

MOTION

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

The City of Los Angeles funds Time Limited Subsidies (TLS) for individuals experiencing homelessness to lease market-rate housing units. TLS provides low-barrier subsidies that allow individuals to move into permanent housing while receiving case management services to further stabilize them. TLS funding can provide support for individuals while they work to increase their income and it can bridge the gap between living on the street or living in a shelter and getting a longer-term subsidy after experiencing homelessness. This program model is proven to be effective in reducing homelessness in cities like Houston.¹

Across various programs in the City and County, more than \$194 million was invested in TLS across different program areas for FY 23-24, but there was significant underspend across these programs — anywhere from 25% to 60% depending on the program. The impact of this underspend can be illustrated by the number of additional individuals who could have been permanently housed using these unspent funds in FY 23-24 — an estimated 3,000 people!²

Leadership at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) have suggested that current utilization rates across the City and the Los Angeles Continuum of Care are low due to the challenges of finding units in a tight rental market, and case manager staffing challenges. These issues include not having enough TLS case managers hired and trained to ensure the subsidy can be used by those who qualify. In Service Planning Area (SPA) 4, for example, there are 517 TLS slots currently open, of which 297 cannot be used by eligible clients due to these staffing shortages.

These numbers present the stark reality that the system is not capitalizing on the City's investment to rapidly and permanently rehouse as many individuals as quickly as possible. The inability to fully utilize these resources is also a factor in slowing throughput in the rehousing system, leading many individuals to languish in interim shelter for upwards of a year while waiting for their opportunity to move into a permanent unit. Unhoused individuals who are ready to be permanently housed should move into their own space, and scarce beds in interim shelter units should be available for new people to move into as expeditiously as possible.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct LAHSA, in consultation with service providers, report back to the Council within 30 days with strategies for improved utilization and/or reallocation for more efficient mechanisms to permanently house individuals, including:

- Existing pathways to match people experiencing homelessness with TLS;
- How County funding is applied towards TLS utilized by people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles;

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/headway/houston-homeless-people.html>

² <https://escholarship.org/content/qt5n33w048/supp/Time-Limited-Subsidies-in-Los-Angeles.pdf>

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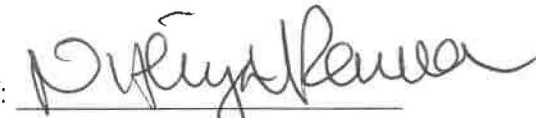
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- Barriers to full utilization of funded TLS slots;
- A strategy to hire, train and retain case managers to support Housing Navigation and TLS programming across the City; and
- A large-scale strategy to find TLS-friendly landlords, removing the burden of unit identification from individual case managers/people experiencing homelessness.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct LAHSA to report back to the Council on a bi-weekly basis regarding:

- Status of TLS and Housing Navigation case management staffing across all programs;
- Rates of TLS-matched participants in interim housing, broken down by site;
- Average length of time from TLS referral, to enrollment, to lease-up;
- Current underspends in TLS, and expected utilization rate by the end of the year; and
- Exits from TLS, including natural conclusion of subsidy term.

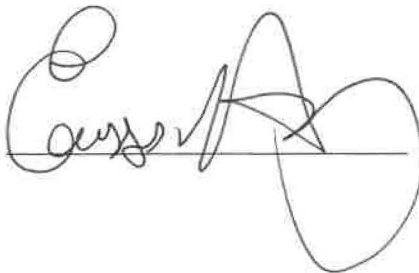
PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN

Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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CITY OF LOS ANGELES