



April 10, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Subject: A Pathway Forward on Homelessness Governance

Honorable Council President and Councilmembers:

On April 1, 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to withdraw County homelessness funding and effectively took the first step in leaving the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). For decades, following litigation between the parties, LAHSA functioned as a separate agency to coordinate City and County homelessness efforts, collect and distribute funds, and track data. Now, with the County exit, and after years of significant investments from the City, we must rethink how we will coordinate and deliver homeless services across our jurisdiction.

Replacing those systems and creating a new homelessness service model will not happen overnight and should never disrupt services. However, there are actions that can be taken in the short and long terms to set the City up for a more successful model of homelessness service delivery.

In the short term, the City must restructure and reform what is left of LAHSA into an entity that can serve the City's needs. In the long term, the City must envision new systems to handle the responsibilities of homelessness services. We need to explore internalizing LAHSA's functions, creating our own Continuum of Care (CoC), and building out a system that provides better State and City coordination. We must do all of this while responding with urgency to our homelessness crisis, delivering services uninterrupted, and centering the needs of the unhoused in our funding decisions.

Over the past several years, there have been many conversations, reports without action, Blue Ribbon commissions, LAHSA studies, and numerous other committee meetings on the future of homelessness. We are months away from the next fiscal year, in which the County will withdraw the overwhelming majority of its funding. Without taking steps to both clarify and assert the role of the City within what is left of LAHSA, we risk continuing to defer critical decisions and accountability. We need to implement the following plan to govern and lead on this issue.

A Pathway Forward on Homelessness Governance & Short-Term Strategic Actions:

30 DAYS

1. Instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the City Attorney, to renegotiate the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement to provide the City of Los Angeles with a clear majority governance authority over the LAHSA Commission, including greater representation, oversight, and decision-making control.

45 DAYS

2. Direct the CAO, in coordination with the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor's Office, to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of LAHSA's remaining budget, operational capacity, and organizational structure. This review should:
 - Align LAHSA's priorities with the City's homelessness response goals for FY 2026–2027;
 - A detailed analysis of City and County cost sharing for the key functions of the CoC;
 - Identify opportunities to right-size and restructure LAHSA for improved efficiency and accountability; and
 - Reflect the City's role as the primary funding source in the upcoming fiscal year, including alignment with and integration into the City's upcoming budget process.

60 DAYS

3. Direct the CAO and the CLA, and request the City Attorney and LAHSA, with the assistance of the Housing Department (LAHD), to effectuate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LAHSA to streamline and standardize:
 - Contracting processes;
 - Invoicing and payment systems; and
 - Data collection, reporting, and performance tracking.
4. Concurrently, direct LAHD and the CAO to prepare and present a phased integration of these administrative functions into the City's Bureau of Homelessness, as feasible, ensuring continuity of services while increasing City control and efficiency.

90 DAYS

5. Instruct the CAO and CLA to propose structural governance changes to merge the CoC Board with the LAHSA Commission, ensuring the City achieves a clear majority representation to reflect the City's funding and operational responsibilities. The proposal should include the redesign of Coordinated Entry System (CES) policies to:
 - Prioritize equitable access for unhoused City of Los Angeles residents to City-funded beds and services;
 - Improve transparency and accountability in placement decisions; and
 - Ensure alignment with City investment priorities and performance goals.

We look forward to working with all of you to implement this pathway forward and take immediate, coordinated action to address the greatest humanitarian crisis of our lifetime. This moment demands urgency, clarity, leadership, and accountability. With the County's decision to withdraw funding from LAHSA, we must now seize this opportunity to build a system that delivers real results for people experiencing homelessness and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS
Mayor



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District



YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District