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Downtown Women's Center and Rainbow Services Co-Host Convening to Address Domestic Violence and Homeless Services

LOS ANGELES – On Wednesday, October 25, the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) and Rainbow Services will host Community Connections: Aligning Domestic Violence and Homeless Services, a one-day convening to address the intersection between domestic violence and homelessness in Los Angeles. The convening will bring together leaders from the domestic violence and homelessness sectors, local elected officials, funders, and women with lived experience to create a stronger understanding of how to alleviate the challenges survivors of domestic violence face when accessing homelessness services.

"We know domestic violence is a main driver into homelessness for women, and too often these women fall through the cracks and do not receive the services they need because homeless service providers and domestic violence organizations have been siloed in their areas of specialization," says Anne Miskey, DWC's Chief Executive Officer. "We are pleased to have this opportunity for cross-sector collaboration, which is the only way to ensure we are adequately meeting the needs of this especially vulnerable population."

The agenda for the day will include workshops, facilitated group discussions, and presentations on specific issues such as learning about legal protections for survivors, innovations in housing models, and how to implement trauma-informed care with a focus on domestic violence.

"The goals of the convening go beyond understanding the issues that impede housing access for domestic violence survivors: we want to develop lasting solutions to this problem," says Elizabeth Eastlund, Executive Director of Rainbow Services. "Women in Los Angeles should never be in a position where they are forced to choose between remaining with their abusers and becoming homeless."

Event speakers will include Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney; and Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Third District. The convening will take place at the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, October 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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About the Downtown Women's Center

Founded in 1978, DWC is the only resource in Los Angeles exclusively dedicated to addressing the immediate and long-term needs of women overcoming poverty and homelessness each year in the Skid Row neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles. DWC houses 119 women on-site and will house nearly 200 women throughout Los Angeles County in 2017. Additionally, DWC offers services to approximately 3,000 women annually, including showers and clean clothing; healthy, nutritious meals; case management; physical and mental healthcare; enrichment programming; and job-readiness training and transitional employment. Learn more at www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.

About Rainbow Services

Rainbow Services provides shelter and supportive services for women and families who are trying to escape the cycle of domestic violence. In addition to its two long-term shelters, 30-day emergency shelter, and transitional shelter, Rainbow Services also provides counseling, case management, parenting classes, and life skills classes. Additionally, Rainbow Services provides numerous children's programs that help children recover from family violence during a critical stage of development in their lives as well as help families stabilize. Learn more at www.RainbowServicesDV.org.