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The 2018 Los Angeles Homeless Count Shows Decrease in Women's Homelessness Accredited to Coordinated Strategy and Resources

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) today released the 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count results indicating that homelessness in Los Angeles has decreased for the first time in four years, albeit by a small margin. Los Angeles County saw a 4% decrease in women's homelessness. LAHSA reports that the reduction can be accredited to effective strategy and deployment of resources to address the problem.

“This year's count confirms the belief long-held by the Downtown Women's Center that we can solve homelessness in our city. With impactful strategies and sufficient resources, no woman in Los Angeles need reside on the street.” said Lisa Watson, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Women's Center. “The number of women experiencing homelessness will continue to fall as we work to improve access to bridge housing and permanent supportive housing in neighborhoods across LA. In doing so we strengthen the safety net for women living on the edge, particularly the growing number of older women vulnerable to homelessness.”

With additional resources over the last year, the Downtown Women's Center increased its housing placement by 200%.

The report demonstrates that one in three homeless persons is a woman, with a sharp rise in older persons experiencing homeless. In addition, homelessness among persons age 62 and over is up 22% from the year prior, as compared to decreases among all other age groups. Women remain a vulnerable subgroup within the larger homeless population. The staggeringly high prevalence of gender-based violence is the most distinguishing difference between women and men experiencing homelessness.

Every year, LAHSA's Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count answers key questions about the state of homelessness in LA: how many people experience homelessness on any given night, the demographics of LA's homeless population, how the homeless population is distributed across LA County, and where individuals experiencing homelessness are staying. Mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Homeless Count results factor into how much federal funding Los Angeles will receive to address homelessness this year. Count data also helps community leaders, service providers, and elected officials determine how to best utilize resources to combat homelessness. The 2018 numbers serve both as a stark reminder of the work required to end homelessness in LA County as well as a starting point for how to address this crisis throughout the coming year.

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About Downtown Women's Center

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC



envisioning a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, and advocacy. Founded in 1978, DWC was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the U.S. Learn more at www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.