

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Whitman

Date Submitted: 06/15/2022 08:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1524-S1

Comments for Public Posting: President Martinez: On behalf of the Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), we write today to ask for your consideration of the following recommendation addressing domestic violence survivors' needs through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program Round 3 funding. Domestic violence is intrinsically connected to homelessness in Los Angeles, California, and nationwide. The need for safe housing and the economic resources to maintain safe housing are two of the most pressing concerns among abused women who are planning to or have recently left the person causing them harm. In Los Angeles, 35% of all homeless individuals have experienced domestic violence. This increases to 49% when looking at homeless women, and 60% when looking at homeless transgender individuals. According to the HUD Point in Time Count, adults who are survivors of domestic violence are the second largest sub-population of homeless individuals in Los Angeles. However, the HHAP Round 3 Outcome Goals fail to include domestic violence survivors. DVHSC recommends the following strategy so the City of Los Angeles can ensure that survivors and their families are appropriately supported, and achieve their outcome goals: Outcome Goal #4: Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless. According to the report, "Black people experiencing homelessness, veterans, parenting youth, and women take more days to move into permanent housing." There are only 1,000 domestic violence emergency shelter beds in Los Angeles, and over 11,000 homeless survivors of domestic violence. This means survivors spend more time on the street, in homeless shelters, or with their abuser before they receive the support they need. 1 in 3 women have experienced domestic violence, and 43.7% of Black women have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner. To lessen the amount of time Black people and women take to move to permanent housing, we recommend that the city utilize flexible funding to support permanent housing for survivors of domestic violence specifically utilizing the DV Housing First model. We are learning that the CDBG funds that support the City's Survivor First Program are not flexible enough to properly support survivors as intended by the DV Housing First model. While we are grateful the City funded the program, we are hopeful that state

HHAPP funding will align with the DVHF model's intent to provide flexible funding, survivor driven services and community engagement. An evaluation of California DV agencies utilizing Domestic Violence Housing First found that 58% of survivors were able to prevent homelessness. We also recommend that landlord engagement include addressing biases and discrimination toward survivors of domestic violence. Many survivors are denied housing due to poor credit, low-income, or previous evictions – all associated with previous abuse. By including survivors of domestic violence in HHAP funding plans, the city is supporting one of the largest subpopulations of homeless individuals. We would be delighted to discuss this matter further with you and any members of your staff. Thank you for considering our requests. We look forward to continuing our work with you to help end the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness across Los Angeles.

Sincerely, Amy Turk, LCSW Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW
CEO/DVHSC Co-Lead Executive Director/DVHSC Co-Lead
Downtown Women's Center Rainbow Services



June 16, 2022

Nury Martinez
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant Program Round 3
Item 17
Council File Number 20-1524-S1

President Martinez:

On behalf of the Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), we write today to ask for your consideration of the following recommendation addressing domestic violence survivors' needs through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program Round 3 funding.

Domestic violence is intrinsically connected to homelessness in Los Angeles, California, and nationwide. The need for safe housing and the economic resources to maintain safe housing are two of the most pressing concerns among abused women who are planning to or have recently left the person causing them harm. In Los Angeles, 35% of all homeless individuals have experienced domestic violence. This increases to 49% when looking at homeless women, and 60% when looking at homeless transgender individuals¹.

According to the HUD Point in Time Count, adults who are survivors of domestic violence are the second largest sub-population of homeless individuals in Los Angeles². However, the HHAP Round 3 Outcome Goals fail to include domestic violence survivors.

DVHSC recommends the following strategy so the City of Los Angeles can ensure that survivors and their families are appropriately supported, and achieve their outcome goals:

Outcome Goal #4: Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless

According to the report, "Black people experiencing homelessness, veterans, parenting youth, and women take more days to move into permanent housing." There are only 1,000 domestic violence emergency shelter beds in Los Angeles, and over 11,000 homeless survivors of domestic violence³. This means survivors spend more time on the street, in homeless shelters, or with their abuser before they receive the support they need. 1 in 3 women have experienced

¹ [4558 - 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Presentation \(lahsa.org\)](#)

² [Report from City Administrative Officer dated 6-02-22.pdf](#)

³ [Report from City Administrative Officer dated 6-02-22.pdf](#)



domestic violence, and 43.7% of Black women have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner.⁴

To lessen the amount of time Black people and women take to move to permanent housing, we recommend that the city utilize flexible funding to support permanent housing for survivors of domestic violence specifically utilizing the DV Housing First model. We are learning that the CDBG funds that support the City's Survivor First Program are not flexible enough to properly support survivors as intended by the DV Housing First model. While we are grateful the City funded the program, we are hopeful that state HHAPP funding will align with the DVHF model's intent to provide flexible funding, survivor driven services and community engagement. An evaluation of California DV agencies utilizing Domestic Violence Housing First found that 58% of survivors were able to prevent homelessness.⁵

We also recommend that landlord engagement include addressing biases and discrimination toward survivors of domestic violence. Many survivors are denied housing due to poor credit, low-income, or previous evictions – all associated with previous abuse. By including survivors of domestic violence in HHAP funding plans, the city is supporting one of the largest subpopulations of homeless individuals.

We would be delighted to discuss this matter further with you and any members of your staff. Thank you for considering our requests. We look forward to continuing our work with you to help end the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness across Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Amy Turk, LCSW
CEO/DVHSC Co-Lead
Downtown Women's Center

Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW
Executive Director/DVHSC Co-Lead
Rainbow Services

⁴ [Microsoft Word - Black Women's Maternal Health Futures Without Violence April 2019.docx](#)

⁵ [DVHF-CA-2019_FULL-REPORT.pdf \(rainbowservicesdv.org\)](#)