

Service Planning Area (SPA) Quarterly Updates
February 2019

Policy and Legislative Affairs

For more information please visit: www.lahsa.org/policy or contact the policy team with questions at policy@lahsa.org.

Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness: Report Available

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, established by the LAHSA Commission, convened monthly from April through October 2018.
- The Committee's goals were to: 1) examine the factors contributing to the overrepresentation of Black people among the population experiencing homelessness, 2) identify opportunities to increase racial equity within the homeless service delivery system, and 3) develop recommendations to more effectively meet the needs of Black people experiencing homelessness.
- In December 2018, the Committee's final report and recommendations were approved by the LAHSA Commission. Read the *Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness* [here](#).
- The critical work of advancing the robust recommendations set forth by the Committee is now underway. This work involves collaboration across LAHSA, City and County partners, service providers, and other key community partners.

Federal Government Shutdown and HUD's Closure: Notice Available

- The LAHSA Commission sent a letter to the Trump Administration urging a swift resolution to the **partial government shutdown** that extended from December into late January. The letter asked the Administration to consider the harms that would come to vulnerable households if the shutdown continued into late February and curtailed SNAP benefits and Housing Choice Voucher payments. Congress and the White House agreed to a continuing resolution that will keep the government open until February 15th while negotiations over border security funding continue.

Public Charge

- LAHSA continues to monitor the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed rule on **public charge**. At present, DHS is still processing the 200,000 public comments that were received on the rule changes, which could further restrict access to public services for certain categories of immigrants. LAHSA will be holding a training for providers with questions on public charge on February 28th. For more information on the training, please contact Alison Korte, akorte@lahsa.org.

Fair Housing

- LAHSA has submitted comments to HUD on several issues in recent months, including re-affirming the need for HUD to **collect key racial and ethnic data** and re-affirming the importance of robust **fair housing enforcement**. These comments are further supported by recommendations from LAHSA's Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, which noted the need for fair housing enforcement and close monitoring of data from federally-funded programs as a means of ensuring equitable program outcomes.
- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion in January to increase **fair housing enforcement** in the county. The motion called for relevant county departments to report back in 90 days with a source of income discrimination ordinance, allocated \$5 million in funding to

affirmatively further fair housing, and asked county departments to report back with a plan to implement fair housing recommendations from LAHSA's Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness.

Practice Standards Development: Status Update

- LAHSA, in collaboration with funding administrators, is working to establish universal minimum standards, known as Practice Standards. Practice Standards are minimum baseline requirements, which all funders agree to adopt and incorporate into their program guidance and funding contracts with contractors.
- The Interim Housing Universal Minimum Practice Standards were approved by the CES Policy Council on Wednesday, December 19, 2018.
- The Rapid Re-housing Universal Minimum Practice Standards are currently being drafted with feedback from funders, providers, and lived experience groups.
- The Rapid Re-housing Universal Minimum Practice Standards will open for public comment in February.

Elections for SPA Representation on the LA Continuum of Care Board (LA CoC Board) and Regional Homelessness Advisory Council (RHAC)

- LAHSA will soon announce information for the upcoming SPA elections to select new representatives to serve on the LA CoC Board and RHAC, respectively. The elections will be held during the SPA quarterly meetings beginning in May 2019. LAHSA will announce detailed information for all interested candidates in the coming weeks.

Systems Coordination

For ongoing questions regarding Homeless Certifications for LAHSA-funded programs, please e-mail homelesscertifications@lahsa.org.

Homeless Certifications: Notice of New Forms

- In an effort to reduce barriers and increase efficiency in certifying homeless status for persons experiencing homelessness in LA County, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) collaborated with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), and the LA County Health Agency's Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Health Services (DHS) to develop a common set of homeless certifications. **Each collaborating agency will require the use of the new forms within their respective contracted programs and application processes beginning February 1, 2019.** The below forms have been finalized and placed in the "Documents" page on the LAHSA website (www.lahsa.org/documents):
 - **DedicatedPLUS Verification Training Packet** – Search "Form 2835"
 - **DedicatedPLUS Verification Packet** – Search "Form 2833"
 - **Third Party Verification of Homeless Status Form** – Search "Form 1444"
 - **Observation of Homeless Status Form** – Search "Form 2199"
 - **Self-Certification of Homeless Status Form** – Search "Form 1448"
- LAHSA developed two training videos that include information regarding the content and appropriate utilization of the forms. The videos can be found in the "Videos" page on the LAHSA website and via the below URLs:
 - **DedicatedPLUS Webinar** – www.lahsa.org/videos?v=242-dedicatedplus-webinar-
 - **Universal Homeless Certification Webinar** - www.lahsa.org/videos?v=243-universal-homeless-certification-we-
- LAHSA will also release a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document in February to provide additional information regarding the appropriate utilization of each form, certification and documentation requirements for LAHSA-contracted programs, and certification requirements for HACLA, HACoLA, DMH, and DHS.

Data Management – Shelter Count/Housing Inventory Count

For more information please visit the Homeless Count website under Housing Inventory Count (HIC) - <https://www.lahsa.org/homeless-count/hic/home> or contact the HMIS team with questions at HMISsupport@lahsa.org

Shelter Count/HIC Update

- The data collection period for the Shelter/Housing Inventory Count runs from **February 1 to February 20, 2019**. HIC data collection for LAHSA occurs after the Street Count to ensure sufficient time for providers to collect the necessary information and enter the data into HMIS.
- All providers HIC data will be displayed on the LA CoC Shelter Count/HIC web form in MyOrg for them to verify. There is no need to re-enter data into the form. Any issues you find when reviewing the data should be addressed through the comment boxes on the form.
- Make sure you are registered on MyOrg. Details on how to register can be found on the HIC Fact Sheet, which can be found on the Homeless Count website under Housing Inventory Count.