

HOMELESS POLICY DEPUTIES MEETING AGENDA

MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION

Date: Thursday, October 24th, 2024
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St.,
Room 374-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

For members of the public who wish to join virtually or over the phone, please see below:

Microsoft Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Teleconference Number: [+1 323-776-6996,,67258140#](#)

For Spanish interpretation, members of the public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD
I.	Welcome and Introductions	Amy Perkins, Third District
II.	Overview of DPSS Homeless Programs and System Integration	Luther Evans Jr., Division Chief – CalWORKs Program, DPSS Noemi Faure, Human Services Administrator III – CalWORKs Program, DPSS Lisa Hayes, Human Services Administrator III – Homeless Services Section, DPSS Shawn Amiel, Division Chief – General Relief and CalFresh Program Division, DPSS
III.	The Road to Ending Veteran Homelessness	Jim Zenner, LCSW, Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Nareh Alexani, Supervisor of Veterans Claims, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
IV.	Items Recommended for Future Discussion	
V.	Public Comment*	

* Public Comment is limited to one minute. Those joining virtually interested in speaking should raise their hand on Microsoft Teams and unmute once called upon by the Chair. Those on their phones should press *5 to raise their hand and *6 to unmute.

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2024

DPSS HOMELESS PROGRAMS



County of Los Angeles
dpss
 DEPARTMENT OF
 PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

DPSS HOMELESS PROGRAMS

General Relief



GR Housing Rental Subsidy

Provides rental subsidy up to \$475 per month for one person and up to \$950 for couples.



GR Move-In-Assistance Funds

Provides up to \$500 moving expense which can be used for: security deposit, move-in cost, utility deposit/turn on fees, overdue storage facility fees, refrigerator and/or stove, and/or any other required miscellaneous expenses.

CalWORKs

Temporary Homeless Assistance (HA)

14 calendar days of temporary shelter payments to stay in a hotel/motel, with friends/family.
 An eligible family may receive \$85 - \$145 per day, depending on the family size.



Permanent Housing Assistance

Covers security deposit costs including the last month's rent and any legal payment, fee, deposit or charge that is required to secure permanent housing. It also covers utility deposits (turn-on fees) required for gas, electricity and/or water.



Permanent HA Arrears

Provides a CalWORKs family who is at-risk of homelessness with a payment to cover up to two months of back due rent when facing an eviction.



- Available once every 12 months
- Exception when homelessness is due to: DV; prior residence uninhabitable; a medical or mental illness; or disaster.

CalWORKs | Welfare-to-Work



Temporary Homeless Assistance Program +14 (THAP+14)

14 days of temporary shelter payments to stay in a hotel/motel.
 An eligible family may receive \$85 - \$145 per day, depending on the family size.



Moving Assistance

Provides up to \$2,500 to pay for move-in costs required by a landlord as a condition of occupancy; utility turn-on fees required; moving costs; and the purchase of a stove and/or refrigerator.



EA Eviction Prevention

Provides up to \$5,000 to help pay rent and/or utilities for up to multiple months in arrears.



4-Month Rental Assistance

Provides family living in non-subsidized permanent housing with a rental subsidy (up to \$500) for four consecutive months.

- Available only for CalWORKs families participating in WtW.
- Once in a lifetime (some exemptions exist).

GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM



General Relief (GR) is a County-funded program that provides cash aid to indigent adults, and children in certain special circumstances who are ineligible for Federal or State programs.

- As of September 2024, the GR caseload consisted of 122,755 cases, with 84,205 (≈69%) participants reporting to be homeless.



3 of 16

GENERAL RELIEF HOUSING SUBSIDY AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The GR Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program assists eligible GR participants who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of becoming homeless by providing a monthly rental subsidy.

- The subsidy is a maximum of \$475/month for one person and a maximum of \$950 for couples. The GR participant is also required to contribute \$100 from their monthly GR grant towards their rent.
- The \$475 subsidy plus the \$100 contribution, for a total of \$575 monthly for a single person or \$1,150 monthly for a couple case, is paid directly to the landlord.
- Qualified program participants may also receive a once-in-a-lifetime move in assistance payment of up to \$500 to cover costs associated with moving into housing.



4 of 16

GENERAL RELIEF HOUSING SUBSIDY AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



As of September 2024, the program is providing rental subsidies to 1,793 GR participants.

For FY 2024-25, the program received funding from the following sources:

- Measure H - \$10.415M
- One-Time NCC Savings - \$770K
- Net County Cost - \$5.467M



5 of 16

CALWORKS - STATE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- ❑ **Temporary Homeless Assistance** - Provides homeless CalWORKs families \$85-\$145 (depends on the Assistance Unit [AU] size) a night for 16 days of temporary shelter payments to stay in a hotel/motel, commercial establishment, enter into a shared housing agreement, or enter into a short-term lease or sublease. [Available once every 12 months with exceptions.](#)
- ❑ **Expanded Temporary Homeless Assistance** - Provides CalWORKs applicants who provide a sworn statement of past or present domestic violence and who are fleeing their abuser with up to two 16-day payments equaling a total of 32 days of Temporary HA shelter. If the applicant only used the first 16-day issuance, the second 16-day Temporary HA lump-sum issuance is available in another instance of homelessness, months or even years later, provided the CalWORKs applicant meets all eligibility requirements. [Available once-in-a lifetime.](#)
- ❑ **Permanent Homeless Assistance** - Provides CalWORKs families experiencing homelessness with assistance to pay for security deposit costs and utility turn-on fees. [Available once every 12 months with exceptions.](#)
- ❑ **Permanent Homeless Assistance Arrearages** - Provides CalWORKs families at-risk of homelessness with assistance to pay up to two months of past due rent, to prevent an eviction. [Available once every 12 months with exceptions.](#)



6 of 16

CALWORKS - COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- ❑ **Temporary Homeless Assistance+ 14** – Provides a homeless CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work (WtW) family who has exhausted or is ineligible to the State’s Temporary HA Program up to 14 days of temporary shelter payments. The daily rate is \$85-\$145 per day, depending on the AU size. [Available once-in-a-lifetime with exceptions.](#)
- ❑ **Moving Assistance** – Provides CalWORKs WtW families with assistance to pay for moving costs, including security deposit, truck rental, utility turn-on fees, and refrigerator and/or stove. Maximum payment for the Moving Assistance Program is \$2,500. [Available once-in-a-lifetime with exceptions.](#)
- ❑ **Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction** - Provides CalWORKs WtW families at-risk of homelessness with assistance to pay past due rent and/or utilities to prevent an eviction. Note: The request can include multiple months of past due rent and/or utilities. Maximum payment is \$5,000 for eligible family. [Available once-in-a-lifetime, no exceptions.](#)
- ❑ **4-Month Rental Assistance Program** - Provides formerly homeless or at-risk of homelessness WtW families with a rental subsidy for up to four months (eight months if the family is enrolled in Family Stabilization), after securing permanent housing. [Available once-in-a-lifetime, no exceptions.](#)



7 of 16

CALWORKS PROGRAM – CASELOAD AND HOMELESS FAMILIES

- As of September 2024, the CalWORKs caseload consisted of 118,092 cases, with 20,701 (≈18%) families reporting to be homeless.



8 of 16

CALWORKS HOMELESS AND AT-RISK FAMILIES POPULATION

CalWORKs Homeless and At-Risk Families Served FY Data (FYs 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24)						
Fiscal Year	State Homeless Assistance Programs		Los Angeles County Supplemental Homeless Programs			
	Temporary Homeless Assistance Program Cases/Families*	Permanent Homeless Assistance Program Cases/Families*	Temporary Homeless Assistance Program + 14 Cases/Families*	Moving Assistance Program Cases/Families*	Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction Program Cases/Families*	4-Month Rental Assistance Program Cases/Families
2018-2019	23,796	2,380	4,158	602	852	380
2019-2020	21,965	2,549	3,735	521	757	352
2020-2021	15,975	834	1,893	142	284	95
2021-2022	28,286	1,373	2,644	207	438	103
2022-2023	38,375	3,163	4,787	580	1,494	373
2023 - 2024	39,960	3,998	3,799	478	1,709	543
Totals	99,462	7,837	10,617	1,192	3,358	941

*Case counts are unduplicated per month, thus duplicate case counts may exist within the yearly counts.

HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Housing Support Program is administered by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) through the LAHSA/DPSS Contract for the Coordinated Entry System for Families (CESF). The CESF consists of eight (8) Service Planning Areas (SPAs) throughout Los Angeles County. LAHSA subcontracts with homeless providers and Family Solutions Centers (FSCs) to provide homeless services to CalWORKs homeless families enrolled in the CESF which includes the following:

Programs	Services Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention <p>Population: CalWORKs families at-risk of homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case management; Rental arrears and subsidies; Utility arrears and deposits; Cleaning fees; Transportation (metro cards); Landlord incentive fees (not to exceed the cost of one month's rent); and Other move in costs (security/utility deposits) associated with identifying a new unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis Housing Rapid Rehousing <p>Population: CalWORKs families experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>Financial assistance and housing-related wrap-around supportive services, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental assistance, Housing navigation, Case management, Temporary/crisis housing, Security deposits, Utility payments, and Moving costs.

CALFRESH PROGRAM



CalFresh, also known as “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)”, is a federal program that promotes and safeguards the health and well-being of low income individuals & households by increasing their food purchasing power as well as raising their levels of nutrition. CalFresh serves to be a first line of defense against hunger.



11 of 16

CALFRESH PROGRAM



Homeless Standard Shelter Allowance (HSSA)

- A deduction available to CalFresh homeless households who are not receiving free shelter for the entire month and incur or expect to incur shelter expenses.
- Homeless households are eligible to the HSSA deduction without providing verification of the shelter costs.
- Higher shelter costs may be claimed and used if verification is provided by the homeless household.



Note: Homeless households who are using the HSSA are not entitled to a Standard Utility Allowance deduction because a utility component is already included in the homeless shelter deduction.

12 of 16

CALFRESH PROGRAM



Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)

- ❑ Allows elderly (age 60 & above), disabled, and/or **homeless** households and their spouse to use CalFresh benefits to purchase prepared food from participating restaurants. Currently, CalFresh program has over 2,100 restaurants participating in RMP within Los Angeles County.
- ❑ CalFresh households that meet the definition of homeless are automatically enrolled in RMP, commonly known as *"hot meals"*, if eligible for CalFresh benefits.



13 of 16

HOMELESS SERVICES SECTION



The Homeless Services Section (HSS) represents the Department in the Homeless and Housing communities. The section engages DPSS staff to coordinate events and/or activities with other County Departments and community agencies as it relates to homeless and at-risk of homeless populations, as well as housing request. The HSS also works with the CEO-HI to convey Departmental priorities.



14 of 16

HOMELESS SERVICES SECTION



The HSS coordinates DPSS staff's participation at all Service Connect events for Inside Safe and Pathway Home to provide the following services:

- Applications for CalFresh, General Relief, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs;
- Issuance of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cards and Benefit Identification Cards;
- DMV Reduced fee identification waivers;
- Assistance with periodic reports, such as SAR 7 and renewals;
- Issuance of Verification of Benefits letters; and
- General inquiries and case status.



15 of 16

QUESTIONS

Questions?



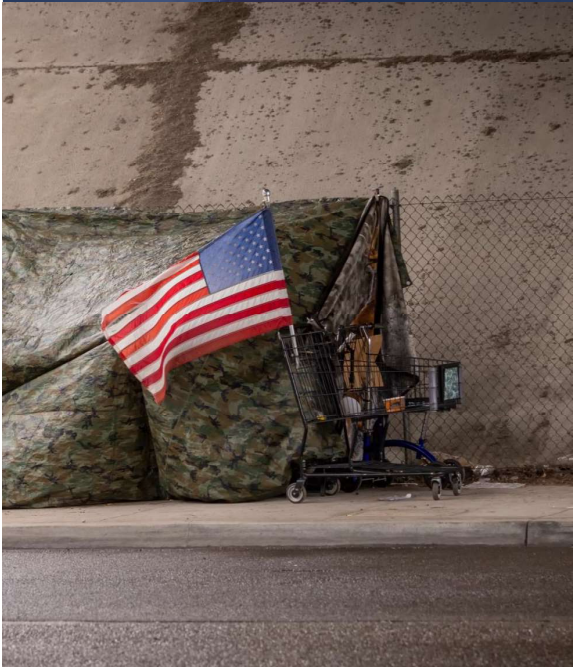
16 of 16



MISSION & VISION

- **MISSION:** Maximize the full potential of the Los Angeles County to enhance the well-being of ALL veterans, service members, their dependents, and their caregivers through innovation, partnerships, and world-class service.
- **VISION:** To deliver seamless services and outreach in partnership with government and community-based partners so that any person who served or is currently serving our country in any capacity, alongside their family and caregivers, have access to the resources necessary to thrive.

THE SITUATION



- **Over 2900 Veterans experiencing homelessness**
- Homeless services division established
 - Help facilitate case conferences
 - Screen all veterans for benefit eligibility
- LASD HOST and VMET and DMH participate regularly
- 38 RPSS leased units
- Great coordination and de-duplication of services
- Healthy collaborative culture



THE PROBLEM



- Unused tenant-based vouchers
- Lack of referrals from VA to PHAs
- Inadequate support from CoC
- Veterans falling back into homelessness for a variety of reasons
- Case conferencing is not efficient
- VA does not have authority to spend on RPSS or master leasing and transportation



THE SOLUTION



- Designated Service Provider - allows PHAs to refer to themselves
- Currently working with LACDA to apply for DSP status
- 200 beds of RPSS a year for 3 years
- Housing navigation
- Ongoing advocacy from LAIR and MVA to increase VA spending flexibility
- Fund what is needed to get us moving down the path, advocate to recuperate allowable costs from VA along the way
- Continue to refine case conferencing
- PHAs standardize their categorization of reasons for discharge



THE DSP PROCESS



- Receive referral from case conference
- Co-enroll in MVA housing navigation and HUD VASH
- Housing navigation works on document readiness, voucher issuance, identify housing
- VA provides any needed healthcare services
- When Veteran goes to sign their lease, VA case management begins
- DSP housing navigation is limited to six months



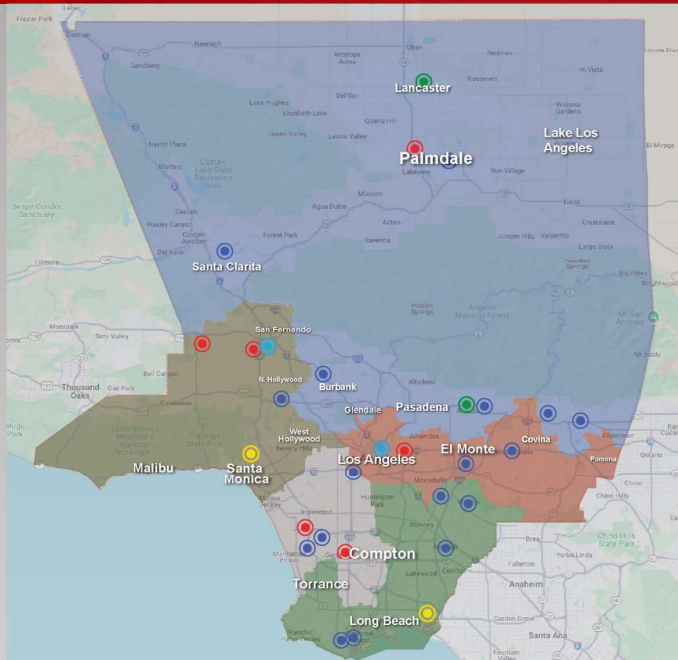
OUTCOMES



- House 1000 veterans a year
- Each year we put an additional \$12-\$15 million of federal subsidy from vouchers into housing veterans
- Demonstrate that, if properly resourced, eliminating homelessness is possible for all



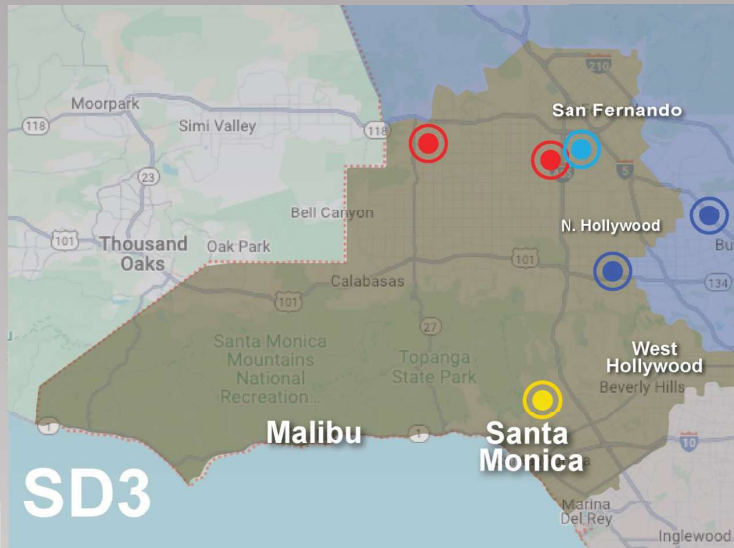
MVA AFTERCARE



- MVA Veteran Access Point / VPAN
- Vet Centers
- VA Hospitals
- CBOCs
- Ambulatory Care Centers



MVA AFTERCARE



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MEASURE H

CURRENT FUNDING

- **\$1.908M Level Funding**
 - Coordinate - \$249,811
 - Connect - \$305,398
 - Stabilize - \$1,352,991

THANK YOU!



 **Military ★
Veterans Affairs**
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES