



Volume 3, Sept 2024

Skid Row Action Plan Newsletter

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Update



What's Happening with the Skid Row Action Plan?

This is an exciting year for the Skid Row Action Plan (SRAP). We are taking action on all six of the recommendation areas of the plan.

Permanent Housing

United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP) will be supporting the SRAP Resident Councils. UCEPP will be responsible for setting up the Resident Councils, supporting and compensating council members, and bringing together council members, community providers, funders, and government partners. UCEPP will start with the Permanent Housing Resident Council in fall 2024, and other councils will be formed after that the Resident Councils will center Skid Row community members in leadership roles. The councils will help design and implement programs and will identify gaps and create solutions. The councils will ensure that SRAP programs are co-designed and co-implemented with community members. Watch out for more details from UCEPP. Our collective vision is to ensure community voices are at the forefront of SRAP implementation.

Additionally, new permanent housing resources have become available to bring more people indoors. There is new state funding through the Encampment Resolution Fund and county funding through the Care First Community Investment. Additionally, new permanent housing resources have become available to bring more people indoors. There is new state funding through the Encampment Resolution Fund and county funding through the Care First Community Investment.



HFH Community Meeting

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Interim Housing

State funding for interim housing continues to support the Mayfair Hotel and the JWCH Safe Landing at the Cecil Hotel. In July, JWCH also opened additional interim housing beds at the DTLA Hotel.

The Department of Health Services- Housing for Health (HFH) has implemented an “Air Traffic Control” program at the Skid Row Access Center. Staff work with outreach teams and community organizations to place as many people as possible into interim housing on the same day pending bed availability. This program is a partnership between HFH the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). All three agencies are working together to do interim housing placements. The Skid Row Air Traffic Control team is located at 601 Maple Ave. If you have questions about how to refer and/or need to request a copy of the application, please reach out to srcihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov.

HFH also continues to operate the Skid Row Training and Technical Assistance team. The team provides hands-on support to interim housing providers to improve operations and services. The team is training on topics such as trauma-informed care and harm reduction. The goal of the program is to support providers so more clients go to permanent housing and fewer clients go back to the streets. so more clients go to permanent housing and fewer clients go back to the streets. so more clients go to permanent housing and fewer clients go back to the streets.

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Health Care

L.A. Care and Health Net, two of Los Angeles County's Medi-Cal managed care health plans, announced new funding for field medicine on Skid Row. The "Skid Row Care Collaborative" is designed to increase and improve access to primary, urgent, and specialty care in Skid Row. The program aims to increase collaboration between different health clinics in Skid Row. Funding will support the Harm Reduction Health Hub, Safe Services Hub, a community ambassador program, extended hours at JWCH and LA Christian Health Center clinics, expanded specialty care provided in Skid Row, capital improvements to health clinics, and expanded transportation to health centers.

Harm Reduction Health Hub and Safe Service

LA County released a solicitation in early August to select community providers to operate two Harm Reduction Health Hubs in Skid Row. The selection process will take place during the fall and the goal is to open the health hubs in early 2025. DHS also released a solicitation in early August to select a community provider(s) to operate the Safe Services Hub.

In addition, the DHS Harm Reduction Division is expanding access to naloxone. Participants in a work group meeting on harm reduction recently set the goal of achieving zero overdose deaths on Skid Row by 2027. To support that goal and to make naloxone more widely accessible, DHS is partnering with Skid Row businesses to distribute naloxone. FREE naloxone soon will be available at the following locations to anyone who needs them:

AK Market	909 E. 7th street, Los Angeles Ca.90021
AK Market	801 E. 7th street, Los Angeles, Ca 90021
Green Apple Store	600 S San Pedro Street, Los Angeles Ca.
Brothers Market	300 E. 5th street, Los Angeles, Ca 90013
5th Smoke Shop	259 E. 5th street, Los Angeles, Ca.90013
Pit Stop	6th and Gladys
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



The harm reduction workgroup also set a goal that health hubs would be staffed by Skid Row residents with lived experience of drug use, justice system involvement, sex work, and/or homelessness. The Harm Reduction Division offers a workforce development program for individuals with lived experience who are interested in working in the harm reduction field. The organization running the training, Worker Education & Resource Center, plans to start a new training at the Midnight Mission this fall. The class will provide paid harm reduction workforce training to 18 individuals with ties to the Skid Row community.

Economic Opportunities

The County's Department of Economic Opportunity and the City's Economic and Workforce Development Department hosted a community meeting in July to discuss the SRAP economic opportunity recommendations. The departments shared information about the LA RISE program, Entrepreneurship Academies, Careers for a Cause, and numerous programs currently providing job opportunities. In the coming months these departments will be working with the Skid Row community to identify opportunities to further the SRAP recommendations.

Health Hub Campus Update

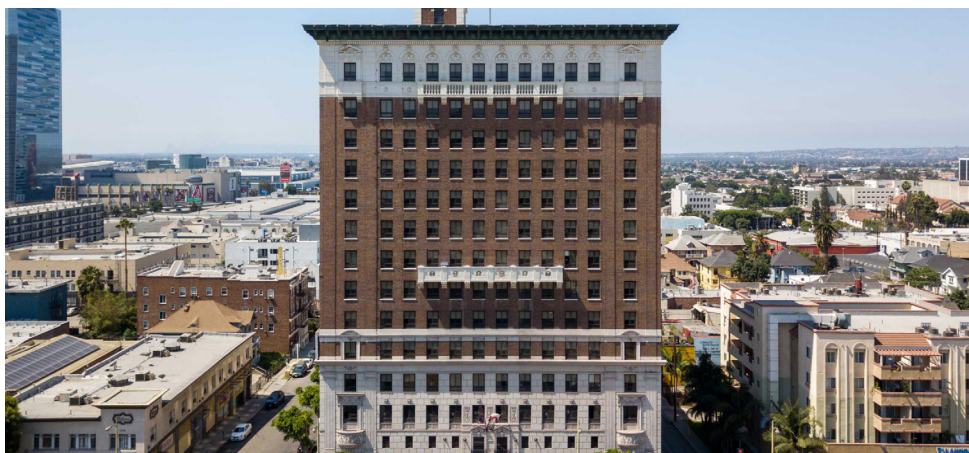
The first phase of the Health Hub Campus on Crocker Street is scheduled to open in November 2024. This phase is a 48-bed Enriched Residential Care housing site operated by JWCH. Enriched Residential Care housing supports individuals who have complex physical and behavioral health conditions who need care, supervision, and support managing activities of daily living. This form of permanent housing has higher levels of resident support integrated into the program than permanent supportive housing, including onsite clinical staff, 24-hour/day supervision, medication management, three meals a day, and cleaning service.

The second phase of the Health Hub Campus is scheduled to open in early 2025 and includes the Harm Reduction Health Hub and the Safe Services Hub. Operators for these sites will be selected through the work order solicitations released on August 6th.

SRAP Programs

LA Grand/ Mayfair Hotel Update

The lease agreement for the LA Grand Hotel ended on June 1st, and all residents moved to other interim housing or permanent housing sites. Some of the clients at the LA Grand moved to the Mayfair Hotel or other interim housing programs. Future referrals for the Mayfair will go through the Skid Row Air Traffic Control team. If you have questions about how to refer and/or need to request a copy of the application, please reach out to sracihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov.



The Mayfair Hotel

DTLA Hotel Update

Due to a shortage of interim housing beds after the demobilization and closure of the Vagabond Hotel interim housing site, HFH entered into an agreement with JWCH to re-open the DTLA hotel as an interim housing site to serve Skid Row participants. The site had a soft opening in mid-July 2024 when it started intakes for women from the Vagabond who had not already identified other interim or permanent housing opportunities. DTLA started taking referrals for new participants on August 1st. Participants can be referred in via the Skid Row Air Traffic Control team, utilizing the universal interim housing application. Please reach out to sracihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov with any questions, or if you need a copy of the interim housing application.

Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool

HFH utilized state and county funding to add more than 500 Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP) resources to its portfolio. FHSP offers local subsidies that can be used by individuals who are ineligible for federal housing resources, including those who are undocumented, have been evicted from federally subsidized housing, and who have certain criminal convictions. As of mid-August, nearly 150 Skid Row households had moved into permanent housing using FHSP.

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Lamp Lodge - Permanent Supportive Housing

2024 Homeless Count Results

Homelessness in Skid Row dropped 14% and unsheltered homelessness declined 22%, according to the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count . The progress is the result of collaboration among various agencies in Skid Row, as well as new county and state funding that has increased housing and outreach. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Skid Row dropped from 4,402 in 2022 to 3,791 in 2024. The number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Skid Row dropped from 2,695 in 2022 to 2,112 in 2024.

Mike's Story



Ruben Vives (LATimes) Interviewing Mike Juma

Mike is a 65-year-old Marine Corp veteran, former business owner, amateur linguist, history buff, world traveler, and studied chef. Since 2008, Mike has experienced three separate episodes of prolonged, unsheltered homelessness. The first episode lasting nine months occurred when his trucking business closed down during the recession. The second episode started in 2011 and lasted close to a year. The third and most recent episode started in 2016 and lasted nearly nine years.

While he was experiencing homeless, Mike became a valued and respected Skid Row community member. Although he was engaged by homeless service providers a number of times, it was the most recent and final engagement that resulted in an interim housing enrollment at the Hilda L. Solis Care First Village in 2023. In Mike's own words, this was the first time since entering homelessness that he felt truly validated as a human being. Once in interim housing, Mike received the support he needed to obtain all of the documents he needed to qualify for permanent housing resources. Mike moved into permanent housing in August 2024 and credits his success to the community of people who worked with him and met him where he was, including the HFH Skid Row team and the Weingart Hilda L. Solis Care First Village case management team.

Progress Made in Skid Row with State Funding

Nearly 8,000 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness received services in the first year of the state's Encampment Resolution Fund, according to new data. The data covers the first year of a three-year, \$60 million dollar state grant devoted specifically to serving unsheltered individuals living in the Skid Row community. With a combination of ERF2 grant funds and leveraged funds, we had the following successes:

1,795 individuals moved from being unsheltered into interim housing, 990 of those individuals were permanently housed

- 7,935 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness received a service from an outreach team, an access, or a health clinic
- 1,795 of those individuals moved from being unsheltered into interim housing
- 990 of those individuals were permanently housed

The results were featured in a story in the LA Times in August. The story was titled “Thousands are housed as L.A. County makes progress on Skid Row” and showed the success of the first year of the grant. [Click here to read the story.](#)



Case Worker Speaking with Lamp Lodge Resident