

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) ends homelessness by providing safe housing and supportive services centered on wellness, employment, and advocacy. Informed by nearly five decades of women- and survivor-centered leadership, DWC's work begins with immediate safety and continues with the support needed to keep people housed. Access Centers are a core component of that work, and we respectfully urge City Council to support the report back assessing impact of Access Centers in Los Angeles. Access Centers are not just a one-time place to go get enrolled into HMIS. They are a life sustaining resource that people rely on every day to meet their basic needs. In the last year DWC received full HHAP funding, our Access Center served over 3,500 unique women and survivors who received over 100,000 meals, over 17,000 showers, and 753 medical appointments. Our most recent data shows significant growing need for our meals program provided within our Access Center, and new federal risks to CalFresh benefits make these services even more critical. If providers can't afford to keep Access Centers' doors open, that means risking all the other services offered. And when peoples' basic needs are not met and they have nowhere to go, we shift the cost burden to far more expensive emergency response interventions. We are deeply grateful for the Budget and Finance Committee's request to CLA to look for funding for the most used Access Centers in this year's budget. This report supports that request, by helping the City of Los Angeles better understand Access Centers' full impact for future funding decisions. We urge your support of this motion, and thank you for your consideration.