



Volume 4, April 2025

Skid Row Action Plan Newsletter

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Update



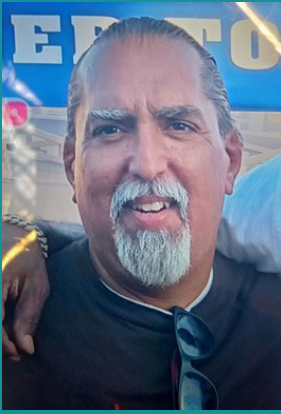
What's Happening with the Skid Row Action Plan?

The Skid Row Action Plan is a community planning initiative to improve the health and safety of the Skid Row community. The Action Plan is the result of a robust community planning process and builds on the community infrastructure and strengths that have existed in Skid Row for years. The Action Plan reflects the aspirations and vision of community members, community organizations and government partners.

Despite many challenges in the world around us, 2025 started with lots of momentum and progress on SRAP. In January the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a board motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis to approve a lease for the Skid Row Care Campus. Now that the lease has been approved, program operators have been selected, and the Campus is preparing to open. Progress is continuing to be made in the SRAP recommendation areas of Permanent Housing, Interim Housing, Harm Reduction Healthcare and Economic Opportunity.

To learn more about the Skid Row Action Plan go to: <https://dhs.lacounty.gov/housing-for-health/our-services/housing-for-health/special-initiatives/>





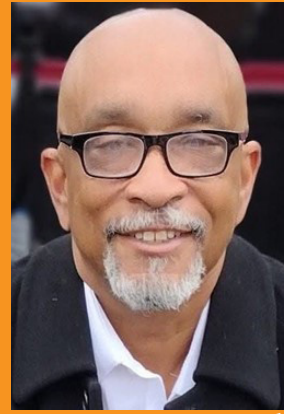
Paul Reyes



Kevin Cedano



Suzette Shaw



Barron McCall



Virginia Reilly

Permanent Housing Resident Council

Social Model Recovery Systems' (SMRS) United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), alongside Housing for Health (HFH), obtained funding to support the implementation of the SRAP Resident Council program, and SMRS/UCEPP successfully launched the Permanent Housing Resident Council in December 2024. The Resident Councils represent the transition from an advisory capacity to active operational roles, and the Permanent Housing Resident Council (PHRC) will do important work including developing sustainable housing solutions tailored to the specific needs of people experiencing homelessness, cultivating more positive environments in permanent housing programs, and working toward higher participant success rates and long-term stability.

The five PHRC members reflect the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of the Skid Row community, and all have lived in permanent housing programs. Councilmember Kevin Cedano was born and raised in Skid Row and has skills in data management. He considers himself very adaptable, non-judgmental, and a strong leader. Councilmember Barron McCall has lived in Skid Row for over 10 years and has a deep understanding of computer technology and genuine compassion in his advocacy. Councilmember Virginia Reilly has lived in Skid Row for 20 years and knows that her deep connection to the community and its members, and background in tenants' advocacy, will be assets to the Council. Councilmember Paul Reyes has lived in Skid Row for 16 years. He loves to help people, and he feels his story can be an example of how one can be successful in recovery and stay housed. Councilmember Suzette Shaw has lived in Skid Row for 12 years and has used her challenges to find her purpose and advocate for change, healing, and empowerment.

Since the Council was launched, all members have received equipment to help them function in their new roles, and they meet regularly to plan their next steps. The resident council program evaluators have met with each member individually and as a group to determine what they want to achieve through their participation in the PHRC. The first big project undertaken by the Council is a Skid Row community survey regarding permanent housing concerns and desired improvements. The Council is also finalizing its structure and will prioritize focus areas based on SRAP recommendations and recent survey data. They will develop presentations to advocate for desired changes and work with SMRS/UCEPP to determine how HFH can assist in making connections with key stakeholders and decision makers.

Councilmembers have received benefits counseling and compensation for their participation facilitated by SMRS/UCEPP's intermediary team. They will also receive training and wellness support going forward. SMRS/UCEPP continues to engage the community to establish Resident Councils addressing other SRAP focus areas and is currently preparing to launch the Safe Services Resident Council.

Interim Housing

The Skid Row Access Center, a partnership between HFH, Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, continues to support outreach teams and community partners with interim housing placements through the Skid Row Access Center. Outreach teams and community members can support unsheltered people looking for interim housing by helping them to complete and submit interim housing applications either in person at the Skid Row Access Center, located at 601 Maple Ave (corner of 6th & Maple), or via email at sracihapps@dhs.lacounty.gov.

The goal of the Skid Row Access Center is to reduce the time from referral to placement in interim housing and to complete same day intakes whenever possible, however, please be advised that due to a shortage of beds, most programs do have waitlists. If you have any questions or require a copy of the application, please reach out via the contact information above.

Safe Services

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles has been chosen to open the Safe Services Space at the Skid Row Care Campus. The Safe Services Space will include Community Ambassadors, hygiene facilities, service booths, case management and a wide array of recreational and wellness programs in a park-like setting. Homeless Health Care Los Angeles will be hosting community job fairs to select candidates from Skid Row for jobs at the Skid Row Care Campus. The Safe Services Space will be opening in Spring 2025.

Harm Reduction

The Department of Health Services Harm Reduction Division is working to open two Harm Reduction Health Hubs in Skid Row at the Skid Row Care Campus and on Maple St., where the previous Sobering Center was located. Wesley Health Center/JWCH, Los Angeles Christian Health Center, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, and SMRS/UCEPP have been chosen to operate the Harm Reduction Health Hubs. Additionally, a second cohort of the Harm Reduction Specialist Training started in February 2025.

Economic Opportunities

The Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE) is an innovative, collaborative partnership that unites the City and County of Los Angeles' Workforce Development System with non-profit social enterprises and for-profit employers to help those with a history of homelessness, including formerly incarcerated individuals and disconnected youth. The program connects employment social enterprises to the workforce system, supportive services, and employers, allowing all partners to bring their expertise and resources to the table. Since inception of the pilot program in September 2015 through June 30, 2024, the LA:RISE placed 7,594 individuals into transitional subsidized jobs and placed 3,387 individuals into competitive, unsubsidized jobs. On average, LA:RISE serves 1,000 participants per program year.

Women and gender-diverse community members in Skid Row can access the LA:RISE program at the Downtown Women's Center by reaching out to the LA:RISE Program Specialist, Darlene Torres, at (213) 842-5527 or DarleneT@downtownwomenscenter.org. They are also welcome to visit during daily drop-in hours, held on weekdays from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in Room 208 at their San Pedro location: 442 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

The Chrysalis Center is also providing LA:RISE services to individuals in the skid row area. Those interested must complete the intake process and will be assigned to the Chrysalis Enterprise workforce. If Community members have any questions they can reach out to Sharmaine Tillett at (213) 806-6300. Here is a link to the company website for reference (<https://www.changelives.org/our-services/>)

The creation of the Inside Safe Job Connector Program (Job Connectors) supports the Mayor's Inside Safe Initiative and the integration of the City's Workforce Development System (WDS) with Inside Safe housing initiatives and other critical systems of care. The program provides assistance to recently housed individuals to help connect them to a job or training through one of the city's WorkSource or YouthSource Centers. To stabilize participants in the City's employment programs, Job Connectors will also assist with referrals for individuals participating in the City's employment programs to be considered for housing via the Inside Safe initiative. At this time, Job Connectors are stationed at multiple Inside Safe locations expanding regional access to the program and support. Individuals in the Skid Row area can inquire about the program with the Vernon-Central WorkSource Center, operated by the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD), at (213) 763-5951.



Skid Row Care Campus Updates

Crocker Campus Naming Contest Winner



Contest Winner, Henriëtte Bouwers, in front of the Skid Row History Museum. Her submission of "Skid Row Care Campus" was selected to name the upcoming Health Hub at Crocker Campus.

Congratulations to our Crocker Campus naming contest winner, Henriëtte Bouwers. Out of many great entries, the name of "Skid Row Care Campus" was selected! As the Director of the Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) and its Skid Row History Museum, Henriëtte was drawn to participate in the contest. "LAPD is celebrating its 40-year anniversary, and we love to engage and create community in Skid row. We are honored to be engaged in the SRAP work also" says Henriëtte. When thinking of a name, she started with what she feels the new health hub will be, a place that will be able to provide services for the whole person, an "all-encompassing campus". This gave her a caring feeling and she thought, "Today, nobody cares anymore. People need to know that there are people who care! [Crocker campus] will be a place where people will get all the care they need, by people who really care." Thus, the name of Skid Row Care Campus was created. Henriëtte urges the community of Skid Row to attend the many events LAPD holds at the Skid Row Museum and to participate in the events that the LA Poverty Department will hold at the Skid Row Care Campus.



The Skid Row Care Campus lease was approved on the January 14th, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. Pictured with Supervisor Solis (Front, right of center) are representatives from UCEPP and JWCH, two members of the SRAP Permanent Housing Resident Council, and Molly Rysman, Director of Policy and Planning at LA County's DHS Housing for Health.

Only January 14, 2025 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the lease for the Skid Row Care Campus paving the way for the campus to open in Spring 2025. Construction on the Campus is complete and there is lots of activity on the Campus as furniture and equipment are being installed. The Campus will be the site of a series of job fairs as community providers get ready to open the Campus in Spring 2025.

Los Angeles County and community providers are preparing to host a community celebration to celebrate the amazing accomplishment of this community vision coming to life.



Skid Row Care Campus



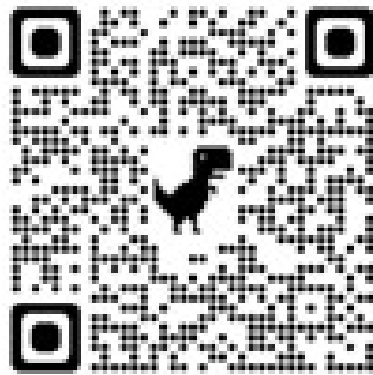
Link to ChangeWell's Spanish Language SRAP Implementation Plan



Changewell has completed a Spanish translation of the SRAP Implementation Plan. Please click on the following link to access this resource. - [Link to the SRAP Implementation Plan \(Spanish\)](#)

In Their Own Words: The Sidewalk Project

As a result of the wildfire devastation, there were multiple homeless service agencies, and a few syringe programs had to pull their teams for safety and to help with evacuations. As a result of the crisis, services were open 24/7 for the first week. We were the only syringe program open in Skid Row, Hollywood, and MacArthur Park for the first few days of the fire. In response to this and the need throughout the whole County, our drop-in center turned into a 24/7 shelter with cots, meals, oxygen support, clothing, hygiene, and safe sleep for unhoused evacuees. Simultaneously, our center turned into a mutual aid fire relief distribution hub. A collaboration formed with our sister SSP programs like Beinstar, AADAP and Venice Family Clinic, where we aided in their work evacuating their participants, while they shared supplies, information, and Bienstar even shared some of their staff with us to support our 24/7 services. HHCLA supported us on the first day of our crisis response by outfitting our team with N95 masks. CHPLA staff helped direct resources to us and told us where their participants were in Hollywood so we could go check on them when the Hollywood evacuation was happening. There were no service providers in the streets in Hollywood and PEH didn't even know about the fire until we told them. On January 12th, we had teams in 20 neighborhoods distributing harm reduction, masks, hygiene, clothing, meals, drinks, blankets, tents, tarps, medicine, and so forth. You can read more about our work in the LA Times here: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-01-14/homeless-population-la-wildfires>.



Our biggest challenge during this time was that the LA fires were happening amidst social unrest. The Sidewalk Project team and our wider supportive mutual aid community rose to the challenge, but it was tough work under massive pressure. There was much plunging, messy toilets, de-escalation of traumatized people, team functioning on very little sleep, and an enormous amount of need. We saw a rise in violence, especially intimate partner violence, in the first two weeks of the fires. This meant we were also doing crisis response and deep case management for new participants, some who had never been on the streets before. There were some horrific cases of sexual violence that we had to respond to, and the general atmosphere was highly pressured. We can not state enough how impressive the community was all pulling together for the sake of our city in crisis.

In January, one of our new harm reduction additions was "respiration kits". As a result of the poor air quality from in-air toxins, we noticed an uptick in respiratory health issues with our smoking participants; many of whom have breathing issues like asthma, long covid, or COPD. We created an oxygen recovery room, passed out education about masking, and offered respiration kits, especially to our unhoused participants in Skid Row and MacArthur Park. The respiration kits included a N95 mask, nasal saline, Flonase, a miniature can of personal-use oxygen, Emergen-C, and throat lozenges. DPH-SAPC provided us with masks and participated in discussing respiratory health from a harm reduction perspective. Our team donated high-end air filter systems. We are working with Project Hope and CORE to obtain more air filters to offer to other elders in SROs in Skid Row.

Encampment Resolution Fund Skid Row Outcomes



Staff serving clients at Cecil Safe Landing Facility

The State of California provided Los Angeles County with a \$60 million Encampment Resolution Fund to reduce unsheltered homelessness in Skid Row. The County used SRAP to design an encampment resolution project that leveraged community assets, existing outreach teams, interim housing and permanent housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness. The grant is a three-year grant that started July 1, 2023.

In the first year and half of the Encampment Resolution Fund grant:

9,578 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness received a service from an outreach team, access center or health clinic in Skid Row

2,590 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Skid Row were able to move into an interim housing program

1,475 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Skid Row were able to move into permanent housing