not a triage tool or a data system

#### **CES Policy Council**

CES Policy Council makes policies for Access, Assessment, Prioritization, & Matching, with the goal of aligning resources for maximal impact for people experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles City and County

Jeffrey Proctor	Christina Miller	Arsine Isayan	Ann Sewill	Carielle Escalante
City of Long Beach	Hilton Foundation	City of Glendale	LA Housing Department	Rainbow Services
Carter Hewgley United Way, Home for Good	Chris Contreras Brilliant Corners	Caitlin Schaefer Homeless Youth Forum of LA	<b>Donyielle Holley</b> City of Pomona	Gail Winston Department of Children and Family Services
Gloria Johnson Lived Experience Advisory Board	Hazel Lopez The People Concern	Jennifer O'Reilly Jones City of Pasadena	James Ramirez A Community of Friends	Kimberly Roberts LA Family Housing
Lisa Hayes	Maria Funk	<b>John Kuhn</b>	<b>Miriam Aquino</b>	Michael Graff-Weisner
Dept. of Public Social Service	Department of Mental Health	Veteran Affairs	Housing Authority of LA City	Chrysalis
Myk'l Williams	Samuel Gonzalez	Sarah Mahin	Nathaniel VerGow	Vacant
LA County Development Authority	Hathaway-Sycamores	Dept. of Health Services		Non-CES Provider Seat

HUD requires that CoCs develop CES policies to assess people's needs and prioritize limited housing resources for those with most need. The VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) for Adults is the most widely used assessment tool in the country.

## Changes to the Use of the VI-SPDAT in CES

#### CESTTRR

In 2019, LAHSA partnered with United Way and the Hilton Foundation to launch the CES Triage Tool Research and Refinement project designed to use data and community input to refine the CES triage tool (VI-SPDAT).

CESSTTRR was launched as a result of findings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness that found wide-spread concern about racial bias in the VI-SDPAT

The CES Triage Tool Research and Refinement final report will come out this spring.

The VI-SPDAT includes a number of questions designed to assess the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness to help make decisions about how to prioritize resources. Questions include information on history of housing, experiences of homelessness, disabling conditions, experiences of violence, daily functioning, risks, wellness, etc.

Homeless service providers administer the VI-SPDAT survey and enter answers into HMIS, which produces a vulnerability score.

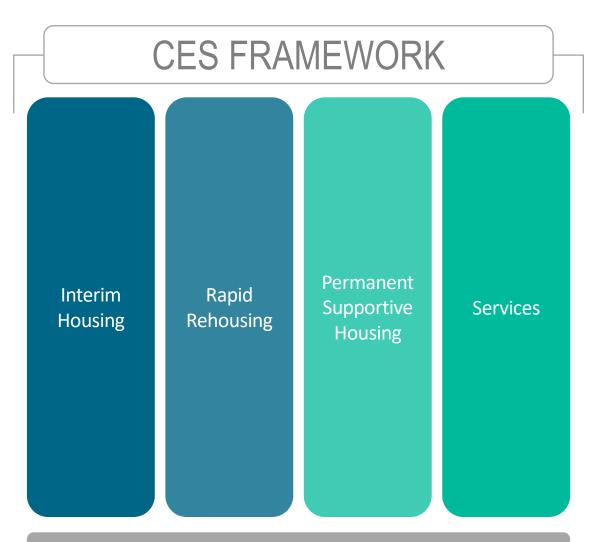
VI-SPDAT scores are only used for matching to PSH and are one of many factors used to prioritize people for resources.



#### **Project Based Permanent**

#### **Supportive Housing**

- Some PSH subsidies require referrals from CES such as Continuum of Care subsidies
- Some funders require resources be coordinated through CES: HUD programs including Emergency Housing Vouchers, some state programs, DMH funded housing programs, and DHS funded Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS)
- Other funding sources like Housing Choice Vouchers do not require use of CES, but may chose to use CES, as does LACDA
- PSH prioritization policies (i.e.: policies for how applicants are "matched" to PSH) are established by the CES Policy Council
- The current prioritization policy requires assessment using the VI-SPDAT and matching of people who meet unit and subsidy eligibility with the highest VI-SPDAT score

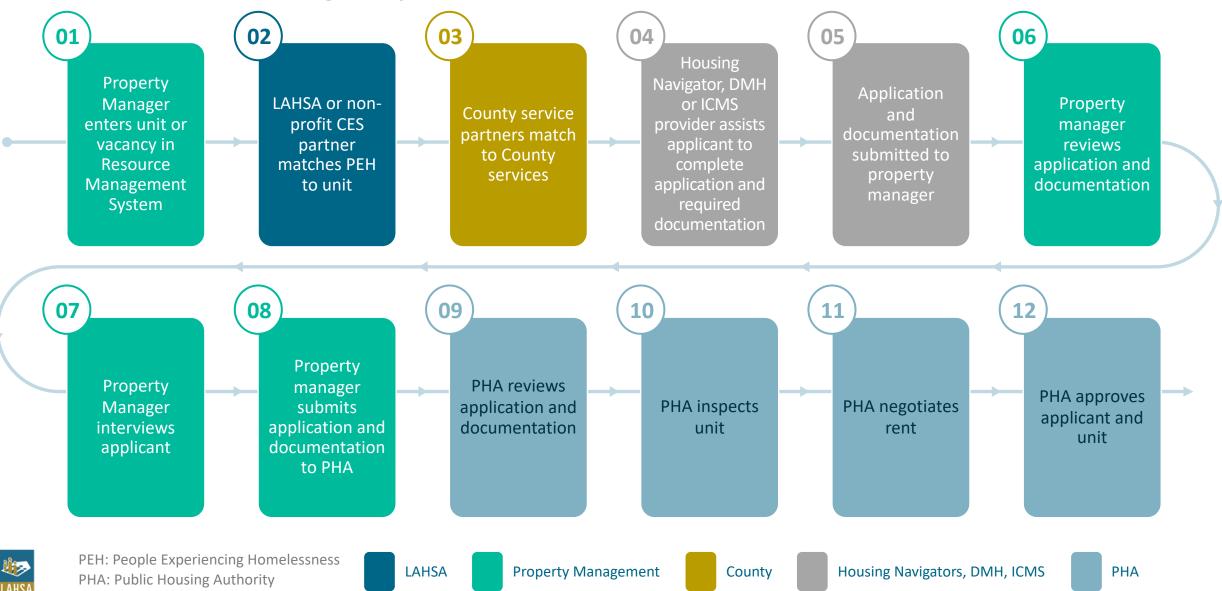


\*Traditional affordable housing resources do not utilize CES

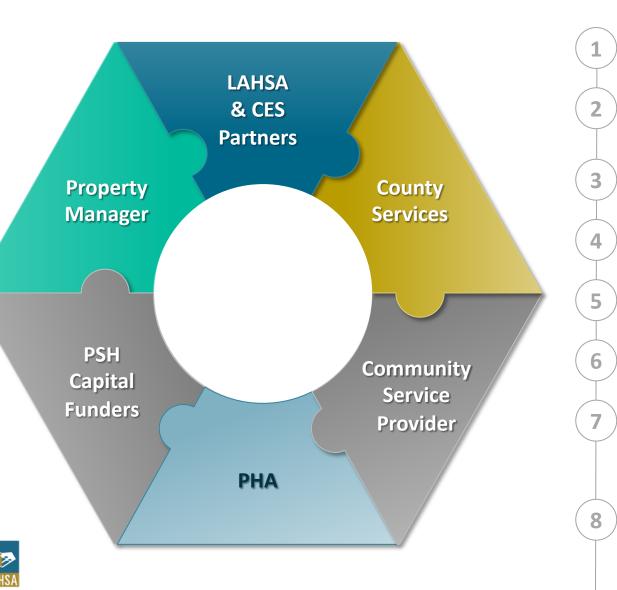


#### REDESIGNING CES

#### **Process for Leasing Project Based PSH**



#### **Challenges to Current PSH Leasing Processes**



Not enough resources to assist scale of homelessness in LA

CES Community Queue (the list of people awaiting Permanent Supportive Housing) has tens of thousands of names on it

Challenge of matching to layered eligibility requirements of unit, rental subsidy, and services

Many hand-offs between partners in the housing process

Extensive documentation required to utilize federal rental subsidies and capital funders

Provider capacity and staffing challenges

Some PSH units such as SROs and VASH are often declined by the applicants

Some PSH units are not structured to reflect the needs of people experiencing homelessness and/or have too many restrictions on individual units, i.e.: chronically homeless veterans over the age of 55 at 30% AMI or below, etc.

#### **Success Story: Brynhurst Apartment Lease Up**

Brynhurst Pilot	Key Takeaways
<ul> <li>Total PSH Units: 36</li> <li>All 2-Bedroom / Family Units</li> <li>Matched people from Outreach and Interim Housing programs within the SPA with 2-4 documents uploaded in HMIS</li> <li>Property Management (PM) &amp; Public Housing Authority (PHAs) did concurrent application reviews to save time</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>LAHSA facilitated weekly lease up calls</li> <li>In partnership with DHS, reduced ICMS match decline timeline from <b>30 days to 5 days</b></li> <li>Building leased up within <b>45 days</b></li> <li>HACLA on weekly lease up calls pivotal in helping keep applicants moving forward</li> </ul>
HACLA staff provided real time updates and expedited application review	

#### **CES Project-Based PSH Match to Move-In Pilot**

#### To ensure quicker CES Matches

- Matching people who are document ready in HMIS first
- Still matching to those with CES scores of 8/9 or above, based on population

To ensure matches to people homeless in the area

• Matching people who are enrolled in Outreach or Interim Housing programs in the area (LAHSA, DMH, DHS)



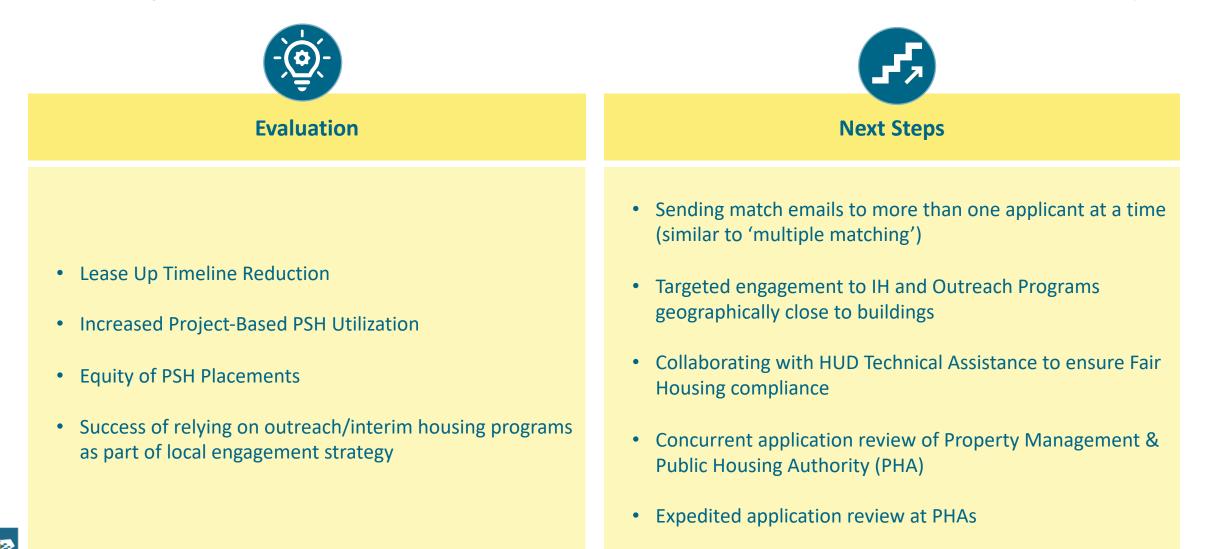
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To support a quicker lease up process

- LAHSA leading lease up calls to actively manage progress of all people through the PM & PHA application process + dedicated PHA staff on weekly lease up calls
- For DHS ICMS connected units, match decline timelines have been reduced from 30 to 14 days



#### **CES Project-Based PSH Match to Move-In Pilot: Evaluation & Next Steps**



**Other CES Pilots** 

#### Examples of recent pilots include:





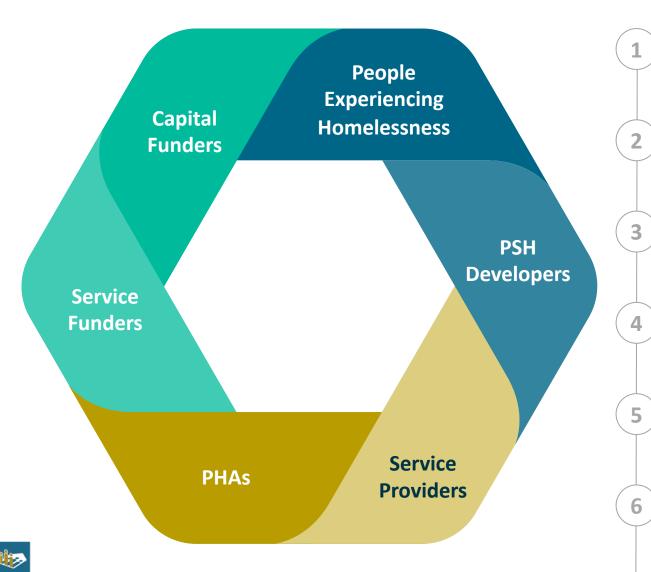
#### **Opportunities for further CES Improvements**

- HACLA and LACDA are applying to HUD to allow applicant selfcertifications
- Expand focus on document readiness and program enrollment for people with CES scores 8/9 or above
- LAHSA will pilot further refining using a preference for program enrollments with a focus on programs working with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness directly around PSH buildings including Inside Safe, outreach, and interim housing
- Differentiate PSH portfolio and policies (SROs, VASH, vacancies in existing PSH buildings, DMH units, FHSP units, etc.)
- Expand document-ready matching preferences
- Increase coordination on lease-up calls





#### **Redesigning CES for Success**



Gets people off the streets and into homes with urgency

Meets people where they are – no wrong door

Utilizes housing resources efficiently

Utilizes housing resources equitably

Allows all community partners to have agency and trust in the process

Meets the needs of capital, subsidy and services funders

LIFE

## Low Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) Program



### LIFE Program

- > The Low-Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) Program provides transportation assistance to lowincome individuals in Los Angeles County.
- > The LIFE program offers fare discounts that may be applied toward the purchase of passes on Metro or any LIFE participating transit agencies.
- > New LIFE Program participants get 90-day free rides
- > 20 free rides monthly





### Participating LIFE Transit Operators

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### New LIFE Enrollees get 90 Days FREE

# Tap into savings.

A little help can go a long way. So we've made it easier to enroll in Metro's LIFE Program. Sign up now and get 90 days of free rides.

Visit metro.net/life to get started.

Metro

Fare collection has resumed. When riding, please have your fare ready.

## Obtenga 90 días de viajes gratis.

Con un poco de ayuda, se ayuda mucho. Por eso, hemos facilitado la inscripción en el programa LIFE de Metro. Regístrese ahora y aproveche los ahorros.

Visite metro.net/life para comenzar.

Metro

La colección de tarifas se ha reanudado. Cuando viaja, por favor tenga lista su tarifa.



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### LIFE Program Income Eligibility

LIFE

To be eligible for the LIFE program, each patron must meet the household size and annual income requirements listed below:

Persons in household	Annual Income (not to exceed)
1	\$41,700
2	\$47,650
3	\$53,600
4	\$59,550
5	\$64,350
6	\$69,100



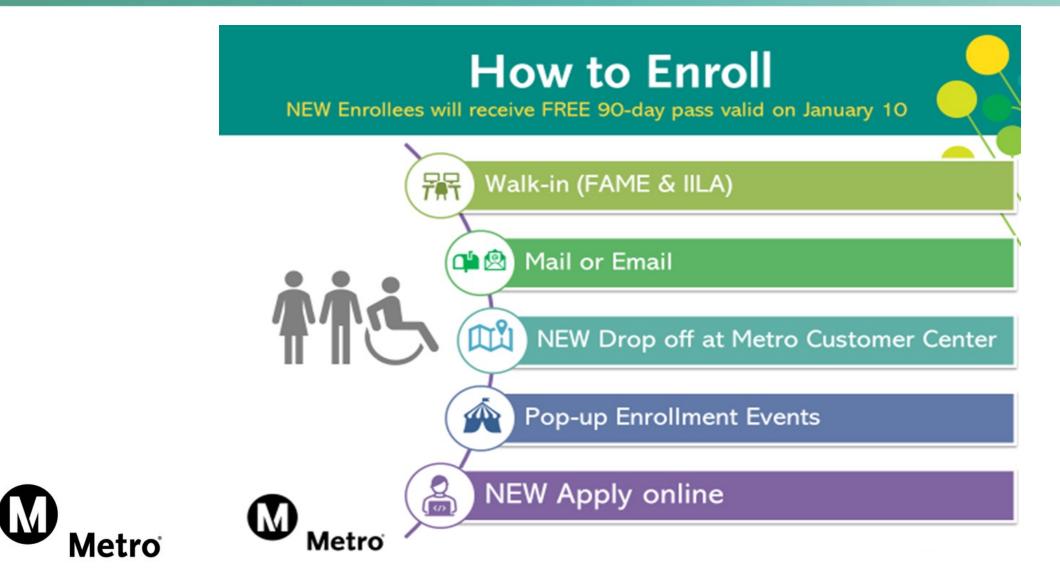
### **Existing LIFE Enrollee Discounts**





### How to Enroll





### Acceptable Photo ID's

Any form of photo ID will be accepted.

\*Proof of ID's must be legible and **NOT EXPIRED.** 

- > California ID/DL
- > U.S Passport
- > Student K-12
- > College/Vocational
- > Matricula Consular
- > U.S. Permanent Resident



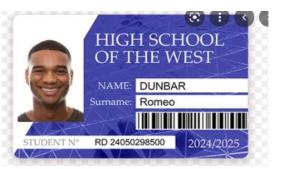












### Sample Valid TAP Cards

Below are samples of acceptable TAP Cards to use when enrolling for LIFE Benefits:

- > Regular Rider
- > Senior
- > Student K-12
- > College/Vocational
- > Disabled
- > Note: The applicant must provide a copy of the back of each TAP card to capture the TAP card number
- > A student between the ages of 5-17 MUST apply with a student TAP card





tap







### Sample Acceptable Proof of Income

#### Few samples of valid proof of income or a patron may self-certify

- > Paycheck stub
- > Medi-Cal Card
- > Tax Return

#### **Approved Benefit Letters**

- > EBT
- > Social Security
- > Unemployment
- > Notice of Action/Cash Aid
- > Free/Reduced School Lunch







### LIFE Limited



- > LIFE program also offers fare subsidies to Los Angeles County residents who are experiencing homelessness, have been discharged from the hospital, have been released from incarceration, a domestic violence victim, and seniors coming from selected Senior facilities.
- > Metro partners with agencies that assist the above-mentioned individuals that are first approved by a LIFE Administrator.
- > LIFE Limited offers the following subsidies:
  - > \$11.00 Taxi Coupon
  - > Variable Value Voucher (VVV)
  - > 4-Regional Ride Ticket



### Outreach







### Department of Public Social Services

#### **DPSS Partnership**

- > 4 Pilot Sites
  - > Metro Family (Central LA)
  - > Rancho Park (West LA)
  - > Belvedere (East LA)
  - > Glendale
- > 25 offices anticipated to be added by end of fiscal year

#### **New Offices**

- East Valley/Santa Clarita
- Pasadena/San
   Fernando
- West Valley
- North Division II
- Civic Center
- Medi-CAL LTC
- Medi-CAL
  - Application Center •
- Metro North
- Wilshire
- El Monte
- Metro Special

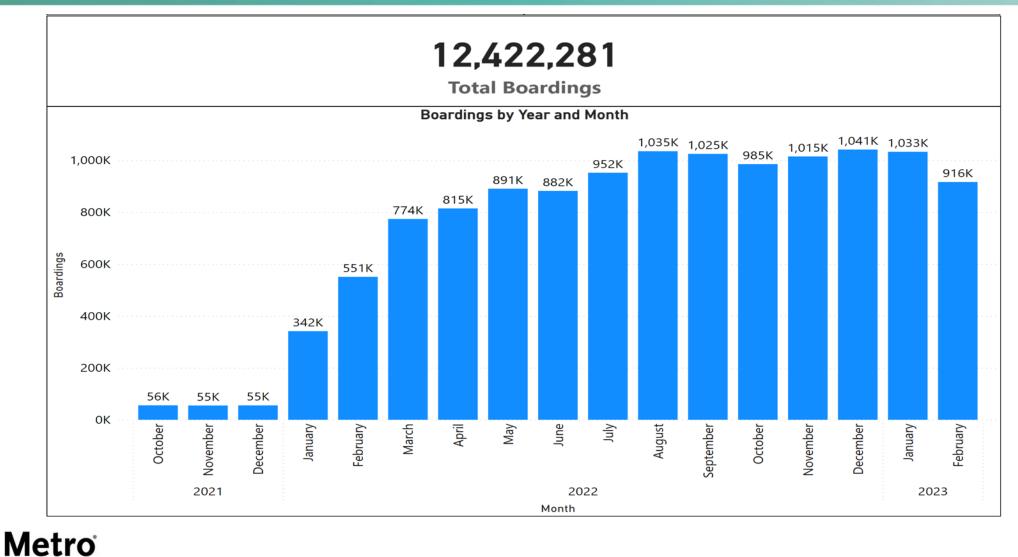
- Pomona
- San Gabriel Valley
- Cudahy
- Florence
- Hawthorne
- Metro East/Lincoln Heights
- Norwalk
- Compton
- Paramount
- South Central
- South Family
- South Special
- Southwest Family
- Southwest Special



### LIFE Boardings

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### Contact Us Today!



#### **LA Metro**

- > Michael Cortez, Director (Interim)
- > (213) 418-3423
- > cortezmic@metro.net

#### **FAME Assistance Corporation (FAC):**

- > 1968 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90018
- > (323) 870-8567
- > LIFEinfo@famecorporations.org
- > FAME's service areas are: Antelope Valley, Central Los Angeles, Gateway Cities, San Fernando Valley, South Bay, Westside Cities and Santa Clarita Valley located in the Northwestern and Southwestern regions.

#### International Institute of Los Angeles (IILA):

- > 9060 Telstar Ave. Suite 223
- > El Monte Ca 91731
- > (818) 244-2550
- > LIFEinfo@iilosangeles.org
- > IILA's service areas are: Gateway Cities and San Gabriel Valley located in the Southeastern region.







## **THANK YOU**





DPSS Temporary Homeless Assistance Program for Victims of Domestic Violence

Stephanie Whack Laura-Elena Garza

### Table of Contents

- I. Temporary Homeless Assistance Program
- II. Current landscape for
  - a. Families never enrolled in CalWORKs
  - b. Families currently enrolled in CalWORKs
- III. Necessary change to the current system

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)

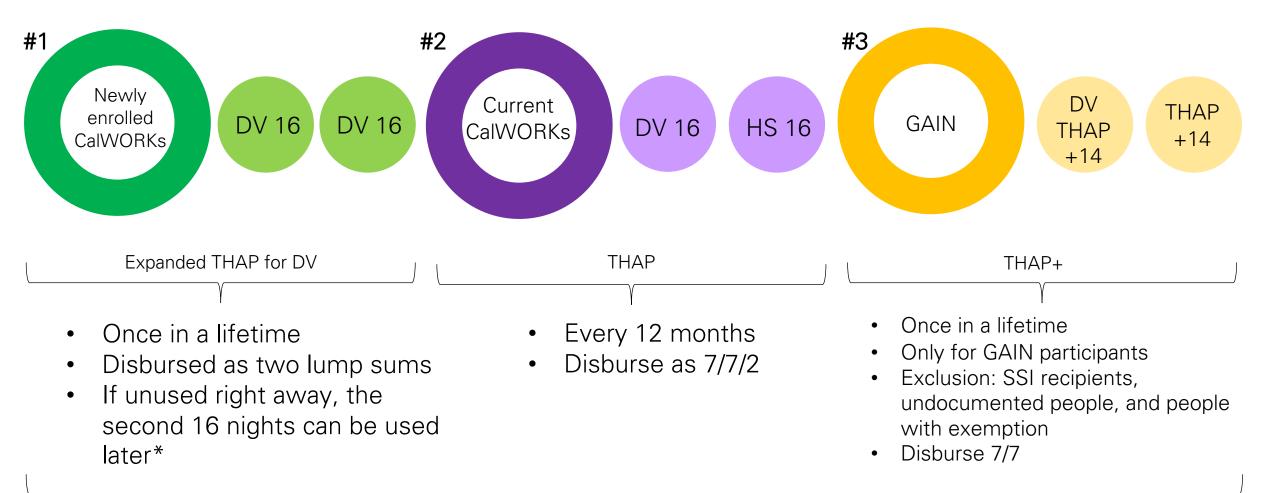
CalWORKs is a public assistance program that provides cash aid and services to eligible families that have a child(ren) in the home.

If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.

Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP) THAP provides temporary shelter payments to homeless CalWORKs families while they are looking for permanent housing

CalWORKs families who are fleeing domestic violence can access specific resources

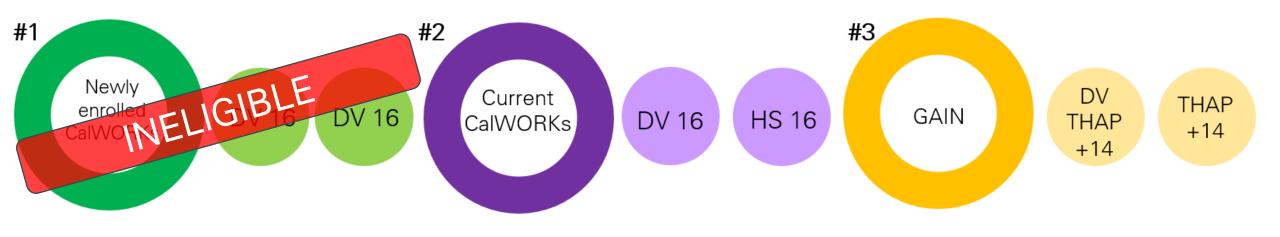
#### Current landscape Family never enrolled in CalWORKs



Total of 92 motel nights or roughly three months

- For commercial establishment
- For family and friends who provide the sleeping accommodation

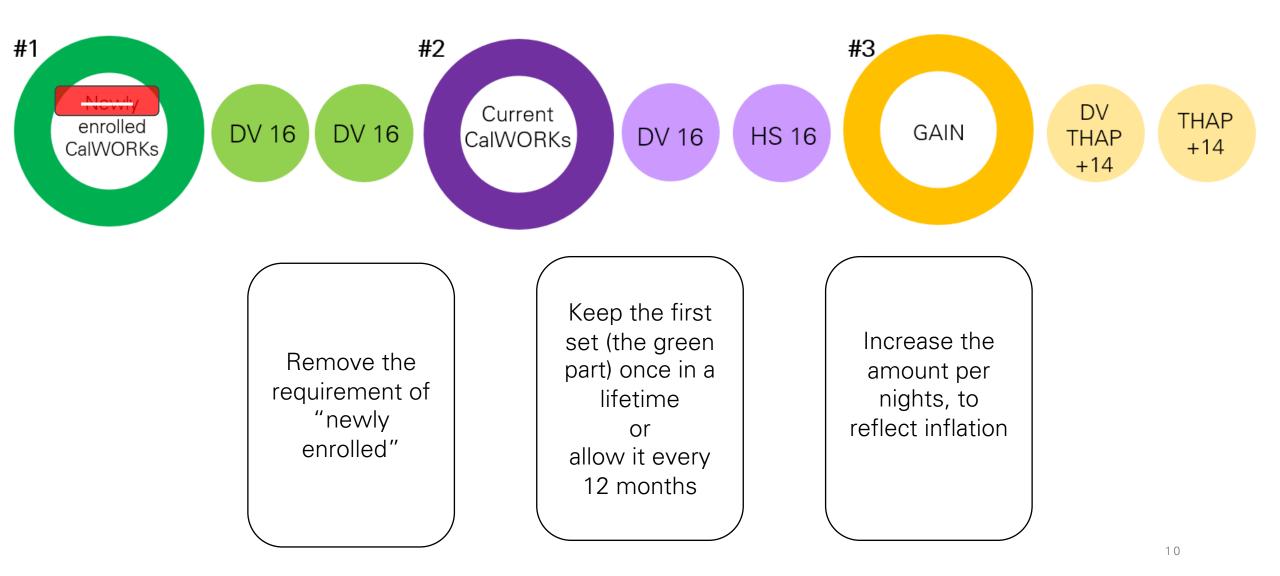
### Current landscape Family currently enrolled in CalWORKs



- Many families have been recipients of CalWORKs and the "newly enrolled" ruling excludes a lot
  of people
  - Inability to use 32 nights of motel voucher
- DPSS provide :
  - The rate of 85\$/nights for a household of 4 people
  - Over 4 people, an extra 15\$/person with the maximum of 145\$ per night

# Necessary change to the current system

## What is being asked?



Faster for fleeing families to get to safety in a motel than find space in a confidential shelter

Recipients can use it with family and friends, who may charge a lower fee per night, and therefore stretch the money for a longer stay

Alleviates pressure from DV shelters, which do not have enough availability

Impactful Change

Maximizes and leverages resources

### **Questions or Comments**

### Call to action

#### Thank you

Stephanie Whack

DV Regional Coordinator SPA 5

St Joseph Center

swhack@stjosephctr.org

Laura-Elena Garza

DV Regional Coordinator SPA 7

The Whole Child

lgarza@thewholechild.org