



# COMMON MESSAGING

*Adopted on July 26, 2018*

The Los Angeles Domestic Violence-Homeless Services Coalition (the Coalition) is focused on creating a client-centered system that increases access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their families. The Coalition recognizes that this can only be achieved through a shared understanding of our work together, and a commitment to an approach that values the following processes and outcomes:

## **Ensuring safety and access to services**

Ensuring survivor safety is the foundation of our work. Domestic violence and homeless/housing systems of care must be accessible through every door, regardless of where or when in the cycle of violence/housing instability a survivor enters.

## **Long-term stability for survivors**

We seek long-term stability for survivors. This stability includes access to, and support services to obtain: permanent housing, financial independence, community connections, and access to effective legal services. We support a range of housing interventions that provide client choice, including transitional housing, as survivors move toward long-term stability.

## **Survivor-driven and centered processes**

We must advocate for and incorporate trauma- and resiliency-informed services that support survivor-driven/centered practice. We agree to advance the right to self-determination, and to empower survivors to ensure their voice and choice is present in our work as individual providers and as a Coalition.

## **Systems-change**

We take a multi-sector approach to our work, which includes building connections across once-siloed systems and deepening partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities, and with members of all communities.

### **Inclusive approach to the domestic violence community**

The Coalition intentionally uses the term “survivor” to include all people impacted by domestic violence, recognizing that this population includes cisgender and transgender women, men, non-binary individuals and other members of the LGBTQ+ community. At the same time, we acknowledge the majority of domestic violence survivors experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity are women.

### **Solidarity with survivors of other forms of violence**

The Coalition recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity may become homeless due to domestic violence, sexual violence, and/or human trafficking. The Coalition understands that these types of violence are inter-related and that survivors are often subjected to multiple forms of violence. We work to align with and support systems that address sexual violence and human trafficking, even as we focus system change efforts at the nexus of domestic violence and homelessness.

### **Data-informed decision-making**

The Coalition is committed to grounding our decisions on available data. This includes both applicable quantitative data and qualitative data, including anecdotal evidence from survivors and other credible sources.

### **Consistent application and evaluation of triage tools**

The Coalition recognizes that the VI-SPDAT is the triage tool used for identifying particular vulnerabilities of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles Coordinated Entry System (LA CES). We support the use of training, evaluation, language access, and case conferencing to ensure the unique experiences of survivors of domestic violence are considered and addressed within the LA CES. Further, we hold the adoption of additional triage and assessment tools for survivors of domestic violence as a long-term goal.