

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rainbow Services

**Date Submitted:** 07/25/2022 10:14 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0799

**Comments for Public Posting:** July 25, 2022 The Honorable Kevin de León Chair, Los Angeles City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee 200 N Spring Street, Suite 425 Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Motion relative to evaluating the homelessness prevention programs (Council File 22-0799) Councilmember de León: Rainbow Services is writing to support the motion to evaluate the homeless prevention programs operated by the City, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and identifying opportunities to expand homeless prevention programs (Council File 22-0799). As stated in the motion, “prevention programs are a critical opportunity to stop homelessness before it even starts.” For this reasons, Rainbow Services supports the City Council in instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst (“CLA”) in evaluating current homelessness prevention programs and opportunities to expand programs. Further, Rainbow Services suggests that the CLA evaluate the Domestic Violence Housing First program as an opportunity to expand homelessness prevention programs. 35% of unsheltered homeless individuals in Los Angeles had experienced domestic violence, according to the Point-in-Time Count . This increases to 49% when looking at unsheltered homeless women. Domestic violence is one of the largest drivers of homelessness for women, and the Domestic Violence Housing First program can help prevent homelessness for survivors. Domestic Violence Housing First (“DVHF”) focuses on helping survivors obtain safe and stable housing as quickly as possible using flexible financial assistance, survivor-driven advocacy, and community engagement. This model aims to meet survivors’ individual and unique needs to attain housing stability and safety. A statewide evaluation of DVHF in California showed that 58% of survivors were able to use flexible financial assistance to prevent homelessness . 46% of survivors were able to stay in their own homes, and 40% of survivors were able to find new permanent housing . Survivors stated that mutually supportive relationships with housing advocates were especially important for survivors’ healing journey after obtaining safe housing. If the Committee passes this motion, we request that the CLA research DVHF as a tool for homelessness prevention. You have been a longtime champion of unhoused women and survivors in both Sacramento and City Hall, Councilmember, and the inclusion of survivors in

prevention research would be a continuation of these efforts.  
Thank you for considering our requests, and we look forward to  
continuing our work with you to help end the cycle of domestic  
violence and homelessness across Los Angeles. Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW Executive Director Rainbow Services,  
Ltd. [eeastlund@rainbowservicesdv.org](mailto:eeastlund@rainbowservicesdv.org)

July 25, 2022

The Honorable Kevin de León  
Chair, Los Angeles City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee  
200 N Spring Street, Suite 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Motion relative to evaluating the homelessness prevention programs (Council File 22-0799)

Councilmember de León:

Rainbow Services is writing to support the motion to evaluate the homeless prevention programs operated by the City, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and identifying opportunities to expand homeless prevention programs (Council File 22-0799). As stated in the motion, “prevention programs are a critical opportunity to stop homelessness before it even starts.” For this reasons, Rainbow Services supports the City Council in instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst (“CLA”) in evaluating current homelessness prevention programs and opportunities to expand programs.

Further, Rainbow Services suggests that the CLA evaluate the Domestic Violence Housing First program as an opportunity to expand homelessness prevention programs. 35% of unsheltered homeless individuals in Los Angeles had experienced domestic violence, according to the Point-in-Time Count<sup>1</sup>. This increases to 49% when looking at unsheltered homeless women. Domestic violence is one of the largest drivers of homelessness for women, and the Domestic Violence Housing First program can help prevent homelessness for survivors.

Domestic Violence Housing First (“DVHF”) focuses on helping survivors obtain safe and stable housing as quickly as possible using flexible financial assistance, survivor-driven advocacy, and community engagement. This model aims to meet survivors’ individual and unique needs to attain housing stability and safety. A statewide evaluation of DVHF in California showed that 58% of survivors were able to use flexible financial assistance to prevent homelessness<sup>2</sup>. 46% of survivors were able to stay in their own homes, and 40% of survivors were able to find new permanent housing<sup>3</sup>. Survivors stated that mutually supportive relationships with housing advocates were especially important for survivors’ healing journey after obtaining safe housing.

If the Committee passes this motion, we request that the CLA research DVHF as a tool for homelessness prevention.

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<sup>1</sup> [4558 - 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Presentation \(lahsa.org\)](https://www.lahsa.org/4558-2020-Greater-Los-Angeles-Homeless-Count-Presentation)

<sup>2</sup> [DVHF-CA-2019 FULL-REPORT.pdf \(rainbowservicesdv.org\)](https://rainbowservicesdv.org/DVHF-CA-2019-FULL-REPORT.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [DVHF-CA-2019 FULL-REPORT.pdf \(rainbowservicesdv.org\)](https://rainbowservicesdv.org/DVHF-CA-2019-FULL-REPORT.pdf)



You have been a longtime champion of unhoused women and survivors in both Sacramento and City Hall, Councilmember, and the inclusion of survivors in prevention research would be a continuation of these efforts. Thank you for considering our requests, and we look forward to continuing our work with you to help end the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness across Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Elizabeth Eastlund', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW  
Executive Director  
Rainbow Services, Ltd.  
[eeastlund@rainbowservicesdv.org](mailto:eeastlund@rainbowservicesdv.org)