



Luigi (Juan) Verano &lt;juan.l.verano@lacity.org&gt;

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**FW: DVHSC requests additional funding for CIFD programs for survivors**

1 message

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**Monica Lerma** <mlerma@elawc.org>  
To: "Juan.L.Verano@lacity.org" <Juan.L.Verano@lacity.org>

Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 12:41 PM

FYI--

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**From:** Monica Lerma  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:37 PM  
**To:** [Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org](mailto:Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org)  
**Subject:** DVHSC requests additional funding for CIFD programs for survivors  
**Importance:** High

Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee:

The Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition ("DVHSC") requests that the budget on Homelessness and Housing prioritize survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking who are experiencing homelessness. Since 2016, DVHSC has grown to include over 800 individuals representing 244 community-based organizations, government officials, philanthropic circles, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness and domestic violence. We have become the largest coalition of our kind across the nation creating a client-centered system that increases access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their families.

Though we appreciate in this challenging budget year that the current allocation for survivors of domestic violence maintains funding from the previous fiscal year, survivors and service providers cannot afford to maintain the status quo when the number of people experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence has increased 54% in the past year (2023 LAHSA PIT). Nearly 40% of the adult homeless population in Los Angeles has experienced domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, a 7% increase from 2022. Echoing the Point In Time Count, the 2022 Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment found that 48.4% of women experiencing homelessness had experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and within this group, nearly half cited this experience as a cause of their homelessness.

While the number of people impacted by domestic violence increases, funding to support survivors in Los Angeles City programs are facing a drastic cut from a federal funding resources: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA funds used by Victim Service Providers leverage into our City of Los Angeles funded programs and are set to decrease 58% from the previous year. This reduction in funding, with no current plan to compensate from any other funding source, will have devastating impacts on survivors and service providers.

As numbers increase, and funding does not, the DVHSC requests that survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault are prioritized in this budget. To do this, we request for the city to:

- Allocate funding for additional domestic violence and human trafficking shelter locations, and for enhancing existing shelters. To support the enhancement of existing shelter, and to support the opening of three new shelters, the DVHSC requests an additional \$6 million to be allocated in this budget.
- Help bridge the funding gap for domestic violence services in light of devastating VOCA cuts. With a projected loss of \$6.5 million in funding for FY 2024-25 to Victim Service Providers in the City, thousands of survivors will be impacted. Reducing staff, housing programs, availability of services, shelter beds, and more, will hurt a population already incredibly vulnerable to experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for considering our requests. We appreciate your continued dedication to ending homelessness in Los Angeles and hope to continue to collaborate in supporting survivors.

Sincerely,

Monica A. Lerma

Best,

Mónica A. Lerma

Grants Compliance Specialist

MSW, MPH, CATC IV, CHES

e-mail: [mlerma@elawc.org](mailto:mlerma@elawc.org)

East Los Angeles Women's Center

[1431 South Atlantic Blvd.](#)

[Los Angeles, CA 90022](#)

Main Office **323-526-5819**

Bilingual English-Spanish Crisis Hotline (24/7) **1-800-585-6231**

Bilingual HIV/AIDS Information Hotline **1-800-400-7432**

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