

Communication from Public

Name: Consideration of Motion)Harris-Dawson / Jurado) relative to an Intent to Apply New Roles

Date Submitted: 09/10/2026 01:37 PM

Council File No: 26-1294

Comments for Public Posting: Hello my name is Sandra Morales, Democrat with the Democratic Socialist of America and I'm a member of the Domestic Violence & Homeless Services Coalition and a reminder I was the 1st Inside Safe Developer Partner along with St. Joseph Center , I ask we envision a world where no individual or family has to choose between stable housing and a life free from violence. I have personally been affected by violence and working with DCFS Family Reunification to address issues and NO ONE IS ANY DIFFERENT. VIOLENCE DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE. We should not be creating a new department without using all resources in surrounding counties who contribute to the public safety of L.A. County. Given that the %. of people experiencing homelessness due to DV has doubled since 2018, it's more important than ever to preserve systems of care and resources for survivors. We urge the City work with the County on any new systems of governance, including new CofC roles, to ensure regional collaboration that supports survivors housing needs. Thank you Sandra Morales L.A. County Domestic Violence Advisory Board Real Estate Developer for Social Housing 2026 United Parents Advocate

Communication from Public

Name: Domestic Violence & Homeless Services Coalition

Date Submitted: 09/10/2026 09:24 AM

Council File No: 26-1294

Comments for Public Posting: See attached file for full comments. The Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), a network of more than 1,300 individuals and 260 member organizations across Los Angeles County writes regarding the City of Los Angeles' consideration of next steps for homeless services governance, including applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) roles. We share the goal of creating a system that is more effective, equitable, and accountable. We also urge careful planning that centers partnership, collaboration, and coordination between City and County, leading to a unified system of homeless services that supports survivors. We ask that if the City does apply for CoC functions, it is done so in close collaboration with the County to ensure regional coordination on survivors' housing needs. Any shifts to the current CoC structure must ensure that survivors don't lose access to the current resources they rely on, such as DV Regional Coordination, Centralized Access, VAWA systems, non-HMIS referral portal, and DV Bonus funding that provides \$18M worth of housing resources. Over the last decade LAHSA has worked with providers to develop a highly specialized survivor-focused system, representing years of collaboration and institutional knowledge regarding confidentiality, survivor safety, trauma informed practices, and VAWA implementation. These systems must be maintained under any new structure. It is also essential that any changes don't result in separate CoCs that make it harder for survivors to find safety and stability. Dual systems will result in inefficiencies and fewer resources, but if the County and City leverage resources together, City of LA residents fleeing violence will be better served. Dual systems also could create additional barriers for survivors navigating complex systems. Recent proposals under consideration, like a City-only Service Planning Area, could harm survivors who routinely cross jurisdictional boundaries for safety. Any system that restricts access or resources based on City geography could unintentionally create new barriers for survivors seeking safety. Given that the % of people experiencing homelessness due to DV has doubled since 2018, and that survivors now represent nearly half of the homeless population, it's more important than ever to preserve survivor centered systems of care and resources. We urge the City to work with the County on any new systems of governance,

including CoC lead, to ensure regional collaboration that supports survivors' housing needs. Thank you



September 11th, 2026

Re: Ensuring Survivor Safety, VAWA Compliance, and Continuity of Gender-Based Violence Housing Systems

Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), a network of more than 1,300 individuals and 260 member organizations across Los Angeles County, we write regarding the City of Los Angeles' consideration of next steps for homeless services governance, including applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) roles.

We share the goal of creating a system that is more effective, equitable, and accountable. We also urge careful planning that centers partnership, collaboration, and coordination between City and County, leading to a unified system of homeless services that supports survivors. We ask that if the City does apply for CoC functions, it is done so in close collaboration with the County to ensure regional coordination on survivors' housing needs.

Since 2017, the DVHSC has worked to expand access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors and their families across Los Angeles County. We have helped secure and implement critical resources, including HUD's CoC Domestic Violence Bonus program, resulting in increased shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent housing opportunities for survivors.

However, these life-saving gains are increasingly at risk as rising rates of survivor homelessness coincide with changes to homelessness governance and administrative structures.

Any governance transitions must ensure that survivors do not lose access to the housing pathways, protections, and resources they currently rely on. Further, any

governance transition that results in disparate CoCs and/or systems of care for survivors will ultimately hamper their ability to find safety and stability.

The City of Los Angeles has long been a critical partner in efforts to end homelessness and support survivors of violence. In fact, most domestic violence shelters and housing programs are funded by City through the Community Investment Department.

In the spirit of partnership, and ensuring the City's investment in survivors is of utmost impact, we ask you to consider the following concerns:

Shifts in homeless governance could mean separate systems of homeless services between the City of Los Angeles and The County of Los Angeles, resulting in inefficiencies. At a time when homelessness and survivor service systems are already facing significant funding pressures, the City should carefully assess whether dual systems within LA City and LA County would redirect limited resources away from critically needed shelter, housing and direct services. Leveraging City and County resources together through a single system of services, will result in more responsive support for City of LA residents fleeing violence.

The geographic implications of the recently proposed City-only Service Planning Area could harm survivors. Survivors routinely cross jurisdictional boundaries for safety. A survivor fleeing violence in South Los Angeles may need shelter in the San Gabriel Valley to escape an abuser. Safety planning often depends on moving beyond neighborhood, city, or community boundaries.

Because domestic violence does not stop at city borders, neither can survivor housing solutions. Restricting access, resources, prioritization pathways, or funding opportunities based solely on City geography could unintentionally create new barriers for survivors seeking safety. A fragmented system also raises critical questions about whether survivors will be able to move between City and County systems without losing access to referrals, prioritization pathways, housing opportunities, or other resources. Survivors should not be forced to navigate multiple bureaucracies or restart housing processes during movements of crisis, exactly when systems should be simplest and most accessible. If the City and the County jointly lead CoC functions, we ask that existing SPAs continue to encompass the City of Los Angeles.

Separate CoCs would further complicate the already difficult task of replicating years of specialized infrastructure, partnerships, policies, and expertise that have

been developed to ensure compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provide safe access to housing for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence.

Over the last decade, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has developed highly specialized survivor-focused systems including:

- The creation and operation of a non-HMIS referral portal that allows Victim Service Providers, who cannot enter survivor information into HMIS, to access Permanent Supportive Housing opportunities safely and confidentially.
- Long-standing expertise securing and administering HUD Domestic Violence Bonus funding, resulting in 20 permanent housing projects valued at more than \$18 million.
- A network of Domestic Violence Regional Coordinators embedded throughout the Coordinated Entry System to build partnerships, provide training, and ensure survivor access to housing opportunities.
- Execution of the Emergency Transfer Policy and accompanying VAWA systems that allow survivors to transfer safely when their housing becomes dangerous.
- Administration of the Centralized Access Project, a collaboration among LA City, LA County, survivor-serving organizations, lived-experience advocates, and LAHSA to streamline access to safety and housing.
- Administration of Domestic Violence Housing Navigation services, the DV Resource Portal, a dedicated VAWA Portal, and a centralized inquiry system that provides expert support to survivors and providers navigating complex housing systems.

These systems were not developed overnight, nor do they operate independently of one another. They represent years of collaboration between homeless service providers, victim service providers, survivors, advocates, local governments, and federal partners. Together, they also reflect significant institutional knowledge about confidentiality, survivor safety, housing mobility, trauma-informed practices, and VAWA implementation, while providing survivor-serving organizations with access to the broader countywide housing system.

As a Coalition, we have serious concerns that these systems will not be recreated quickly enough to avoid interruptions in access to housing and safety for survivors. City-County collaboration will be essential in replicating and maintaining survivor services, while minimizing disruption.

These concerns are particularly urgent given what we now know about the prevalence of violence among people experiencing homelessness. **The recent 2026 Point in Time Count indicates that nearly half of people experiencing homelessness report a history of domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence, making survivor-responsive systems a core function of the homelessness response system rather than a specialized niche.** Survivors are not a small subset of the population. They are a significant proportion of those seeking shelter, housing, outreach, and supportive services.

We therefore believe a detailed transition and coordination plan must be in place before any major shifts to either the CoC or funding structures occur. We also firmly believe that the City and County must work together, to avoid barriers for survivors that could jeopardize their safety.

In the consideration of building a new homeless governance system, we urge the City and County to work collaboratively to:

1. Maintain full VAWA compliance and survivor confidentiality protections.
2. Replicate the current non-HMIS housing access pathways utilized by victim service providers.
3. Establish specialized domestic violence leadership staffing, training, technical assistance, and regional coordination infrastructure.
4. Preserve access to HUD DV Bonus and other survivor-specific HUD funding opportunities.
5. Create emergency transfer systems that function seamlessly across housing programs.
6. Ensure continuity of the Centralized Access Project and other survivor-centered referral mechanisms.
7. Guarantee that survivors can access housing opportunities across jurisdictional boundaries without unnecessary restrictions.

8. Establish a formal role for victim service providers, survivors with lived expertise, and DVHSC leadership in planning, governance, decision-making and implementation.

The Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition remains committed to working collaboratively with the City, County, LAHSA, and HUD to improve governance while ensuring that survivors do not lose access to life-saving housing and services during any governance transition.

Before new homeless services systems move forward, there must be a clear plan to protect survivor confidentiality, safety, housing access, cross-jurisdictional mobility, and continuity of funding and services. **We urge the City and the County to work collaboratively to ensure that coordinated systems for survivors are maintained.**

For more information or to schedule a meeting, please contact Cristina Cortes, DVHSC Senior Manager: cristinac@downtwonwomenscenter.org

Sincerely,



Amy Turk, CEO
Downtown Women's Center
DVHSC Co-Lead



Iliana Tavera, CEO
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