

LAHSA

Housing First Partners Conference

Supporting Survivors Through Rapid Re-Housing and Housing Navigation

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

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Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

The Los Angeles Homeless Services
Authority (LAHSA) is the lead agency in the
Los Angeles Continuum of Care, which is
the regional planning body that
coordinates housing and services for
homeless families and individuals in Los
Angeles County. LAHSA partners with over
100 nonprofit partner agencies throughout
the County.



Why are we here?

DV Housing Programs

Survivors of:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking
- Stalking

LAHSA DVHSC DVRCs
Housing First





LAHSA's Domestic Violence Unit

Domestic Violence System Alignment focuses on aligning initiatives and resources between a network of victim service providers and the coordinated entry system to reduce homelessness amongst the population experiencing domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking.

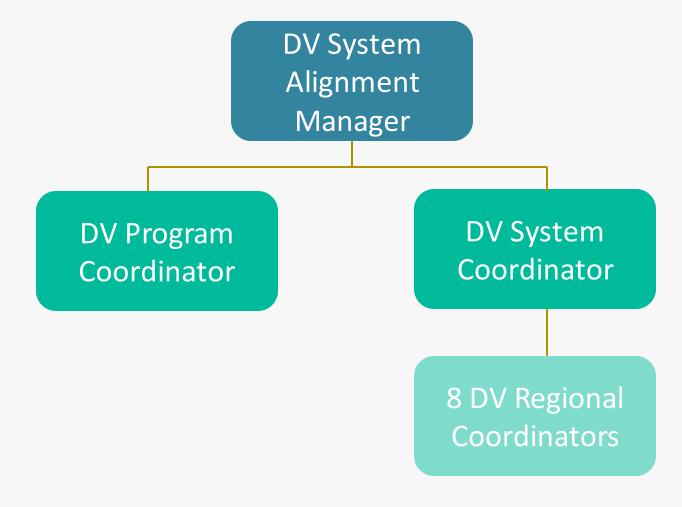
We aim to resolve systemic gaps that impact survivors who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability in LA County.

In collaboration with the 8 SPA Based Domestic Violence Regional Coordinators, this work is done through:

- Referral guidance
- Service coordination
- Case consultation
- Resource sharing
- Relationship building
- Education and Training
- Policy and Funding Advocacy



Domestic Violence Systems Alignment Unit







Domestic Violence Regional Coordinators

The DVRC position addresses the intersection between victimization due to DV/SA/HT and homelessness per SPA through building and maintaining collaborative networks with community partners in order to provide a full scope of supportive services and resources for victims/survivors experiencing homelessness to become stabilized.



Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator Role

LAHSA established the DVRC scope of work on a systemic level to address coordination of service, infrastructural development, and policy and funding advocacy.





SPA 2 - San Fernando Valley

Adults & Families -

LA Family Housing

Youth - The Village Family Services

SPA 4 - Central Los Angeles

Adults - The People Concern

Families - PATH

Youth - LGBT Center

SPA 5 - West Los Angeles

Adults & Families -

St. Joseph Center

Youth - Safe Place for Youth

SPA 8 - South Bay / Harbor

Adults, Families & Youth -

Harbor Interfaith

SPA 1 - Antelope Valley

Adults, Families & Youth - Valley Oasis

SPA 3- San Gabriel Valley

Adults & Families Union Station Homeless Services
Youth - Hathaway-Sycamores

SPA 6 - South Los Angeles

Adults & Families -

SSG HOPICS

Youth - CRCD

SPA 7 - East Los Angeles

Adults - PATH

Families - The Whole Child

Youth - Jovenes

Overview of Domestic Violence



Definition of Domestic Violence

A **pattern** of behavior over time where one partner exerts control over another.

Coercive control is at the center of DV.

Control can take the form of any type of abuse:

- Emotional
- Psychological
- Financial
- Spiritual
- Physical
- Sexual
- Stalking



THREATS

Making statements to instill fear, and keep or gain control. For example, "1"Il kill you if you ever leave me,"; "1"Il hurt your family,"; "1"Il take the children and you'll never see them again."

ECONOMIC ABUSE

Concealing information about finances.
Using family assets without partner's knowledge or permission. Preventing partner from getting, keeping or leaving a job. Damaging credit ratings.
Making partner ask for money. Destroying checkbooks, credit cards, money or property.
Giving allowance.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physically forcing sex, violence during sex, coercing sex through manipulation or threats, inflicting sex specific injuries, accusing partner of being unfaithful, withholding sex or affection as punishment, denying use of birth control or protection from STDs, calling sexual names, or forcing the use of pornography.

USING CHILDREN

POWER

&

CONTROL

Using children to relay messages or spy on the other parent. Undermining partner's parental authority. Using visitation as an opportunity to harass. Using custody of the children as leverage. Physically or sexually abusing the children, abusing partner in front of the children.

INTIMIDATION

Making partner afraid by using looks, actions or gestures that imply danger. Smashing things, destroying property, harming pets, displaying weapons, yelling, stalking, interrogating, slamming doors or driving recklessty.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Put downs, constant criticism, naming calling, and making partner think they are crazy and/or guilty for causing abuse. Playing mind games, humiliation, making unreasonable demands, and expecting perfection. Making statements such as, "No one else would ever put up with you, no one else would ever love you."

ISOLATION

Controlling where partner goes and who the partner talks to. Denying access to resources such as medical attention, education, family, friends, phones and transportation. Moving family to remote locations, kidnapping, telling partner that seeing family or friends is harmful to the relationship.

MANIPULATION

Denying or minimizing existence, severity or impact of the abuse. Blaming or shifting the responsibility for abuse. Lying or withholding information to gain an advantage. Pretending to be a victim to sympathy. Using intoxication as an excuse. Controlling by being charming o giving gifts. Using religious beliefs to justify abuse.

Power & Control Wheel



1 in 4

women will experience domestic violence



men will experience domestic violence



of homeless
individuals in LA
have
experienced
domestic violence



HUD Category 4 Homeless definition

A family or individual:

- Experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions;
- Have no identified residence; AND
- Lack the resources needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Prevent street-based homelessness

Specific setting for DV: couch surfing

Specific consideration:

Lack the resources

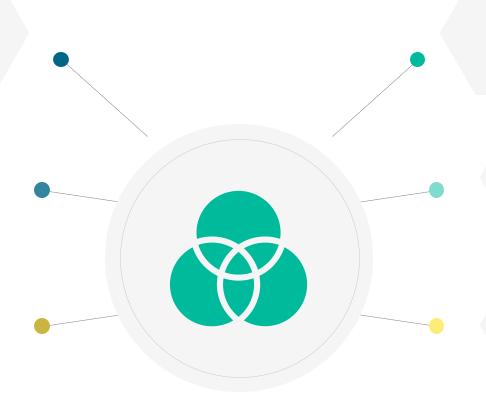


Intersections with Homelessness

Financial abuse often leaves survivors with limited resources after fleeing

DV shelters are not set up to provide homeless and housing services

Stalking leaves survivors without safe places to go



Increased or continued violence during homelessness

Choice between staying with the abuser or becoming homeless

Abusers cut off survivors from friends and family during the relationship



The Economic Ripple Effect of Intimate Partner Violence

During the relationship



- Forbidden to go to work/school
- Damaged rapport with employer & support systems
- Forbidden to make financial decisions
- Forbidden to have name on assets or financial accounts
- Coerced debt
- Use of SSN without consent—damage to credit

Leaving the relationship



- Transportation
- Single-parenting (groceries, school supplies, baby supplies, childcare, etc.)
- Chronic medical issues/disability
- Mental health treatment
- Legal fees
- Immigration status & legal right to work

Short term



- Lack of income & savings
- Gap in employment history & lack of professional/persona L references
- No/poor credit
- History of eviction
- Lack of landlord references
- Limited areas to live
- New enrollment into DPSS benefits
- Divorce—timeconsuming, dividing of assets

Long term

- Interrupted or slowed professional development
- Interrupted educational goals
- Forgone wages due to court appearances
- Child/spousal support complications & single parenting
- Physical & mental health treatment
- Overseas families, accounts, properties, & assets

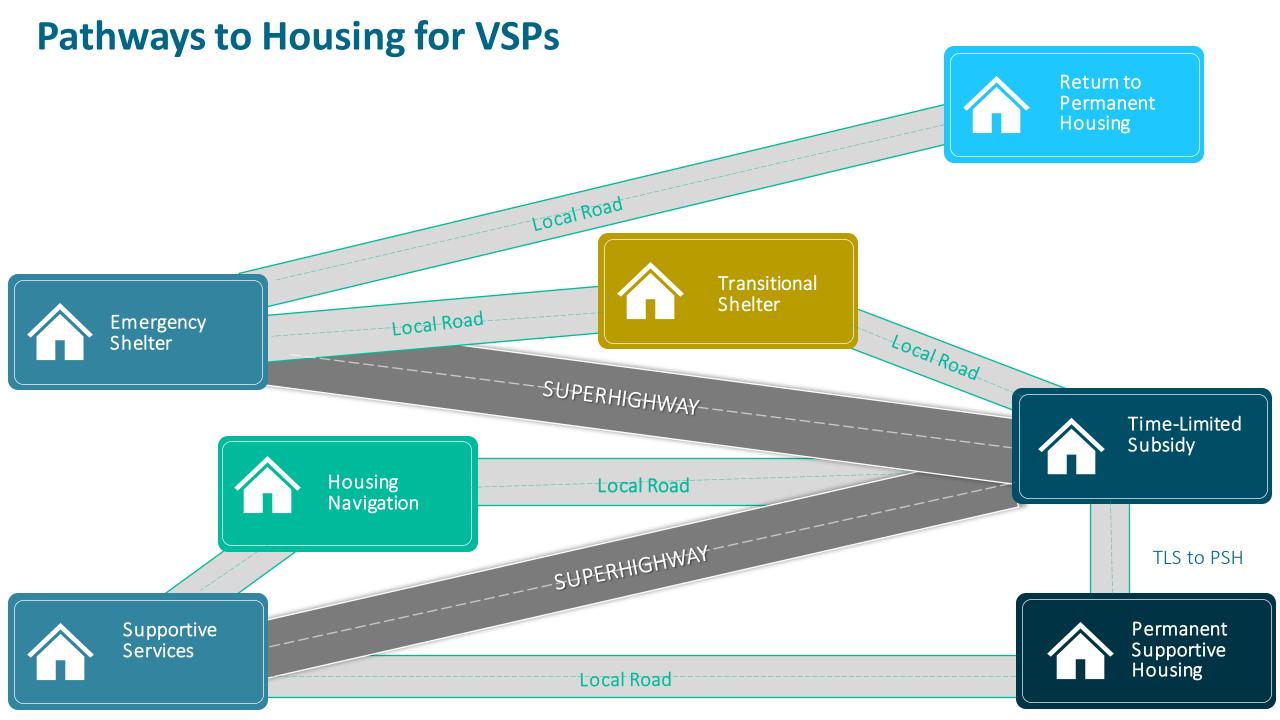
Housing First Model Adapted to DV



Housing First Core Principle	Working with Survivors
Housing and Services with No Preconditions	Survivors may have previous evictions, poor credit score, lack of job history, etc. due to abuse, and still deserve case management and program access.
Individualized and Person-Driven Services	Survivors are not a monolith. Allow the survivor to guide their own case management.
Participant Choice	Allow the survivor to choose where they live and who they live with.
Safety	Allow the survivor to determine what safety means for them.
Community Integration	Connecting survivors with peer support. Connecting them with jobs in social services.

Domestic Violence Housing Programs







Domestic Violence Transitional Housing

- Transitional Housing for DV/IPV Survivors is a housing first, low barrier, harm reduction-based trauma-informed crisis response program that provides safe, client-driven support services and access to temporary residence for people experiencing a housing crisis due to DV/IPV.
 - Client Choice
 - Supportive Services and connection to resources
 - Housing focused case management
 - Safety, well-being, and housing stability
 - Up to 24 months







Domestic Violence Housing Navigation Overview

Housing Navigation bridges a critical gap in services in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA Coc). It provides housing-focused supportive services for people experiencing homelessness in locations identified by LAHSA with the goal of helping them identify, apply for, secure and move into permanent housing within 120 days of Navigation Enrollment.

Assist participants in locating appropriate housing that meets their needs and expressed desires.

Prepare the participant for the leasing process and ensure all documents are collected.

Accompany
Participant when
meeting with
landlords.

Provide transportation to and from unit viewings.

Provide <u>financial</u>
<u>assistance</u> for
necessary application
fees and security
deposits.

Conduct necessary housing inspections.

Participant's choice must be considered and be a part of the <u>assessment</u> <u>and planning</u> for appropriate housing.





Domestic Violence Time-Limited Subsidies (TLS) Overview

Time-Limited Subsidies is a category within **Permanent Housing**.

TLS connects individuals and households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a **tailored** package of assistance that may include the use of **time-limited** rental and financial assistance and **targeted** supportive services.

TLS programs assist individuals, youth and families with solving the practical and immediate challenges to obtaining permanent housing while **reducing** the amount of *time* they experience homelessness, **avoiding** a near-term *return* to homelessness, and **linking** to *community resources* that enable them to achieve housing **stability** in the *long-term*.



Joint Component Program Overview

- Transitional Housing (TH) is a category within Interim Housing.
- Time Limited Subsidies (TLS) or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a category within Permanent Housing.
- Program allows for participants to exercise client choice in determining whether TH or TLS is the appropriate housing intervention.
- There are no preconditions set.





Funding



- DV Regional Coordinators
- DV TLS/Joint Component



Other DV RapidRe-Housing Programs



- DVTLS
- DV Housing Navigation



Implementation in Your Community



Discussion



What is the current landscape of the homeless and DV intersectional space? What effort have been done to improve the communication/partnership between homeless and DV?



Does your CES (assuming they have a similar arrangement) have specialized staff regarding DV, HT, and SA?



Are there any Councils or organized groups for Victim Service **Providers** in your community? How can you engage them?



Thank You!

Email additional questions to:

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