



# Frequently Asked Questions About Homelessness in Hollywood



## PLEASE NOTE

All information contained in this FAQ is accurate as of the date of publication: 01/03/2023

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# Overview

## SECTION OUTLINE

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# INTRODUCTION



**These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide information relevant to understanding the homeless situation in Hollywood. Before plunging into the content, some information about the purpose of the FAQs is helpful.**

We tried to avoid broad systemic topics but wanted to focus on the details of what is actually going on in Los Angeles. To be even more specific, our focus is homelessness as we are encountering it in Hollywood. This is the area Hollywood 4WRD knows best and roughly consists of the area bounded by La Brea on the west, Franklin on the north, Western on the east, and Melrose on the south. Most of the information will be clearly applicable throughout LA, but at times we will be drawing on our specific experience in Hollywood.

The FAQs are not focused on how we got to the current crisis or evaluating various claims about how to best move forward. Our focus is more on trying to capture as best we can the current facts on the ground, such as:

1. What are the characteristics of the homeless population (sometimes referred to as “persons experiencing homelessness”)
2. What legal constraints impact the homelessness situation
3. What are the current goods and services provided to the homeless in Hollywood
4. How adequate the current resources are to significantly improve matters in the near or longer term

One more introductory note may be helpful. While there is a broad consensus that the current homelessness situation is unacceptable, opinions vary dramatically on who or what is responsible for the current homelessness situation and what should be done. Some people think it is primarily a legal issue and focus on what tools are available to get people off the streets immediately. Others are more focused on the moral dimensions of homelessness and understanding what resources are available now and in the future to help the unhoused.

The premise of these FAQs is that an impartial source of information is needed with respect to both perspectives. Our describing the legal rules is not intended to endorse or disagree with these rules, as is our description of what resources are being made available.





## **Why does the homelessness situation look so bad today and why is it unlikely to get better soon absent changes in how the problem is approached?**

While these FAQs are intended to provide a general overview of the issues involving persons experiencing homelessness in the Hollywood area, it makes sense to start with two key topics that we think are on the top of everyone's mind:

- Why do things look so much worse today vs. a few years earlier?
- How likely is it that current policies will significantly reduce the number of persons living on the streets or in their cars?

Regarding the first topic, the reason things look so bad today is not a major increase in persons experiencing homelessness since 2019. The 2022 homeless count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority concludes that homelessness is up about 2% in the City of Los Angeles (there was no count in 2021 due to COVID-19). Instead, perhaps the key event with respect to the physical look of homelessness was City Council action on March 17, 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was just beginning. Prior to that date, the Los Angeles Municipal Code generally required tents to come down from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. On March 17 the City Council directed LA to not enforce this rule so long as the City's Emergency Declaration with respect to COVID-19 remained in effect. Whatever the merits in terms of preventing the spread of COVID-19, this action plays a major part in homelessness being much more visible than before March 17, 2020.

At a more fundamental level, the "Housing First" model—the state-recognized best-practice approach to ending homelessness and its attendant issues—presents programmatic challenges when a jurisdiction has fewer available housing units than people experiencing homelessness.

The Housing First approach is predicated on placing people in permanent housing before treating mental health issues, substance use disorder problems, criminal history issues, or income instability.<sup>1</sup> Studies show that it is more effective to deal with such issues once someone is housed, where conditions are more stable. For that reason, many of the funds that support homelessness services are tied to the goal of placing people in housing.

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<sup>1</sup>For a general description of the Housing First philosophy, see <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Housing-First-Permanent-Supportive-Housing-Brief.pdf> (federal description) and <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/docs/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf> (California).



However, as of September 1, 2022, LA County faced a shortage of over 30,000 housing units compared to its homeless population. As such, many of the resources available to homelessness services providers are dedicated to a mission that is not currently achievable.

Few resources are available to ameliorate the harms that arise as people remain on the streets waiting for a unit to become available. These include mental health crises, substance abuse, and medical emergencies, all of which place many persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood in daily crisis.

The City of LA has taken steps to enable the Housing First mission through Proposition HHH—a 2016 ballot initiative allocating \$1.2 billion in general obligation bonds for the production of 10,000 affordable and supportive housing units. Unfortunately, expectations may have been unrealistic with respect to how quickly construction could be completed. According to the HHH Dashboard, as of November 2022, 132 projects have been funded, amounting to nearly 8700 units. These projects will start opening at an accelerated pace in 2023 and beyond, as 31 projects have opened, 71 are in active construction, and 30 are still in the pre-development pipeline.

It should be noted that in Los Angeles County only the City of Los Angeles has invested in permanent supportive housing and other jurisdictions would need to become involved to significantly meet the demand for permanent supportive housing.

Further, due to their complicated financing structures, permanent supportive housing units can easily cost \$500,000 a unit and sometimes significantly more (it should be noted that the contribution of HHH funds to the equation is approximately \$120,000). This compares to a potential cost in the \$50,000 range for interim housing units—such as tiny homes, or simply safe camping sites.

Since it is a necessary precondition to reducing the suffering of all members of our community, Hollywood 4WRD advocates for the creation of adequate interim housing resources in Hollywood until such time as a sufficient number of permanent units exist to house the hundreds of people experiencing homelessness here. We are also actively innovating ways to coordinate, fund, and retask our community's outreach teams to render the critical mental health and street social services that do not fall under the Housing First umbrella.



## Definitions of Some Key Terms—Serious Mental Illness; Substance Use Disorder; The General Behavior Rules

### SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

The terms “serious mental illness” or “substance use disorder” will be used many times throughout these FAQs, reflecting the fact that many of the persons experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness, a substance use disorder, or both. Rather than defining these terms whenever they are used, we will define them here.

With respect to the term serious mental illness, we are using the standard definition—i.e., a mental illness is a serious mental illness if it is a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Many of the persons experiencing homelessness are struggling with addictions to alcohol or drugs. We will use the term “substance use disorder” to refer to persons with this condition since the term “addiction” is not used as a diagnostic term in DSM-5, the authoritative manual used to classify mental illnesses and substance use problems. The manual lists 11 criteria that indicate a substance use disorder and, depending on how many are met by an individual, he or she may have a mild, moderate, or severe substance use disorder. The 11 criteria are quite broad and, since meeting only two of the criteria can result in a diagnosis of a “mild substance use disorder” (examples of the broad criteria include “spending a lot of time using the substance” and “you have skipped activities or stopped doing activities you once enjoyed in order to use the substance”), it seems likely that many of the persons experiencing homelessness may have a substance use disorder, but not at a level where it is likely to have been the sole precipitating factor.



## THE GENERAL BEHAVIOR RULES/GENERAL RULES

There are rules that govern behavior at the different housing options provided for persons experiencing homelessness, rules which are about the same whether the alternative is a safe camping site, safe parking site, interim housing, or permanent supportive housing. No weapons are allowed inside. Technically, no alcohol or drugs are permitted on the premises and residents may be evicted for being under the influence of alcohol or drugs (the operative word is “may”; different facilities are managed differently with respect to this rule, some enforcing this rule more in situations where there is a concern that intoxication may lead to other unacceptable behavior). Acts of violence/aggressive behavior/threats/related activities are not tolerated. Also, there are often curfew rules, such as no entry after 11 p.m. or exit before 7 a.m., subject to approved exceptions. In some cases, it is further provided that a participant cannot exit without prior approval from a supervisor.

While many persons experiencing homelessness are very supportive of these rules (since they increase their safety), there are other persons experiencing homelessness who may reject a housing alternative because of the General Rules, in particular, the curfew rules and/or the rules against alcohol and drug use.

# General Discussion of Homelessness

## SECTION OUTLINE



### PLEASE NOTE

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## How did we get here?

It is worth acknowledging that Los Angeles and the rest of the country has always been “here,” if “here” means the existence of people living on the streets or out of their cars.

There are multiple reasons why homelessness is more prevalent today. It’s beyond the scope of these FAQs to provide much detail about the different factors, but it’s important to make sure someone approaching the issue does so with an awareness of all the relevant factors.

Housing is clearly a major component and, as is well known, LA and California have a much higher cost of housing (measured as a percentage of income) than most of the rest of the country. But that is not the whole story. While Houston has cheaper housing and a lower homeless percentage, it is also true that New York City has less homelessness as a percentage of its population than LA.

Moreover, blaming the high cost of housing on “greedy” developers is overly simplistic. To the extent LA has higher minimum standards for housing than other jurisdictions, that drives up the price, even if the standards are perceived as valuable. Union labor can be more expensive than non-union labor and mandated solar panels, whatever their long-term benefits, raise the price of housing. Another very important factor contributing to the high cost of housing is the fact that almost 80% of the land area of the City of Los Angeles is zoned exclusively for single-family housing.

Also, some argue that the more difficult it is to evict tenants, the more incentive there is for landlords to deny housing to all but the most credit worthy applicants.

Failures to deal with persons suffering from a serious mental illness have left many of them out on the streets. Failure to deal with persons with a substance use disorder have left many of them out on the streets. Previously, our jails housed many persons with a serious mental illness or substance use disorder. The effective decriminalization of many of the behaviors associated with these illnesses put many more of them on the streets.



Changes in policy by LA have increased the visibility of homelessness. Before the pandemic LA allowed persons to sleep on the streets (as required by law) but required tents to be down from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. In response to the pandemic, LA passed a resolution suspending the enforcement of this rule until the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration was no longer in effect, which allowed tents to be erected permanently, greatly increasing the visibility of persons experiencing homelessness. As of September 1, 2022, the Emergency Declaration appears to still be in effect.

While LA has rules limiting the amount of belongings that persons experiencing homelessness can have, as of December 2022, there is very limited enforcement of these rules, so there is generally no practical limit on how much material a person experiencing homeless can store outside his or her tent, so long as the property is considered attended.

Because of LA's self-imposed limits on removing trash, trash is allowed to build up around tents.

There is effectively no enforcement of laws against public urination and defecation.

And, of course, a lack of resources and failures in coordinating the resources that are available is part of the problem.

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## Why is homelessness such a problem?

For persons experiencing homelessness, the long list of challenging problems include:

- Lack of immediate access to toilet/shower facilities if you are living by yourself on the streets.
- The increased risk of illness due to unsanitary living conditions.
- The increased risk of crime and other forms of trauma.

All this results in significantly worse life expectancies for persons experiencing homelessness.

For the housed community, homelessness degrades their quality of life significantly. There is trash all over the place. People experiencing homelessness are allowed to use the streets as toilets. Public toilet facilities are generally unavailable. And it is unpleasant to interact with people who are decompensating on the street due to a serious mental illness or exhibiting symptoms stemming from a substance abuse disorder.



## What constitutes homelessness?

Even before turning to legal rules, there is a threshold question—what does it mean to be “a person experiencing homelessness”? Of course, someone sleeping in the streets is a person experiencing homelessness. But broadly speaking, persons experiencing homelessness can be divided into these categories\*:

- Persons sleeping on the streets, either on the sidewalk or in tents
- Persons sleeping in their vehicles
- Persons in interim shelters

While most of the public attention goes to the first category because of its greater visibility, understanding the other groupings is of high importance—both on humanitarian grounds and because of the high risk that persons sleeping in vehicles, in interim shelters, or couch surfing will end up on the streets absent help.

A related concept to “homelessness” is that of “chronic homelessness,” since chronically homeless individuals have housing priorities under certain programs. Generally speaking, a person is considered “chronically homeless” if he or she:

1. Has a disability that is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration, which substantially impedes the person’s ability to live independently, and which could be improved by more suitable housing conditions
2. Lives in a place not fit for human habitation
3. Has been living in such a place continuously for at least 12 months.

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\*While persons who are temporarily sleeping in the homes of friends or relatives (“couch surfing”) are, in fact, experiencing a form of homelessness, these FAQs will not discuss that category, which generally is not captured in the official statistics.





## What is some additional demographic data on homelessness?

The Los Angeles Housing Authority (LAHSA) released the results of its annual homelessness census in September 2022. There was no census in 2021 due to COVID-19. Of particular note is that, despite all the efforts to remediate homelessness in the last two years, the number of persons experiencing homeless has continued to increase (though less rapidly than in prior years). In interpreting the survey, it should be noted that the 2022 results have been criticized on the ground that there was unexplained undercounting of persons experiencing homelessness in some areas.<sup>2</sup>

Others have noted, however, that a survey like the [LAHSA survey](#) is generally only accurate within +/- 5% or 10%, and the errors that have been found don't appear to indicate that this margin of error was exceeded.

The LAHSA survey found 69,144 persons experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County (up from 66,436 in 2020) and 41,980 in the City of Los Angeles (up from 41,290 in 2020). With respect to the City of Los Angeles, some of the relevant demographic data are:

- **83%** Single individuals
- **66%/33%/1%** Male/female/gender non-binary (2% of this total was also listed as transgender)
- **14%** Persons under 25
- Sexual orientation—**89%** straight, **3%** gay or lesbian, **5%** bisexual, **3%** questioning
- **38%** Chronically homeless (generally, homeless for more than one year with a disabling condition)

## GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HOMELESSNESS



The 2022 LAHSA census reported data for Hollywood, which encompasses a geographic area that differs in some respect from the boundaries used by Hollywood 4WRD but is close enough for the results to be comparable. The Hollywood data both paralleled the citywide data and differed in certain significant ways, as indicated by these statistics:

- **88%** Single individuals
- **74%/20%/5%** Male/female/gender non-binary (6% of this total was also listed as transgender)
- **20%** Persons under 25
- Sexual orientation—**76%** straight, **11%** gay or lesbian, **8%** bisexual, **5%** questioning
- **52%** Chronically homeless

The 2022 LAHSA data for Hollywood reports (data only relates to persons over 17):

- **31%** of the populations have a substance use disorder
- **29%** of the populations have a serious mental illness
- **19%** of the populations have a developmental disability
- **17%** of the populations have a physical disability
- **8%** of the populations have HIV/AIDS

With respect to Hollywood, one finding of note is that LAHSA determined that the total number of persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood had declined from 4364 to 1872. This 57% decline is inconsistent with the general perception that homelessness in Hollywood has worsened since 2020. In determining how to interpret the new data, an important point to note is that the great majority of the decrease occurred in what LAHSA refers to as “transition age youth,” defined as persons under 25. In 2020 this group amounted to 2625 persons. In 2022, it had dropped to 366 persons, a decline of 2259 persons, accounting for almost all of the total decline of 2492 persons. This drop is inconsistent with what TAY-focused organizations who are part of the Hollywood 4WRD coalition have reported about the change in the number of transition age youth over this period.



## **What percentage of persons experiencing homelessness suffer from a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder?**

Understanding the degree to which homelessness is a serious mental illness/substance use disorder issue has very major practical consequences:

- The policies for both interim housing and permanent supportive housing generally disallow the use of drugs or alcohol on the premises. This means a portion of the persons experiencing homelessness are unlikely to trade the streets or their vehicles for housing, if doing so means living with these restrictions. Understanding this systemic disconnect is critical to crafting solutions that work.
- Subsidized housing by itself is not a solution for persons with a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder. Other supportive services are needed. What kind and how much requires knowing the number of persons affected. This is particularly important since, as will be discussed, there is a woeful shortage of such supportive services.

There are many reasons why the data on serious mental illness/substance use disorders is uncertain. One problem is that the homeless population is constantly changing. So, while we believe the percentages do not change greatly year to year, it is important to remain aware of the shifts when they do occur.

Third, there are additional issues in accurately identifying persons with a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder. Self-reported data can often be inaccurate. In the case of a serious mental illness, there is even a medical term used to describe an individual's inability to recognize their own condition—anosognosia. A common estimate is that 50% or more of the persons suffering from a serious mental illness are not aware of their condition. Self-reporting may be an equally significant problem with substance use disorders since, in the case of drugs other than marijuana, the activity in question is illegal, regardless of whether actual enforcement of the law is taking place. Of course, outreach workers and other personnel interact with persons experiencing homelessness and their observations are important. But this kind of data is not systematically tabulated, and, in any event, it is difficult with limited observation to know whether (1) a person has a lesser form of mental illness or a serious mental illness or (2) whether the person is occasionally intoxicated or has a substance use disorder.

# GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HOMELESSNESS



The 2022 LAHSA survey reported the following data with respect to substance use disorders and mental illness in Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, and Hollywood:

	Substance use disorder %	Serious mental illness %
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	26	25
CITY OF LOS ANGELES	28	25
HOLLYWOOD	31	29

These percentages are not additive—that is, some persons have both a substance use disorder and a serious mental illness, so they would be counted twice in the statistics. We should also note that there is great controversy regarding the accuracy of this data, with many believing that the data significantly undercounts persons suffering from a substance use disorder or a serious mental illness.

Based on the experience of Hollywood 4WRD and our partner organizations, it is believed that the LAHSA statistics significantly under report the percentages for Hollywood, and that a majority of persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood suffer from either a substance use disorder and/or a serious mental illness (known as a co-occurring disorder when both are involved). By way of example, the LAHSA report on persons experiencing homelessness in 2019 reported that only 29% of the persons experiencing homelessness had either a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder while a study by the Los Angeles Times of 2019 data concluded that 67% of the persons experiencing homelessness reported being, or were observed to be, affected by mental illness or a substance use disorder.<sup>3</sup>

And, while it may be obvious, it bears emphasizing that (1) a serious mental illness or substance use disorder is a contributing factor to homelessness and (2) homelessness increases the chances of a serious mental illness or substance use disorder.



### **Are persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood typically from California or do they come here from elsewhere?**

Data from The Hollywood Partnership, the business improvement district covering much of central Hollywood<sup>4</sup> indicates that most persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood are from California. Persons experiencing homelessness are asked each month where they were from. The data response in March 2022 indicated that, of the persons experiencing homelessness that answered, over 75% said they were from California. This is consistent with data from other months.

Data from the LAHSA 2022 homeless count is consistent with this conclusion, finding that 79% of the persons age 25 and older experiencing homelessness in LA County reported residing in California before experiencing homelessness (65% reported previously residing in LA County and 10% reported residing in another Southern California county).

# The General Legal Background

## SECTION OUTLINE



### PLEASE NOTE

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## **What are the federal court cases most relevant to homelessness in LA?**

In order to understand the current situation in LA, it is necessary to understand two sets of federal cases—those concerning the right to sleep in the streets and those limiting LA’s ability to remove items from the street if they belong to people.

Before turning to the cases themselves, it is useful to set down some basic information about how the judicial system operates. Below the United States Supreme Court, the country is divided into 13 Circuit Courts, called the United States Courts of Appeal. California plus eight other states (Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) make up the 9th Circuit. The Supreme Court has not ruled on the key issues affecting homelessness, so the key cases are from the 9th Circuit. We are unaware of any other judicial circuits that have reached the same results as the 9th Circuit. What this means in practical terms is that it is uncertain whether the key 9th Circuit cases regulating homelessness will remain valid if the Supreme Court ever examines the issue.

The key 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit case is described on the following page.



## What is the 9th Circuit case forbidding cities from criminalizing sleeping on the streets?

By far the best-known homelessness case applicable to California is *Martin v. City of Boise*, decided by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit in 2019. The Supreme Court decided not to review the case, so it is governing law in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.<sup>5</sup>

The 9th Circuit struck down a Boise law that made it a misdemeanor to “use any of the streets, sidewalks, parks, or public places as a camping place at any time.” This law was held to violate the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Readers who want a deeper understanding of the merits of the decision should read both the decision and the dissents to the opinion that can be found at the above location (technically, the dissents are to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s decision to not have the case reheard by all the judges on the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit).

The critical language in the opinion reads as follows:

*“[S]o long as there is a greater number of homeless individuals in [a jurisdiction] than the number of available beds [in shelters],’ the jurisdiction cannot prosecute homeless individuals for involuntarily sitting, lying and sleeping in public.’ ... That is, as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premises they had a choice in the matter.”*

Obviously, the issue of what a city should do about homelessness is different from the issue of what a city is required to do by the Constitution. But the starting point is understanding what the Constitution requires. People commonly refer to *Martin* as forbidding city-wide anti-camping ordinances so long as there are more homeless people than available shelters.





*Martin* at most only forbids a city-wide ordinance. Whatever the merits of LA's more limited anti-camping ordinance, since it only bans camping in certain areas of the city, it would appear to not violate *Martin*. The author of the majority opinion (Judge Berzon) in discussing the opinion states: "the opinion holds only that municipal ordinances that criminalize sleeping, sitting, or lying in all public spaces, when no alternative sleeping space is available, violate the Eight Amendment."

Much more importantly, there is a difference between the first and second sentences in the underlined quotation that creates a significant uncertainty about what the case actually held. The difference arises because a significant number of persons experiencing homelessness turn down offers of shelter. The first sentence in the quotation indicates that citywide anti-camping ordinances are illegal unless the number of available beds equals the homeless count. The second sentence indicates an anti-camping ordinance could be applied if persons experiencing homelessness turned down an offer of shelter, even if the number of available beds was less than the total homeless population. This second reading of the case appears confirmed by a footnote that says, "Naturally, our holding does not cover individuals who do have access to adequate temporary shelter, whether because they have the means to pay for it or because it is realistically available to them for free, but who choose not to use it."

Obviously, the merits of any anti-camping ordinance are different from understanding what *Martin* held. But, since *Martin* is routinely cited in debates concerning homelessness, it is equally important that persons have a clear understanding of what was decided.

In September 2022 the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit decided *Johnson v. City of Grants Pass*.<sup>6</sup> In addition to reaffirming the principles in the *Martin* case, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit held that, in situations where the *Martin* holding applies, it is also unconstitutional to have a complete prohibition on a person's making use of bedding, sleeping bags, or other material in order to facilitate sleep.

# The Current Los Angeles Rules Affecting Conditions on the Streets

This Section Explains Certain Rules Adopted By The City Of Los Angeles Relevant To Persons Experiencing Homelessness  
(Discussion Includes August 2022 Revisions To Municipal Code)

## SECTION OUTLINE

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## Does LA have the right to regulate sleeping, etc., on Caltrans property?

Even though the property is within Los Angeles boundaries, Los Angeles has no authority to regulate sleeping (by “sleeping” we also refer to erecting tents, storing personal property, etc.) on freeways, freeway on ramps and off ramps, embankments, and similar properties. Caltrans owns these properties. It is our understanding that Caltrans has legal authority to completely prohibit sleeping on its properties.

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## What rules regulate sleeping on the sidewalks?

Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18 (LAMC 41.18) is the ordinance regulating the right to sleep, including having a tent, on the sidewalk. (When we refer to sleeping, we will be referring also to having tents and other personal property). Its current form was passed by the City Council in August 2022.

Subject to limited exceptions, persons are allowed to erect tents and sleep on the sidewalks. There are both (1) certain general exceptions to this right to sleep on the sidewalks plus (2) an exception for designated areas that requires City Council action.

The below link is provided by Los Angeles and is intended to show the areas subject to 41.18 because they are schools/daycare centers or “designated areas,” as described in the next two sections.

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=ae6e4de267c245adaa399b1b6154071f>

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## What are the general exceptions to the right to sleep on the sidewalks?

The exceptions are:

- The sidewalks must allow passage in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA requires a passable area of at least three feet.
- Sleeping cannot be within 10 feet of a driveway or loading dock, five feet of any building entrance or exit, or two feet of any fire department connection.
- Sleeping cannot interfere with activities for which the City has issued a permit.
- There is no sleeping within 500 feet of a school or day care center (this prohibition became effective in September 2022).

As many have observed throughout the Hollywood area, there appears to be no consistent effort by Los Angeles to enforce these exceptions. In particular, there are many places throughout Hollywood where encampments block ADA required passage.



## What is the exception for designated areas?

When one reads about Los Angeles “clearing” an encampment, this is often a reference to the City Council taking the actions described in 41.18 to designate an area as a “no sleeping” area. There are complex procedures involved in making a designation under 41.18, which are beyond the scope of these FAQs. The key thing is to understand the limited types of areas that can be designated as “no sleeping” areas:

- Any area within an area of up to 500 feet from a property designated as a sensitive use, which is limited to a public park or public library (prior to the 2022 revisions, schools and day care centers had to be designated; they are now automatically treated as a sensitive use)
- Any area within an area of up to 500 feet from a designated overpass, underpass, freeway ramp, tunnel, bridge, and similar structures where the City Council determines that the public health, safety, or welfare is served by the designation
- Any area within an area of up to 1000 feet from a facility opened after 2017 that provides homeless shelter or is a homeless services navigation center
- Any area where sleeping has been designated a particular and ongoing threat to public health and safety.

The process of designating an area is complex and, depending on the area, can be controversial. In practice, it starts with the City Councilperson for the area in question. For Hollywood, the Councilperson is Hugo Soto-Martinez (as of December 12, 2022).



## What rules regulate the storage of personal property on the sidewalks?

LAMC 56.11 contains complex rules with respect to the property that can be stored on sidewalks by persons experiencing homelessness (or anyone else). As is apparent to anyone walking through Hollywood, these rules are not being generally enforced for a variety of reasons. This section describes in a simplified fashion some of the basic rules and other sections describe the factors that have modified them. The rules currently in effect are significantly different than the rules that applied before City Council action in August 2022.

The basic rules provide:

- No unattended personal property can be stored on the sidewalks
- No attended “Excess Personal Property” can be stored on the sidewalks. Excess Personal Property is defined as personal property in excess of what could fit in a 60-gallon container (roughly 24” by 24” by 32”). Importantly, the City’s ability to enforce this rule is subject to a notice and impoundment procedure. Generally, there must be pre-removal notice, the property can be impounded 24 hours after the notice, and the property owner has 90 days to pick up the property before it is destroyed.
- Generally, tents must come down from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to the basic rules, in some cases personal property may be removed without notice, including where:

- The personal property is placed on a sidewalk in a way that violates the requirement under the American with Disabilities Act that generally requires at least three feet be allowed for passage;
- The personal property is placed within 10 feet of a driveway or loading dock, five feet of any building entrance or exit, or two feet of any fire department connection; or
- The personal property is a health or safety hazard.



## **To what extent is 56.11 being enforced currently?**

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council suspended the part of 56.11 requiring tents to come down during the day during the City's Emergency Declaration. By its terms, this suspension will end once the Emergency Declaration ends.

As of September 1, 2022, Los Angeles does not appear to be generally enforcing the provisions of 56.11 allowing removal of Excess Personal Property, with the exception that enforcement appears to be occurring in areas designated as no-sleeping areas under 48.11 and (in at least some cases) in areas designated for a Care+ cleanup. At least one factor behind non-enforcement is a lack of resources to enforce this provision.

It should be noted that, since Excess Personal Property includes all property in excess of that which would fit in a 60-gallon container, many of the larger housing structures constructed by persons experiencing homelessness are clearly in violation of 56.11 and can be impounded with 24-hours' notice if the ordinance were being enforced.

As a result, notwithstanding the legal rules, as of September 1, 2022, at least in Hollywood, the practical reality appears to be that a person experiencing homelessness, assuming he or she is located in an area where sleeping is permissible, may generally accumulate Excess Personal Property.

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## **What are the rules with respect to public urination and defecation?**

The Los Angeles Municipal Code provides that urinating or defecating in public is illegal. Our understanding is that, as of December 1, 2022, no actions are being taken against individuals who violate this ordinance.

# How are the Hollywood sidewalks kept clean?

(Information Regarding LA Sanitation and Environment Department  
Current as of 10/1/22)

## PLEASE NOTE

All information contained in this FAQ is accurate as of the date of publication: 01/03/2023



## How are the hollywood sidewalks kept clean?

There are two sources for keeping sidewalks clean in Hollywood—the LA Sanitation and Environment Department (LASAN) and, if the sidewalk in question is within the boundaries of one of the three Hollywood business improvement districts (BIDs), one of the BIDs. BIDs are assessment districts, voluntarily formed by property owners and funded through annual assessments levied on private property. They perform various tasks to maintain and beautify their service area. The three BIDs for Hollywood are (the hyperlink next to their names links to a map of their geographic area):

1. The Hollywood Partnership (<https://hollywoodpartnership.com/hollywood-bid>)
2. The Hollywood Media District (<https://mediadistrict.org/map>)
3. The East Hollywood BID (<https://www.ehbid.org/district-map>)

It makes sense to start by understanding how the BIDs work since they are dedicated to their service area while the LASAN resources are citywide. We will use The Hollywood Partnership (THP) as an example, which is the BID that covers the core part of downtown Hollywood. Its daily activities include power washing sidewalks and street sweeping services, collection of debris, and removing graffiti.

A key point to understand about the THP is that it does not remove property belonging to persons experiencing homelessness without their consent. “Belonging to” is a nebulous concept. If the property is not next to an encampment and no one has interacted with it for a while, THP considers it abandoned. If the property is next to an encampment, even if it looks like trash, empty boxes, food containers, etc. THP will not remove it without the consent of the persons experiencing homelessness. This does not reflect the fact that the person experiencing homelessness has unlimited rights to keep as much property on the sidewalks as desired, even including hazardous material. Rather the current position of the THP is that any involuntary removal of property is to be undertaken by LASAN. By way of example, if THP saw discarded hypodermic needles (hazardous material) at a campsite, it would attempt to get the consent of the person experiencing homelessness to removal of the material, but, if the person failed to consent, THP would contact a representative of Council District 13, who would then advise the LASAN assigned team for the area for help in removing the material.

The next level of cleanup is provided by the LASAN. Before 2020, tents and similar structures had to be taken down during the day and persons could not loiter in permanent locations, so much less trash accumulated. The rise of permanent encampments has coincided with a significant rise of trash on the streets. At the end of 2019 LASAN established two types of operations designed to remove trash, entitled CARE and CARE+.



## HOW HOLLYWOOD SIDEWALKS ARE KEPT CLEAN



As of October 1, 2022, there is one CARE team for Council District 13 (the district in which Hollywood is located), which services the district twice per week. Its approach to cleaning is the same as THP—removal of abandoned objects and no removal of unabandoned objects (even if health or safety hazards) without the consent of the person experiencing homelessness.

As of October 1, 2022, there is one CARE+ unit assigned to Council District 13, which services the district four days a week (while prior Councilmember O’Farrell had secured funding for an additional CARE+ team, LASAN has so far not completed the process of hiring additional staff to establish a second team). Unlike THP and CARE teams, the CARE+ teams have the authority to require the person experiencing homelessness to relocate all of his or her property while the sidewalk underneath is being power washed. In order for a CARE+ cleaning to take place at an encampment, the area is first posted with signage in anticipation of the service date, usually between 24 and 72 hours before the scheduled service date. Prior to the scheduled service date, outreach teams also conduct outreach to the site to inform persons experiencing homelessness about the scheduled cleaning and that they will need to move out of the work area during the scheduled cleaning. In Council District 13, Urban Alchemy (UA) regularly supplements the LAHSA outreach efforts and is also present on the day of CARE+ cleanings to support LASAN. LAPD is often on hand during these comprehensive cleaning, especially when there have been reported incidents in the past, although LAPD’s role is designed to be secondary.

CARE+ teams provide full comprehensive cleanings including the identification, documentation, and removal of line-of-sight health and/or safety hazards, the removal of trash, litter, and debris, and the power washing of public rights-of-way. Should personal property be abandoned in the course of a CARE+ (or CARE) operation, this personal property will be stored and maintained in a secure location for a period of 90 days for the rightful owner to retrieve - provided there is not an immediate threat to public health or safety. If the property is not claimed within 90 days, then the property may be discarded by the City. The rightful owner of the personal property that was removed and stored from LASAN’s CARE and/or CARE+ operations may receive information about and/or make arrangements to retrieve stored personal property by contacting:

### **Chrysalis (The Bin)**

213-806-6355 | 1-844-475-1244

507 Towne Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm  
Saturday from 8:00am to 1:00pm

## HOW HOLLYWOOD SIDEWALKS ARE KEPT CLEAN



It does not appear at the present time that the CARE+ teams are uniformly enforcing the limits provided in the Municipal Code on how much property a person experiencing homelessness can accumulate on the sidewalk, only requiring that the property be removed during the power washing. Section 56.11 generally provides that “Excess Personal Property” cannot be stored on the sidewalks. Excess Personal Property is defined as personal property in excess of what could fit in a 60-gallon container (roughly 24” by 24” by 32”).

There are special cleaning rules for Hollywood’s two Special Enforcement Cleaning Zones, zones which were established around the Lodi and Schrader interim shelters described below. These sites come with regular CARE cleanings and once a week CARE+ cleaning, which are provided by different teams than the teams that generally provide cleaning to Hollywood.

# What are the alternatives to living on the streets?

## SECTION OUTLINE

### PLEASE NOTE

All information contained in this FAQ is accurate as of the date of publication: 01/03/2023



## What is the cost of housing in Hollywood?

An appropriate starting point is to describe the Hollywood housing market. A June 2022 review of apartment listings in Hollywood and East Hollywood suggests that it is difficult to find an apartment under \$1400, even looking at a small studio apartment. As of July 1, the minimum wage in Los Angeles will be \$16.04. Assuming someone works 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year, this amounts to a monthly income of \$2674, so housing is about 52% of wages for a minimum wage worker. A common statistic is that housing costs should be 30% of income (while this statistic is commonly cited, it does not appear that there is uniform agreement as to the validity of this benchmark). This 30% is supposed to not only cover rent but other housing costs, such as utilities. But even assuming the real number is significantly higher, say 40%, it's clear that someone making minimum wage can't afford to live in Hollywood since spending 40% on housing would still only mean one could pay \$1070 in monthly rent (assuming utilities were included).

In addition to the monthly costs, there are the upfront fees necessary to move in. The renter will be charged a security deposit, plus typically first and last month's rent. So, renting a \$1400-a-month apartment, would require an upfront payment of \$4200 if the security deposit equaled one month's rent.

Some persons experiencing homelessness work (in particular, those living in their vehicles) and some who don't work may reenter the workforce and from the outset get paid more than minimum wage. But the implication of this quick math reinforces a proposition that, while it may be obvious, bears restating—for most persons experiencing homelessness, it is unrealistic to think there is anything today resembling an immediate path to a position of enough financial stability to enable them to rent in Hollywood without some form of public or private assistance.

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## What are the current alternatives to living on the streets?

Before describing the current process for improving the situation for persons experiencing homelessness, it makes sense to enumerate the different kinds of alternative shelters.

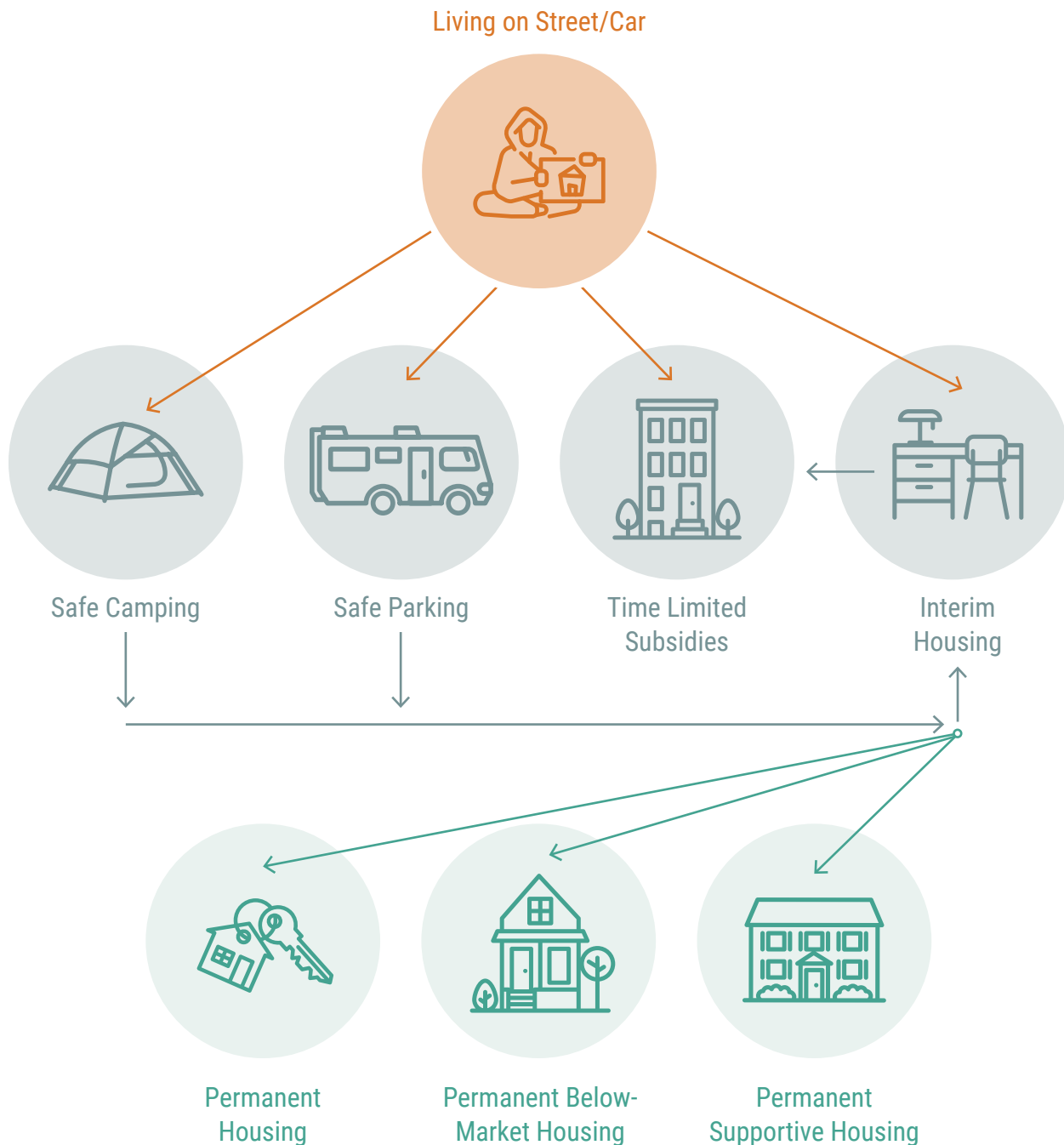
Alternatives to living on the street/in cars can be broken into four categories:

- Time Limited Subsidies (previously known as "Rapid Rehousing")
- Safe Camping and Safe Parking
- Interim Housing
- Options after Interim Housing



## Is there a flowchart that shows the path to more secure housing?

There are many paths from the street to secure housing. The flow chart below illustrates some of the most common paths to a favorable outcome. Later sections of the FAQs further describe these different alternatives.





## What are Time Limited Subsidies?

The core concept of Time Limited Subsidies is to provide the necessary financial support so that a person experiencing homelessness can immediately move into an apartment. The apartment is not a specially-built structure designed to serve persons experiencing homelessness. Rather it is a unit in a generally available apartment.

While obvious, it is worth restating the reasons why help from a homeless service agency is a crucial ingredient to Time Limited Subsidies. Initial move in fees are high, \$4200 in the example above. The homeless service agency may advance all or part of these fees, with no expectation of repayment from the person experiencing homelessness (in many cases repayment is from the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority).

In addition, there is often a need for continued support, while the person experiencing homelessness gets back on his or her feet. In some cases, support with respect to rental obligations may last up to two years.

Apartment owners are not required to rent to persons with bad credit scores, negative references from previous landlords, past behavior problems, such as consistently paying rent late, or other factors that make them a bad risk. It is typical that most persons experiencing homelessness will have one or more of these factors, so a core component of Time Limited Subsidies is developing an inventory of apartments where the owner is willing to participate in the program in light of the homeless service agency's financial support.

As the above description indicates, most persons experiencing homelessness will not be good candidates for immediate entry into a Time Limited Subsidies program, since the program is designed to be temporary, with the expectation that in a relatively short period of time the person experiencing homelessness will achieve the financial stability to continue paying rent without assistance. A more common path is for a person experiencing homelessness to first move into some form of Interim Housing and then, hopefully, be placed into a Rapid Rehousing program.

There are many apartments in Hollywood where persons experiencing homelessness have moved in through Time Limited Subsidies.

One variation on Time Limited Subsidies is Master Leasing, where a homeless service agency is the actual lessee of the housing unit and the agency in turn rents the apartment to the person experiencing homelessness. This type of arrangement can make it easier to navigate around some of the factors that might cause a traditional landlord to be hesitant to lease to that person.



## What is Safe Camping and Safe Parking?

### SAFE CAMPING

Currently there are no Safe Camping sites in Hollywood. Since they have existed in the past and are potentially a necessary component of any immediate improvement in the homelessness situation in Hollywood, it is important to describe them.

Safe Camping involves creating specific spaces for persons experiencing homelessness to camp, with or without tents. Safe Camping is a vast improvement over disorganized sleeping on the streets for many reasons:

- The safe camping site is organized with a perimeter wall and some form of controlled ingress and egress.
- The inside of the site has designated areas where the camper may pitch his or her tent, for example, approximately 4' by 6' rectangles with space between other rectangles
- Personnel provides safety protection by patrolling the campsite. For example, Urban Alchemy has provided safety services for some campsites.
- There are on-premises toilet/shower facilities.
- Meals are delivered to the sites.
- Case management services are provided on site. The case manager plays an important role in enabling the person experiencing homelessness to function successfully. He or she is more of a navigator than the provider of specific mental health/substance abuse or other services. For example, some of the services provided by the case manager might include:
  - » helping the person experiencing homelessness accumulate some of the necessary documentation to receive services (driver's license or some other form of identification);
  - » helping them apply for or to continue subsidies, etc.;
  - » arranging transportation for the person experiencing homelessness for medical and other appointments;
  - » helping the person experiencing homelessness with dietary needs, such as choosing appropriate meals;
  - » and helping the person experiencing homelessness schedule meaningful social and related activities.



There are restrictions on using the camping site. While rules may vary from site to site, we believe the following description is generally accurate (the description is based on the rules applicable to a Safe Parking site in the Hollywood area—Safe Parking is described in the next FAQ):

- No weapons are allowed inside.
- No alcohol or drugs are permitted on the premises and the regulations provide that residents may be evicted for being under the influence of alcohol or drugs (the operative word is “may”; different facilities are managed differently with respect to this rule, some enforcing this rule more in situations where there is a concern that intoxication may lead to other unacceptable behavior).
- Acts of violence/aggressive behavior/threats/related activities are not tolerated.

Also, there are curfew rules, such as no entry after 11 p.m. or exit before 7 a.m. It is further provided that a participant cannot exit without prior approval from a supervisor.

These rules (we will call them the “General Rules”) and, in particular, the curfew rules and the rules against alcohol and drug use, may cause a person experiencing homelessness to refuse an offer of Safe Camping.

Generally, one is not entitled to stay indefinitely at a Safe Camping site but needs to reapply to stay after 90 days. Applications for renewal are likely to be accepted, particularly if there is no better alternative available.

There is no one entity in charge of Safe Camping sites. They have tended to occur on sort of a “pop-up” basis, i.e., put together at a particular location so long as a site and operational funds are available. In the past, for example, CD 13 funded a Safe Camping site at a Hollywood location, which site has now been closed.





## SAFE PARKING

Some of the persons experiencing homelessness are living out of their motor vehicles (in Hollywood the number is small). Safe Parking facilities provide services that parallel those available at Safe Camping sites with the exception that, instead of a tent, the person experiencing homelessness parks his or her vehicle at a designated location inside the Safe Parking facility.

Depending on the particular Safe Parking site, vehicles must exit during the day. This might be necessary, for example, if the site were used during the day for other parking purposes.

The nearest Safe Parking location to Hollywood is at Glassell Park, near the intersection of the 5 and 2 freeways.

Safe Parking LA is a nonprofit organization running most of the Safe Parking sites in LA. [SafeparkingLA.org](http://SafeparkingLA.org) contains a description of the organization and additional information about their sites.

Safe Parking LA states: "There is no limit set on enrollment as long as participants are actively pursuing their next steps." They also state: "Any participant who misses three consecutive nights without notice of their absence and does not reappear for the fourth night can be exited from the program."



## What are different types of Interim Housing?

Interim Housing can be broadly divided into two categories:

- “Congregate Interim Housing” – facilities that are more like dormitories
- “Noncongregate Interim Housing” – facilities that provide more privacy, such as a private room or a room limited to two occupants

The General Rules apply to Interim Housing. With respect to length of stay, participants are required to seek permission to stay after 90 days, which is often granted if it is shown that there are no alternatives as beneficial to the persons experiencing homelessness.

### 1) CONGREGATE INTERIM HOUSING

These facilities are probably what most people think of when they think about persons experiencing homelessness who are in shelters. There are numerous congregate facilities in Hollywood (by Hollywood we are referring to the area bounded on the west by La Brea, the north by Franklin, the east by Western, and the south by Melrose). Some of them are:

- **Aviva Family and Child Services** | Women & Children | <https://aviva.org>
- **Covenant House of California** | Youth Only | <https://covenanthousecalifornia.org>
- **Gardner Street Women’s Bridge Housing Center** | Women Only  
<https://www.laconservancy.org/locations/gardner-street-womens-bridge-housing-center>
- **Los Angeles Youth Network** | Youth Only | <https://www.youthemergingstronger.org>
- **Lodi Place Bridge Housing** | Women Only  
<https://la.curbed.com/2018/10/30/18040220/hollywood-homeless-shelter-a-bridge-home>
- **Los Angeles LGBT Center** | Youth Focused  
<https://lalgbtcenter.org/social-service-and-housing>
- **Salvation Army** | Youth & Adult Males  
[https://thewayin.salvationarmy.org/the\\_way\\_in\\_us\\_west/about-us](https://thewayin.salvationarmy.org/the_way_in_us_west/about-us)
- **Schrader Bridge Center** | Men & Women  
<https://www.weingart.org/housing-solutions>  
<https://la.curbed.com/2018/10/30/18040220/hollywood-homeless-shelter-a-bridge-home>



The layout of these facilities varies, but can generally be described as modified dormitory style. There are individual beds in cubicle style facilities, with some degree of limited privacy, the ability to store a limited amount of articles, and the ability to safely lock up a limited number of items.

Because of COVID restrictions, many of the facilities are not operating at full capacity, i.e., for example a facility that could accommodate 100 persons might limit capacity to 80 persons.

## 2) NONCONGREGATE INTERIM HOUSING

While there is currently no Noncongregate Interim Housing in Hollywood (the Gardner Street Women's Bridge Housing Center is two to a room, so it's closer to Noncongregate Interim Housing), there are several such facilities throughout LA, so many hope that Noncongregate Interim Housing will be part of the homelessness solution in Hollywood.

The core concept of Noncongregate Interim Housing is to assemble multiple small living spaces in a common facility that may contain communal kitchen facilities, toilet/shower facilities, facilities for case management services and related facilities. Typically, part of the structure is prefabricated. These small living spaces can be ***much*** cheaper to build than conventional apartments. For example, as part of Project Homekey (which will be described below), the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) purchased many apartments and hotels at an average cost per unit of around \$400,000. Typically, the cost of installing Tiny Home Shelters as Noncongregate Interim Housing is well below \$100,000.

Noncongregate Interim Housing can come in many varieties, but to illustrate the concept in a little more detail, the next two sections will describe Tiny Home Shelters and the use of shipping containers.

### A) TINY HOME SHELTERS

Persons experiencing homelessness are housed in small, prefabricated homes, generally 64 sq. ft. in size, and containing heat, air-conditioning, windows, and a small desk and a front door. The closest location to Hollywood is on Chandler Blvd., close to where Chandler Blvd meets the Hollywood Freeway.

One very important distinction is that Tiny Home Shelters are considered "interim housing." Persons are expected to transition from Tiny Home Shelters to another form of housing within generally three to six months.



Hope of the Valley currently operates the six Tiny Home Shelters in the Fernando Valley.  
<https://www.hopeofthevalley.org/tinyhomes>

Some COVID protocols are still in place, so these facilities are not permitting all their beds to be occupied. In particular, some of the units are designed to house two persons, but are currently housing only one person, so the easing of the COVID protocols will increase capacity.

There are waiting lists for all the Tiny Home Shelters in the San Fernando Valley.

### B) SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Shipping containers were modified and assembled into three-story structures at the Hilda L. Solis Care First Village in downtown Los Angeles. Each shipping container was converted into a two-person structure of 135 square feet, including a bed, microwave, mini-fridge, flat screen and private bathroom. Consistent with the larger size and amenities, the cost appears significantly higher than Tiny Home Shelters, somewhere in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range, based on news reports.

### C) PROJECT ROOMKEY

While Project Roomkey is in the process of being phased out, it should be mentioned as a form of Noncongregate Interim Housing since it has played a very important role in reducing homelessness during the COVID pandemic. Over 9000 persons took part in Project Roomkey in Los Angeles County.

Project Roomkey is a collaborative effort of the federal government, California, LA County, and LAHSA to provide hotel and motel rooms to persons experiencing homelessness at most risk from COVID. Participants have to be over 65, have an underlying medical condition, or be medically compromised to be eligible. Reflecting the focus of Project Roomkey to prevent the spread of COVID, the Project Roomkey rules are even more restrictive than the General Rules, for example, no guests are allowed on site and clients are not allowed to congregate in common areas.

In light of its particular application to persons most vulnerable to COVID-19, Project Roomkey placements did not have a time limit.



## What are the options after Interim Housing?

This section lists the housing paths that may be taken by a person experiencing homelessness exiting Interim Housing. Interim Housing is not intended as a permanent solution. At some point in time a person experiencing homelessness is expected to exit Interim Housing although, depending on the other available options, a person experiencing homelessness may be allowed to stay indefinitely in Interim Housing. The available paths may be grouped as follows:

### **1) RETURNING TO LIVING WITH RELATIVES/FRIENDS, ETC., LIVING ON THE STREETS, OR SAFE CAMPING OR SAFE PARKING**

While the paths listed in the heading of this subsection are undesirable (depending on its permanency, living with friends or relatives may be ok), the reality is that a very significant percentage of persons experiencing homelessness in Interim Housing end up in one of these situations.

### **2) TIME LIMITED SUBSIDIES**

The mechanics of Time Limited Subsidies have already been described. ([See Page 38](#))

### **3) REENTERING THE HOUSING MARKET WITHOUT THE NEED FOR SOME TYPE OF SUBSIDY**

While this is obviously a desirable outcome, only a limited number of persons experiencing homelessness move directly from Interim Housing to permanent housing without some form of subsidy. The situations where this might occur could involve (1) financial assistance from friends or relatives that allows transition to normal housing or (2) situations where the homelessness was occasioned by a mental health, physical health, or substance use disorder issue that the person experiencing homelessness has been able to overcome.

### **4) PERMANENT BELOW-MARKET HOUSING FOR PERSONS NOT SUBJECT TO DISABILITY**

As will be seen in the next section (5), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is only available to persons with a permanent or long-lasting disability. There is an extremely limited supply of below-market housing available in Los Angeles for a person experiencing homelessness who is not disabled but earns significantly below the median level of income. So, while this option should be listed as a possible outcome, it is usually not available for



persons experiencing homelessness who don't have a disability. There are various types of below-market housing available in Los Angeles:

- Federal Section 8 housing vouchers. There is a long waiting list to get these vouchers, which are used to pay a portion of the market rate rent otherwise due at an apartment.
- Public Housing. As the name applies, in this case the apartment units are owned by a nonprofit or public entity that rents them out to low-income occupants at below-market rental levels. Some public housing is limited to specific types of renters, for example, HUD provides section 202 housing for persons over age 62.
- Affordable apartments units in apartment buildings that otherwise have market-rate rentals. Los Angeles developers can sometimes save money by building taller and denser buildings under the city's two inclusionary housing programs – "Transit Oriented Communities" and "density bonus" – if they agree to reserve some of their units for people who earn less than certain stipulated amounts, for example, in 2022 between \$24,850 and \$67,200 a year (for a single person household).

Persons experiencing homelessness do not have any priority with respect to below-market housing in these situations.

### 5) PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

References to PSH sometimes suggest that permanent supportive housing is the long-term solution to homelessness. While it is a critical component of any solution, it can be only a partial solution since it is **only** available to persons experiencing homelessness with a disability. Nevertheless, since it is believed that a significant percentage of the persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood would qualify for permanent supportive housing, it plays an important role. There is a lengthy waiting list for any future units that may become available and persons with a higher degree of vulnerability are supposed to get higher preference on the list. (Although living in Hollywood does not necessarily mean that the housing placement will be in Hollywood). The General Rules apply.

Federal rules define a "homeless individual with a disability" to include persons experiencing homelessness with a disability that is:

- Expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration,
- Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently,



- Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing provisions,
- A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury.

In addition, “disability” includes “developmental disabilities” and AIDS and certain related conditions.

As may be seen from the definition, the disability in question must be both (1) long continuing or of indefinite duration and (2) substantially impede the individual’s ability to live independently. Obviously, lack of financial resources would not qualify. Nor is it expected that all substance use disorders would qualify, since at least some persons are expected to be able to overcome this issue. It is our understanding that the most common form of disability is some form of serious mental illness, though the definition obviously would include disabling physical handicaps, such as forms of advanced diabetes, end stage renal disease, etc. It will not include disabling conditions that require nursing assistance and similar types of intervention.

Permanent supportive housing can either consist of dedicated housing or the placement of the disabled person in an apartment unit that is more generally available. In either case, the apartment units are generally constructed the same as typical apartment units, with exceptions in the case of apartment units intended for persons with a particular physical disability (for example, hearing or vision disabilities). While permanent supportive housing is subsidized, it is generally expected that recipients pay some portion of their income toward rent, even if that income is only LA County general relief funds (around \$220 a month in 2022).

Consistent with the need for supportive services, the person experiencing homelessness has a continuing case manager to assist him or her going forward. Case management services are typically available on site in the case of dedicated facilities. The case manager plays an important role in enabling the person experiencing homelessness to function successfully. He or she is more of a navigator than the provider of specific mental health/substance abuse or other services. Some of the services provided by the case manager might include:

- helping the person experiencing homelessness fulfill rent obligations by reminding them to pay, helping them apply to continue subsidies, etc.;
- arranging transportation for the person experiencing homelessness for medical and other appointments;



- helping the person experiencing homelessness maintain the housing in an acceptable condition (persons experiencing homelessness may have come recently from the streets, so the case manager can be very important in enabling them to comply with the cleanliness rules of the project);
- helping the person experiencing homelessness with dietary needs, such as choosing appropriate meals;
- and helping the person experiencing homelessness schedule meaningful social and related activities.

A typical case manager load might be around 20 clients.

It should be noted that, even in the case of dedicated housing, not all units are limited to persons experiencing homelessness with a disability. The diversity of populations is indicated by the different descriptions found with respect to three permanent supportive housing facilities:

- One site says 38 units are set aside for persons experiencing homelessness and/or are living with a qualifying disability. Ten units are set aside for individuals who earn 60% or below average median income.
- Another site says its units are for individuals who are persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness, and to homeless individuals and families in which at least one adult has a disability.
- A third site says it provides affordable and permanent supportive apartments.

### 6) ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Another form of housing available for people who are challenged with a serious mental illness, and perhaps would find it difficult to live in the quasi-independence associated with Permanent Supportive Housing, would be found in an Adult Residential Facility (ARF), more often referred to as a “board and care” home. The board and care home is generally a privately-operated residential facility ranging from five or six beds to a larger building with >100 beds. People live two to a room and share a bathroom and common areas.

ARF’s are licensed by the state and are defined as: “non–medical facilities that provide room, meals, housekeeping, supervision, storage and distribution of medication, and personal care assistance with basic activities like hygiene, dressing, eating, bathing, and transferring. This





level of care and supervision is for people who are unable to live by themselves but who do not need 24-hour nursing care.”

Board and care homes provide a critical source of housing for people leaving psychiatric hospitals or locked facilities, placed under conservatorship, or re-entering the community after incarcerations. Rarely does someone enter the board and care environment directly from the street, though most people living in board and cares have experienced homelessness in their past.

The state, county and city have become quite aware of the growing shortage of board and care beds in the community, owing to the funding model that is tied to residents paying rent from their social security benefits income. The city of Los Angeles released a report in February 2022 indicating that the city of has a total of 180 facilities providing 6,717 beds. Between January 2020 and February 2021, the city lost 369 board and care beds. The situation throughout the county is even more significant. Some would suggest that the continuing loss of these types of beds for people with a serious mental illness is contributing to the increase in persons experiencing homelessness struggling even more with their mental illness.

In greater Hollywood it is estimated that there are approximately 280 people living in board and care homes.

### 7) PROJECT HOMEKEY

Because Project Homekey has an important role to play in providing PSH shelter, it warrants description under this heading. Project Homekey takes funds provided by the State of California to purchase hotels and apartment buildings, which are then used for both interim and permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness.

Project Homekey is a major source of funds for persons experiencing homelessness housing. For example, in January 2021 the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles voted to spend around \$500 million of state and local funds under Project Homekey to buy 16 different properties totaling 1,276 residential units, including one site in the Hollywood area.

# What is the process in Hollywood for helping someone move from living on the streets to a better situation?

## SECTION OUTLINE

### PLEASE NOTE

All information contained in this FAQ is accurate as of the date of publication: 01/03/2023



## Introduction

As will be seen, the current process for helping persons experiencing homelessness move to a better living situation involves a number of different entities and potential pathways. While the following description is generally correct as of July 1, 2022, changes occur constantly, and this description will undoubtedly need updating as future events unfold.

At a high level one can say that the placement process is under the control of the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority, which uses outreach workers and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in a coordinated process intended to navigate persons experiencing homelessness into a better housing situation.

LAHSA is a joint powers authority formed by both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. It administers the “Continuum of Care,” which is a federal definition applied to the range of housing options available to persons experiencing homelessness. LAHSA has 10 members, half appointed by the County and half appointed by the City. It is largely an administrative entity responsible for contracting with a network of community-based providers throughout the county to provide a range of homeless services. It obtains funds from a variety of governmental sources, including sales tax revenues paid to the County under Measure H. Measure H was adopted by the voters in 2017 and provides that  $\frac{1}{4}$  percent of sales tax revenues are to be used to address homelessness. Measure H expires in 2027.

Under LAHSA’s purview are functions and policies intended to properly connect people with services. The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a federal requirement to ensure that people are assessed and linked to the most appropriate housing solution, based upon their needs. Another component of the housing process is LAHSA’s establishment and maintenance of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This database is the central repository of information with respect to persons experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. Identifying information, case notes, descriptions of services provided, information with regard to housing opportunities offered a particular person experiencing homelessness, etc., are all part of the data network. There is disagreement about the extent HMIS effectively functions as a repository of relevant data with respect to persons experiencing homelessness, i.e., in some cases not all the relevant information makes its way into HMIS.

# MOVING FROM LIVING ON THE STREETS



Several additional preliminary observations are appropriate in terms of understanding the system:

***Only a minority of homeless outreach workers are actually employees of LAHSA.***

There are a number of other entities employing outreach workers in the Hollywood areas, including PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), TPC (The People Concern), The Center in Hollywood, My Friend's Place, and the Los Angeles LGBT Center. These entities are under contract to LAHSA. The process of interacting with a person experiencing homelessness is substantially the same, regardless of who is the technical employer of the caseworker, so this distinction will not be referenced. In some cases where LAHSA is not directly providing services, it provides funds to the employing entity, such as PATH. In other cases, LAHSA is providing funds to political entities (for example, the Council office of Hugo Soto-Martinez, the current Los Angeles City Council member for Council District 13, the Council District which primarily covers Hollywood, which council office in turns contracts with the outreach workers).

***Not all persons involved in assisting persons experiencing homelessness have authority to help them with housing placements.***

For example, The Hollywood Partnership, the business entity providing a number of critical services to central Hollywood, has an outreach team that actively engages with persons experiencing homelessness in their area. THP is not part of the housing process, however, and would seek to get a case worker involved who is part of the housing placement process if a person experiencing homelessness indicated interest/readiness for pursuing such a path. Similarly, Urban Alchemy is an organization with significant experience and expertise in dealing with homelessness issues, but its current focus is more on handling non-housing related issues (such as persons experiencing homelessness in a non-violent crisis situation).

***There may be some situations where obtaining interim housing does not directly involve the LAHSA outreach structure.***

In some situations, the person experiencing homelessness may obtain interim housing by directly contacting the provider.



## What is SPA 4?

The provision of services by LAHSA is generally organized around the eight Service Planning Areas (“SPAs”) that LA County is divided into. SPA 4 is the area that includes Hollywood. SPA 4 is called “Metro LA” and covers the areas in LA County with the greatest proportion of persons experiencing homelessness—Boyle Heights, Central City, Downtown LA, Echo Park, El Sereno, Hollywood, Mid-City Wilshire, Monterey Hills, Mount Washington, Silverlake, West Hollywood, and Westlake.

## How do persons experiencing homelessness enter into the placement system?

There are several ways LAHSA can become aware of a person experiencing homelessness.

Case management teams that are out in the field can become aware of persons experiencing homelessness through direct observation. Alternatively, organizations that deal with persons experiencing homelessness, such as The Hollywood Partnership, can directly contact LAHSA to determine if they are aware of a particular person experiencing homelessness.

There is a website portal available to the public, which allows someone to bring a person experiencing homelessness to the attention of LAHSA: LA-HOP, “HOP” standing for “homeless outreach portal.” (<https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop>) Anyone can go on the portal, identify a person experiencing homelessness (describe the person, his or her circumstances, location, etc.), and a request will be sent to LAHSA, which will result in an outreach team being sent to interact with the individual in question.

Another method of bringing persons experiencing homelessness who need immediate assistance into the system is through the “Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement” (CIRCLE) pilot program. CIRCLE can be reached by calling 911 and indicating that there is a person experiencing homelessness who needs intermediate assistance, but who does not appear dangerous. This should cause the call to be assigned to the staff of Urban Alchemy, which is currently the contracted vendor for CIRCLE (CIRCLE is a project of the Mayor’s office, which has been set up as a pilot project in Venice and Hollywood). Urban Alchemy is a nonprofit organization that employs people with lived experience (i.e., formerly homeless or coming out of incarceration) and, through its focus on working with encampments and interim programs, has a perspective that is likelier to lead to a successful interaction vs. a police response. Unfortunately, there are sometimes lengthy delays in getting the necessary assistance by calling 911.



An alternative approach to getting the CIRCLE team involved is to call the LAPD central dispatch system in downtown LA at their headquarters. Hollywood does not have its own dispatch system, so calling them may likely result in your being transferred to the downtown system anyway. There are some reports that, if you directly call the non-emergency line (1877-ASK-LAPD) and ask the Dispatcher to send the Project Circle team to address the situation, you will receive a faster response than calling 911 directly. In order to achieve this speedier response, it is helpful to request Project Circle by name.

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### How does the initial engagement process work?

There is an outreach coordinator for the portion of SPA 4 containing Hollywood (this portion is about half the size of SPA 4). When a request comes through LA-HOP, the coordinator contacts one of the team leaders for the Hollywood area, who then assembles a Homeless Engagement Team (HET) consisting of two persons, one of whom is the case manager. Assembling an outreach team can take several days, if not longer. There are about 60 outreach teams for SPA 4. Each case manager is responsible for approximately 20-25 cases (a case is opened once the interaction has gotten further than initial acquaintance and some level of continuing engagement has been established).

An outreach team will generally go out in the field within 48 hours to investigate the situation, but more quickly if the situation involves a serious mental illness or a medical emergency. They will have food, water, and other supplies intended to facilitate engagement. While the end goal is housing, the first step is to develop a relationship of trust with the person experiencing homelessness. The HET will attempt to determine the level of need of the person experiencing homelessness, any particular physical or mental health challenges, special needs, etc. This evaluation helps develop a profile to determine the most the appropriate resources. Even if a person is not immediately interested in housing, the team will continue to interact with the person with the hope that the situation will change.

A key engagement goal is entering the person experiencing homelessness into HMIS, the web-based system that allows providers to access information about the person experiencing homelessness, read case notes, etc. (As noted earlier, there are limitations with respect to which providers have access due to privacy concerns). Not every engagement results in the person being entered into HMIS. For example, if the person will only accept food or water and won't give any identifying information, it's not useful to create an HMIS entry since the person hasn't shown a willingness to engage in a manner likely to allow the team to be of housing assistance. Of course, the objective is to engage in repeated contacts with the person in an effort to develop the relationship.

It is desirable to get a person experiencing homelessness into the HMIS system as soon as possible. Priorities for housing can take into account the amount of time an individual has been considered homeless, so entering the person into HMIS can be a critical first step.



## What are some of the steps past the initial engagement?

If the person experiencing homelessness is receptive to services, the case manager will continue to engage with them. As part of that continued engagement, the case manager will, if possible, assess the acuity level and needs of the person experiencing homelessness. Currently, this process uses a standardized assessment tool known as VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool). This assessment is particularly relevant to determining a person's eligibility for PSH and/or Board and Care.

If the person is receptive to shelter, the case manager will work with him or her to explore the shelter options described in the prior section. As noted, there is no Safe Camping or Safe Parking in Hollywood, nor generally any Noncongregate Interim Housing (the only exception being the Gardner Street Bridge Housing Center). So, as a practical matter, the immediate options in Hollywood are the following:

- Congregate Interim Housing
- In some cases, family reunification is an option. With verification, teams can send persons experiencing homelessness back home to be with family. If a general street outreach team can't fund a reunification, it will often connect with another team that has access to funds. Generally, reunification funds are available in cases where it has been determined that there is a verifiable family or friend willing to provide housing.
- Potentially, the person experiencing homelessness might qualify for a Time Limited Subsidy, as described in the prior section

Finally, it is possible that someone might move directly from the street to Permanent Supportive Housing. Due to the lack of Permanent Supportive Housing, it is not expected that someone would move immediately from first contact by a HET to Permanent Supportive Housing. Rather, the person would enter the queue and, hopefully, at some future point enter into Permanent Supportive Housing, assuming he or she met the relevant criteria.

If a person experiencing homelessness is willing to be referred to Congregate Interim Housing, there is a LAHSA employee in charge of matching the person to a shelter. That person will look for a space and then coordinate with the case manager to coordinate intake into the shelter. Once the person has moved into the shelter, additional services are provided, as described below.



### **If a person experiencing homelessness is willing to accept Congregate Interim Housing, is it currently available in Hollywood?**

Availability varies from week to week. There is significant turnover among residents of the Congregate Interim Housing Sites (unfortunately, in many cases this represents persons moving back onto the streets), so a week of no vacancies may be followed by a week with many vacancies.

Getting into interim housing does not require a complete data workup. It can take as little as 15 minutes, with the main objective being to determine whether someone can take care of themselves in an interim housing atmosphere, i.e., they can do their own toileting, keep a room clean, etc.

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### **What other services does the case manager provide?**

While this section focuses on getting a person experiencing homelessness off the streets, this is only a portion of the case manager's focus. For example, many persons experiencing homelessness need help getting an ID and/or various forms of governmental income and benefits. The case manager helps navigate the paperwork burden these tasks entail.

More generally, the case manager helps persons experiencing homelessness obtain other relevant services. If mental health or substance use disorder services are needed and the person is willing to accept them, the case manager helps explain the relevant options.

It should be noted that case manager assignments change. For example, if a person experiencing homelessness transitions from the streets to Congregate Interim Housing, he or she will be assigned to a case manager associated with that housing.

It should be emphasized that the case manager is not a mental health, substance abuse, or medical professional. The case manager is best thought of as a navigator, attempting to help the persons experiencing homelessness obtain services, including housing, that will better his or her situation.





### **Have the LAHSA outreach teams completed the housing intake process for most of the persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood?**

A recent report by the Rand Foundation collected data with respect to persons experiencing homelessness in Hollywood, Venice, and Skid Row. One of its findings was that 41% of the persons interviewed stated that a factor preventing them from moving into housing was that they were never contacted to complete the housing intake process. While this statistic is potentially concerning, it is difficult to assess the significance of this statistic without further information, for example, to what extent did the person change location in a way hindering completion of the process.

### **How would the process differ if the person experiencing homelessness has a serious mental illness or a medical emergency?**

These are more severe situations and, instead of a two-person team, a larger team will be assembled (a Multi-Disciplinary Team or “MDT”). These are cases, for example, where the person experiencing homelessness might have a severe injury (for example, an open wound), be exhibiting symptoms of a serious mental illness, or be exhibiting symptoms of a serious substance use disorder (for example, someone passed out with needles around him or her).

A fully staffed MDT will have four members: a mental health clinician, a specialist in substance use disorders, a peer specialist (an outreach worker with lived experience), and a generalist case manager. The MDT will focus on immediately stabilizing the situation by bringing in necessary resources to the extent available. Members of the MDT will continue to work with the person experiencing homelessness in an effort to provide the services and housing assistance generally available.

In addition to the MDTs, there are two other types of outreach programs designed to help persons experiencing homelessness with even more severe mental illnesses or emotional disturbances than handled by the MDT teams: the Full Service Partnership and the Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement (HOME) program. HOME is generally used for the most severe situations. These programs are provided through the LA County Department of Mental Health.

# Which are the different entities involved with homelessness in Hollywood?

## SECTION OUTLINE



### PLEASE NOTE

All information contained in this FAQ is accurate as of the date of publication: 01/03/2023

# HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



## KEY GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

### CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Police Department: <https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-organization-chart>

City Attorney: <https://www.lacityattorney.org/homelessness>

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles: <https://www.hacla.org/en>

Los Angeles Sanitation Authority: <https://www.lacitysan.org>

### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Mental Health: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov>

Department of Public Health: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc>

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority: <https://www.lahsa.org>

### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council: <https://www.chnc.org>

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council: <https://hollywoodunitednc.org>

### BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

The Hollywood Partnership: <https://hollywoodpartnership.com>

Hollywood Media District: <http://www.mediadistrict.org>

East Hollywood BID: <http://ehbid.org>



## NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

(NOTE: grouping by category is somewhat arbitrary since many groups below provide services in more than one category)

### CATEGORIES

Children/Youth/LGBTQIA+

Hygiene

Employment/Job Training

Legal

Food

Medical/Mental Health

General

Substance Use Disorder

Housing/Shelter Focus



### CHILDREN/YOUTH/LGBTQIA+

**Assistance League Los Angeles:** <https://www.assistanceleaguela.org>

From preschool to providing school clothes and supplies, to resources for newborns and foster children and their families, Assistance League of Los Angeles' members dedicate themselves to working to make sure that every child has a chance no matter their circumstances.

**My Friend's Place:** <https://www.myfriendsplace.org>

My Friend's Place aims to assist and inspire homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. My Friend's Place offers comprehensive services to youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 12 and 25, and their children, helping homeless young people move toward wellness, stability, and self-sufficiency.

**Los Angeles LGBT Center:** <https://lalgbtcenter.org/social-service-and-housing>

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is a social safety net for the LGBT community where individuals of all ages can find help, as well as hope and support. From housing homeless youth to providing affordable housing for seniors—and from helping transgender people find employment to providing legal support for asylum seekers—no organization serves more LGBT people than the Center.

**Youth Emerging Stronger:** <https://www.youthemergingstronger.org>

YES provides runaway, homeless, and foster youth with safety, stability and housing, along with the relationships and resources to thrive now and in the future. Their programs focus on intervention, prevention, and permanency. Programs are tailored for youth ages 12-24.

# HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



## EMPLOYMENT/JOB TRAINING

**Food on Foot:** <https://www.foodonfoot.org>

Food on Foot is a nonprofit dedicated to assisting our unhoused and low-income neighbors in Los Angeles with nutritious meals, clothing, and a fresh start through life-skills training, full-time employment, and permanent housing. Food on Foot's Jobs & Housing program is designed for high-functioning adults who are experiencing homelessness. Graduates from this program earn their way off the streets with a full-time job, a fully furnished apartment, a life-skills education, and a huge boost in confidence.

**Hollywood WorkSource Center:**

<https://www.lapl.org/stable-living/resource-centers/hollywood-worksource-center>

The Hollywood WorkSource Center provides free employment services to adults, dislocated workers, veterans, the homeless and the re-entry population. Services include free job training, telephone and computer access, literacy skills workshops, employment referrals, customized job matching, resume and interview skills building, and career guidance.

## FOOD

**Blessed Sacrament Church:** <https://blessedsacramenthollywood.org>

**First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood:** <https://www.fpch.org/ministries/outreach>

The Lord's Lighthouse serves a few hundred people a week. Every Sunday it begins at 12:00pm with a Bible Study and then follows at 1:00pm with a brief homily as a hot meal is served. We believe in the fellowship of breaking bread together and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through mutually-supportive friendships, we encourage one another to pursue housing as well as physical and spiritual wellness.

**Food on Foot:** <https://www.foodonfoot.org>

Food on Foot is a nonprofit dedicated to assisting homeless and low-income neighbors in Los Angeles with nutritious meals, clothing, and a fresh start through a life-skills education, full-time employment, and permanent housing. Food on Foot distributes nutritious chicken meals, fresh produce, and clothing to 280+ unhoused and low-income neighbors every Sunday in Hollywood.

Serving Location: 1625 N. Schrader Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028  
(in the private parking lot of the Los Angeles LGBT Center)

## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**Hollywood Food Coalition:** <https://hofoco.org>

The Hollywood Food Coalition provides a warm, nutritious meal along with access to basic daily needs, such as clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags, and hygiene items, as well as assistance with housing placement and referrals for the homelessness community in Hollywood.

**SELAH:** <https://www.selahnhc.org>

The Hollywood Chapter of SELAH is currently engaging with our unhoused neighbors in central Hollywood every other Sunday. We serve our area as a bridge of communication between them and other local organizations, service providers, and the City & County of Los Angeles. We also offer basic document services and material assistance."

### GENERAL

**H.O.D.G. (Hang Out Do Good):** <https://www.hangoutdogood.com>

HODG's mission is to create an inclusive, vibrant community of volunteers who recognize that everyone practices kindness in a variety of ways. This organization comes together to provide bag lunches, donate clothing, and communicate with those experiencing homelessness throughout Los Angeles and Hollywood.

**Hollywood 4WRD:** <https://hollywood4wrld.org>

Hollywood 4WRD is a coalition driven to create systemic change to effectively address homelessness in Hollywood through advocacy, education, service coordination, and innovation.

**Imagine LA:** <https://www.imaginela.org>

Imagine LA works to end the cycle of family poverty and homelessness in Los Angeles. Imagine LA works to provide relationships and resources to help the entire families thrive for the long-term. The organization provides financial wellness education and pathways to living wage job opportunities while mentors give personal attention to everyone's needs.

**The John and Marilyn Wells Family Foundation:** <https://www.storiesfrontline.org>

Stories from the Frontline, funded by The John and Marilyn Wells Family Foundation, works as a story-telling platform for those who have experienced homelessness and elevates opportunities for more affordable and supportive housing in all neighborhoods across Los Angeles County.

## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**The Center in Hollywood:** <https://thecenterinhollywood.org>

The Center works directly with those experiencing homelessness to build a sense of community, end isolation, and provide a space to flourish for those who are homeless. It is a trauma-informed center that engenders trust, safety, consistent boundaries, and a place where individuals can make their own decisions about program participation and housing.

### HOUSING/SHELTER FOCUS

**AIDS Healthcare Foundation:** <https://www.housinghumanright.org>

**The Corporation for Supportive Housing:** <https://www.csh.org/about-csh/in-the-field/la>

CSH works to bring supportive housing to those that need it most in the Los Angeles area. CSH works with various stakeholders, government organizations, and community partners to effectively bring more affordable housing opportunities to Los Angeles.

**Covenant House:** <https://covenanthousecalifornia.org>

Covenant House California (CHC) is a non-profit youth shelter that provides sanctuary and support for youth experiencing homelessness, ages 18-24. We believe that no young person deserves to be homeless; that every young person in California deserves shelter, food, clothing, education ... and most importantly, to be loved. CHC provides a full continuum of services to meet the physical, emotional, educational, vocational, and spiritual well-being of young people, in order to provide them with the best chance for success in independence.

Location: 1325 N. Western Avenue.

**First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Hollywood Winter Refuge:**

<https://www.fpch.org/ministries/outreach>

The Hollywood Winter Refuge Shelter began in 2012. It is an independent shelter which operates for the first three months of the year. The Refuge invites 25 neighbors who are struggling with multiple health issues to rest for the full duration which facilitates healing and connections to future housing placement. Guests are personally invited or come through agency referrals from LAPD, DMH, My Friend's Place, and others. The Refuge partners with local churches such as Ecclesia, Reality LA, Blessed Sacrament, Seventh Day Adventist Hollywood, and Broken Hearts ministry to provide funding and volunteers.



## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**Hollywood Community Housing Corporation:** <http://hollywoodhousing.org>

Hollywood Community Housing develops affordable homes and safe communities for low-income families, formerly homeless individuals and households, seniors, and those with special needs.

**Housing Works:** <http://housingworksca.org>

Housing Works provides permanent supportive housing and support services to the most traumatized, vulnerable, and needy members of our community—homeless individuals, victims of domestic violence, at-risk youth, veterans, and people dealing with severe physical or mental illness or substance abuse.

**Kaiser Permanente:** <https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/commitments-and-impact/healthy-communities/improving-community-conditions/housing-security>

In 2018, Kaiser Permanente established the \$200 million Thriving Communities Fund to take on housing instability and homelessness, including creating or contributing to the following funds: Housing for Health Fund; RxHome Fund; Bay's Future Fund; and Supportive Housing Fund (high-quality permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness in California, with particular focus on Los Angeles).

**Los Angeles LGBT Center:** <https://lalgbtcenter.org/social-service-and-housing>

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is a social safety net for the LGBT community where individuals of all ages can find help, as well as hope and support. From housing homeless youth to providing affordable housing for seniors—and from helping transgender people find employment to providing legal support for asylum seekers—no organization serves more LGBT people than the Center.

**PATH:** <https://epath.org/regions/greater-los-angeles> (operates Lodi Place Bridge Housing)

PATH seeks to end homelessness by building affordable housing and providing supportive services throughout Los Angeles and California. In Los Angeles they provide a variety of services for neighbors experiencing homelessness that include employment, outreach, homelessness prevention, housing navigation, interim housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**Safe Parking LA:** <https://safeparkingla.org>

Safe Parking LA provides a night-time program for people who are experiencing homelessness and sleeping in their vehicles at night, providing a safe and stable place to park their vehicle, remain compliant with local laws, and have access to restroom facilities. All safe parking programs are accessible by filling out an application and connecting to services that help identify pathways into housing.

**The Salvation Army Access Center:** [https://hollywood.salvationarmy.org/hollywood\\_corps](https://hollywood.salvationarmy.org/hollywood_corps)

The Salvation Army Hollywood Access Center works with those experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk, to help them gain initial access to housing resources, emergency service referrals, and other supportive services. The Access Center will provide services in a housing first, low barrier, and harm reduction approach. Services are provided to both male youths and adult males. With respect to male youths, <https://thewayin.salvationarmy.org> states:

*"The Way In Youth Shelter through the Salvation Army was founded to help children escape Hollywood street life and provide a home-like environment in which abused and/or neglected teenagers could live safely as they matured into productive and independent young adults. The Way In helps by providing food, shelter and counseling in a multi-faceted program that includes residential housing, and an independent living program."*

**San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission:** <https://sfvrescuemission.org/renewed-hope>

The Renewed Hope Men's Life Recovery Program is a free, ten-month, residential, Christian, recovery program in Hollywood that provides Biblically based structure and applied discipline for living an overcoming life. The program provides individual counseling, case management, and classes on Christianity, anger management, and relapse prevention. We offer our program residents the benefits of Homeless outreach and being of service to our community, computer skill development, and other vocational training opportunities.

**Step Up:** <https://www.stepup.org/locations/los-angeles-county>

Step Up delivers compassionate support to people experiencing mental health conditions and homelessness to help them recover, stabilize, and integrate into the community. Step Up provides connections to permanent supportive housing, workforce development, supportive services, and specific programs for transition-age youth and housing for veterans.

## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**The Weingart Center:** <https://www.weingart.org/housing-solutions>

*(operates Gardner Street Women's Bridge Housing and Schrader Bridge Center)*

The Weingart Center has become a permanent symbol of hope for those experiencing homelessness in Downtown Los Angeles. We provide direct services to thousands of economically disadvantaged individuals in the greater Los Angeles area, offering programs uniquely tailored to meet the needs of this diverse population. Whatever the obstacles—debt, addiction, a criminal record, mental illness, or physical illness—we help our clients overcome these challenges and clear the way for a fulfilling life.

### HYGIENE

**Hollywood Adventist Church:** <https://www.hollywoodadventist.org>

Compassion Connection offers reservable shower slots to unhoused and low-income guests.

**Project Ropa:** <https://www.projectropa.org>

Provides persons experiencing homelessness with clean clothes, hygiene essentials, and employment opportunities.

### LEGAL (these entities also serve geographic regions outside Hollywood)

**Inner City Law Center:** <https://innercitylaw.org>

Inner City Law Center fights for housing and justice for low-income tenants, working-poor families, immigrants, people who are disabled or living with HIV/AIDS, and homeless veterans. The only legal-services provider located in Skid Row, we advocate for equitable housing policies and provide legal services to prevent and end homelessness.

**Mental Health Advocacy Services:** <https://www.mhas-la.org>

The mission of Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS) is to protect and advance the legal rights of low-income adults and children with mental health disabilities and empower them to assert those rights in order to maximize their autonomy, achieve equity, and secure the resources they need to thrive.



## MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

### **Children's Hospital Los Angeles:**

<https://www.chla.org/substance-use-prevention-and-treatment-program>

CHLA's Substance Use Treatment and Prevention Program aims to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm in an outpatient approach to children and families experiencing addiction. The program serves youth ages 10-17 and young adults ages 18-25. Priority is given to those experiencing homelessness, are HIV-positive, pregnant teens, and those who are suicidal or in acute crisis.

### **First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood:** <https://www.fpch.org/ministries/outreach>

The Hollywood Healthcare Partnership began in 2003 through a collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The ministry meets every Wednesday from 10:30am to Noon. In this setting our friends gather for lunch and engage with multiple health services and activities such as Open Mic Performing, Art Classes and various support groups. Partnerships include:

- LA County Department of Mental Health Hollywood Office Clinical Psychologist who facilitates support groups and Open Mic sharing
- Service providers: Step Up, Housing Works, People Concern, E6 Teams, PATH, The Center at Blessed Sacrament and Department of Mental Health Outreach Teams
- Health agencies: DHS, Saban Community Clinic and QueensCare nurses.
- Women's small group activities include prayer, Bible Study, and conversation about health topics like anxiety and depression

This time of community engagement fosters friendships, personal development, and an opportunity to pursue social services through these partner agencies.

### **Healthcare in Action:** <https://www.healthcareinaction.org>

We serve patients experiencing homelessness through an innovative "street medicine" approach by contracting with Medicare and Medicaid health plans as well as hospitals and health systems.

## HOLLYWOOD ENTITIES INVOLVED



**Heart Forward LA:** <https://www.heartforwardla.org>

Heart Forward LA seeks to transform the American mental health system through radical hospitality. We promote bold system change and advance radical hospitality along with the guiding principles that characterize the global best practice based in Trieste, Italy including social recovery, the right to a purposeful life, system accountability, and whole person care.

**JWCH/Wesley Health Care Center:** <http://jwchinstitute.org>

Wesley Health Centers provides a variety of health care programs and activities to the poor and underserved segments of Los Angeles area through the direct provision or coordination of health care, health education, services, and research. They have a health clinic located in East Hollywood that serves families and anyone experiencing homelessness.

**Saban Community Clinic:** <https://www.sabancommunityclinic.org>

Saban Community Clinic provides whole person care for vulnerable individuals and families in Hollywood. For those experiencing homelessness, Saban offers a shower program that not only assists with hygiene but also gives them the opportunity to talk with a case manager, who is his or her “concierge” to their medical, behavioral health, dental and vision care services – as well as to outside partners for housing and job training.

**Uplift Family Services:** <https://upliftfs.org/our-services> (Family)

We solve complex mental health problems using a strength-based approach to define and individualize services. Our clinical teams work in partnership with each family to plan, deliver and evaluate those services. We recognize there is no one-size-fits-all path toward hope. Uplift Family Services is a pioneer in the Wraparound philosophy for California. We believe the most effective form of care for children, youth and their families is based in the community, where we can build upon a foundation of support. We respect and are sensitive to our clients’ social and cultural backgrounds. Our services are culturally relevant, and one-quarter of our staff is certified bilingual.



## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

**Homeless Healthcare LA:** <https://www.hhcla.org>

Provides needle exchange, naloxone for overdose reversal, housing, hygiene services and medical and behavioral health services.

**The Center in Hollywood:** <https://thecenterinhollywood.org>

Offers low-barrier individual and group substance use counseling. Clients can receive 12 individual sessions as well as attend as many group sessions as they'd like. Works with clients on coordinating referrals to detox, inpatient/outpatient treatment, sober living, sobering centers, and medication-based harm reduction treatment. There are no program requirements other than having a history of experiencing homelessness and living in Los Angeles.



## MAJOR COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CES)-CERTIFIED PROVIDERS

*(Contracted agencies to LAHSA that have access to HMIS database for record keeping on individuals)*

**My Friend's Place:** <https://www.myfriendsplace.org> (Youth)

My Friend's Place aims to assist and inspire homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. My Friend's Place offers comprehensive services to youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 12 and 25, and their children, helping homeless young people move toward wellness, stability, and self-sufficiency.

**PATH:** <https://epath.org/regions/greater-los-angeles>

PATH seeks to end homelessness by building affordable housing and providing supportive services throughout Los Angeles and California. In Los Angeles they provide a variety of services for neighbors experiencing homelessness that include employment, outreach, homelessness prevention, housing navigation, interim housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

**The Center in Hollywood:** <https://thecenterinhollywood.org>

The Center works directly with those experiencing homelessness to build a sense of community, end isolation, and provide a space to flourish for those who are homeless. It is a trauma-informed center that engenders trust, safety, consistent boundaries, and a place where individuals can make their own decisions about program participation and housing.

**The People Concern:** <https://www.thepeopleconcern.org>

The People Concern provides a fully integrated system of care—including outreach, interim housing, mental and medical health care, substance abuse services, domestic violence services, life skills and wellness programs, and permanent supportive housing—tailored to the unique needs of homeless individuals, survivors of domestic violence, challenged youth, and others who have nowhere else to turn.



# HOLLYWOOD<sup>4WRD</sup><sup>SM</sup>

Ending Homelessness in Hollywood

**Hollywood4WRD.org**  
**Info@Hollywood4WRD.org**  
**@Hollywood4WRD**

For questions or any technical issues, please contact us at [Info@Hollywood4WRD.org](mailto:Info@Hollywood4WRD.org)