



Volume 4, Dec. 2024

# Skid Row Action Plan Newsletter

*Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Update*



*Chodra C. checks into The Cecil Triage Safe Landing Center*

## What's Happening with the Skid Row Action Plan (SRAP)?

2024 has been a big year for SRAP implementation! There is exciting progress being made in all of the recommendation areas of Permanent Housing, Interim Housing, Safe Services, Harm Reduction, Healthcare and Economic Opportunity.

### Permanent Housing

Ensuring community participation and engagement is a very important component of the Skid Row Action Plan. During the plan creation and design, there was a Resident Advisory Council to ensure the voices of the community were being represented. Now that SRAP is in implementation, the community goal has been to create Resident Councils to center community voice and ensure positive outcomes are achieved in permanent housing and each of the SRAP recommendation areas. These councils will be focused on the key recommendation areas of the SRAP plan.

The SRAP Permanent Housing Resident Council was selected in November, and the council is getting underway. United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), which is helping create these councils, has spent the last few months conducting community engagement to select the council members. This effort included person-to-person outreach at residential properties in Skid Row, community meetings, three community information sessions and one-on-one interviews.





## Interim Housing

### Downtown Los Angeles Hotel

The DTLA Hotel offers interim housing beds for Skid Row residents who need low-barrier, single room interim housing. DTLA started taking referrals for new participants on August 1st. Participants can be referred in via the Skid Row Air Traffic Control/Skid Row Access Center team, utilizing the universal interim housing application. Please reach out to [srcihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:srcihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov) with any questions, or if you need a copy of the interim housing application.



# The Cecil Triage – Safe Landing



*Denise W. checks in on her client at The Cecil Triage Safe Landing Program*

The Cecil Triage - Safe Landing program launched in partnership with JWCH on February 5th, 2024. The program provides low barrier and immediate access to services, 24 hours a day/ 7 days per week, to single adults experiencing homelessness in Skid Row. The site can host up to 25 participants in triage recliners and has case management and clinical support. The goal is to quickly link people to interim housing that meets their needs. While in triage, participants are also offered medical services through a collaboration with the JWCH Mobile Clinic where they can receive support in arranging outpatient primary care or specialist appointments and testing services.

## Skid Row Access Center (Air Traffic Control)

**Address: 601 Maple St, (corner of 6th and Maple, across from STAR Clinic)**

**Hours: 8am-4:30pm, Monday - Friday**



*Malik B. answers questions about housing at the Skid Row Access Center*

The Skid Row Access Center Air Traffic Control (ATC) is helping improve access to interim housing, with rapid referrals (same day when possible) and placement into interim housing that best meets the person's needs. The access center, which launched in March, was developed with the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The center was created in response to community recommendations during the SRAP creation and implementation process. The center is available to our Skid Row outreach partners and stakeholders to consult, triage, and coordinate placements exclusively for people experiencing homelessness in the Skid Row community.

# Harm Reduction

In partnership with the Worker Education & Resource Center (WERC), the Department of Health Services - Harm Reduction Division offers a workforce development program that focuses on people with lived experience. The program trains people to be harm reduction specialists and helps them get jobs in harm reduction jobs across the county. By incorporating their unique insights and shared experiences, the program empowers job seekers and makes services more effective. Peer-driven services shaped by individuals with lived experience help ensure a more empathetic positions and a responsive approach to addressing the needs of the community. The most recent job seeker training cohort of 15 people with connections to the Skid Row community was held at the Midnight Mission.

The Harm Reduction Division also has implemented a new strategy for naloxone (Narcan) distribution that increases the availability of naloxone in the Skid Row community. Harm Reduction Division partnered with Housing for Health, CCM Pit Stops and five of the Skid Row community markets to make naloxone available to the community 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. The Harm Reduction Division and the Mayor's Office of Homelessness and Community Health also have combined efforts to increase naloxone availability by distributing naloxone through the Skid Row Climate Stations and Skid Row Clean Teams.

*Naloxone is available 24 hours at the following locations:*

AK Market	909 E. 7th street
AK Market	801 E. 7th street
Brothers Market	5th and Wall Street
Apple Market	600 E. 7TH Street
The Smoke Shop	5th and Wall Street
Pit Stop	545 San Pedro
Pit Stop	5th and San Pedro
Pit Stop	501 San Julian
Pit Stop	5th and Los Angeles
Pit Stop	5th and Hill
Climate Stations	5th & Maple
Climate Stations	San Pedro between 6th & 7th
Climate Stations	Towne between 5th & 6th

# Economic Opportunities

Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles continue to partner to expand economic opportunities in Skid Row. The County Department of Economic Opportunity and the City Economic and Workforce Development Department are working to expand programs including LA RISE, the Entrepreneurship Academies, Careers for a Cause, and as well as other opportunities.



## Health Hub Campus Update



*Roy S. at the Health Hub Construction Site on Crocker St.*

The Skid Row community has been sharing their ideas for what is temporarily being called the Health Hub Campus. Community members submitted ideas for possible names and those names were voted on at a SRAP community meeting. The top two names were selected by the community and were sent to Supervisor Solis, who will select the final name for the campus. A prize will be awarded to the creator of the name.

Construction is almost complete on the first two phases of the campus. 444 S. Crocker St. will be the location for the first enriched residential care home in Skid Row. Enriched residential care sites provide permanent housing combined with extra support for people who need extra assistance to live in the community. That support includes three meals a day, cleaning services, medication management, and variety of clinical and wellness support programs. 444 S. Crocker St. will be operated by JWCH Institute and provide a home for 48 people.

Nearby will be the location for the Safe Services space and the Harm Reduction Health Hub. The Safe Services Space is designed based on the community recommendations in the SRAP Implementation report. It will be a space by the community for the community and will provide basic needs amenities that include showers, bathrooms, laundry and short-term spaces for belongings while accessing the site. The site will be operated by community ambassadors and include case management to support people on their housing and wellness journey. The space will be home to a wide variety of arts, community building, spirituality and wellness activities. The Harm Reduction Health Hub is also one of the core recommendations from the SRAP. The Health Hub will include observation beds where community members can stay post-overdose reversal or simply as a place to rest. Medical, legal, DPSS, and DMV services will also be available on site. The site will include a drop-in center, case management services and a methadone program.

Three Skid Row non-profits have been selected to operate different components of the Health Hub and will be announced once the contracts are fully executed. We are currently anticipating an early 2025 start date for all of the programs located on the first two phases of the campus.

# The Skid Row Action Plan Training and Support Team



The Skid Row Action Plan Training and Support Team was created to provide support to interim housing sites that serve Skid Row to reduce interim housing exits back to unsheltered homelessness. The team was developed in response to community recommendations from SRAP. The SRAP Training and Support Team is currently providing in-person training and technical assistance to 13 sites that serve people who are from Skid Row with the aim to improve participant's experiences and to ensure that they move from interim housing into permanent housing. This is done using an individualized hands-on approach to building capacity for interim housing providers through strategies that include assessing, educating, planning, problem solving, and providing feedback. The most important aspect is consistent collaboration with the staff at interim housing programs, including security, overnight staff, case managers, intake coordinators, clinicians, and leadership.

## CBEST

The Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST) is a Department of Health Services program, comprised of a dedicated team of benefits advocates, clinicians, and legal partners that assist individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness to apply for disability programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), Social Security Early/Full Retirement Benefits and Social Security Survivor Benefits. To be eligible for CBEST, individuals must meet the following program eligibility requirements: LA County Resident, US Citizen or documented/qualified immigrant, have a disability that prevents them from work for at least 12 months and have less than \$2,000 in assets and resources. Intakes are completed in-person, over the phone, or virtually, at the client's request. Individuals can refer potential clients by submitting the CBEST referral to [cbestreferral@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:cbestreferral@dhs.lacounty.gov) or by fax to (213) 482-3395.

## Encampment Resolution Fund Outcomes

Los Angeles County has started the second year of the State of California Encampment Resolution Fund Round 2 grant, a three-year, \$60 million dollar state grant devoted specifically to serving unsheltered individuals living in the Skid Row community. Community providers are working closely together to get thousands of people in Skid Row into interim and permanent housing. For the first 15 months of the grant, July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, the following outcomes were achieved:

**8,757 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness received a service from an outreach team, an access center, or a health clinic**

**2,204 of those individuals moved from being unsheltered into interim housing**

**1,273 people who had been unsheltered in Skid Row were permanently housed**