



## **SB 914 (Rubio) Homelessness: Domestic Violence Survivors**

### **Bill Summary**

SB 914 will reduce gender bias and disparities in outcomes in California's response to homelessness by embedding a focus on domestic violence survivors and other vulnerable populations into local homelessness plans.

### **Existing Law**

Existing law creates the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California.

### **Background**

Domestic violence is one of the leading drivers of homelessness for women. Nationally, 57% of unhoused women reported domestic violence was an immediate cause of their homelessness.<sup>1</sup> In California, 18% of unhoused individuals reported experiencing domestic violence according to the state's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) demographic data.<sup>2</sup> Many survivors of domestic violence flee a dangerous situation with few resources – sometimes, with only the clothes on their backs.<sup>3</sup>

Unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness are unhoused individuals without children or other dependents.<sup>4</sup> Nationally, unaccompanied women comprise nearly one-in-three of all unhoused

individuals.<sup>5</sup> And according to the California Policy Lab, 80 percent of unsheltered, unaccompanied women cited trauma or abuse as the cause of their homelessness. They also wait on average more than 10 years to access stable housing, a rate twice that of men.<sup>6</sup>

Despite making up a significant portion of the homeless population, our state's homelessness response does not appropriately consider the needs of these groups. Due to confidentiality requirements for survivors of domestic violence, victim service providers are prohibited by federal law from entering client-level information into the federal Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or the state's HDIS. As a result, data about the number of survivors served, their needs, and program outcomes are not considered when measuring local responses to homelessness.

### **Details of the Bill**

SB 914 will improve California's response to homelessness by requiring cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness to include domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed. The bill also requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress towards goals to prevent and end homelessness for these vulnerable populations.

<sup>1</sup> [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Fact Sheet](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://besh.ca.gov/calich/hdis.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/how-domestic-violence-became-the-no-1-cause-of-homelessness-for-women-in-los-angeles>

<sup>4</sup> [USICH, "Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness." October 2020](#)

<sup>5</sup> [The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report – Part I." January 2021](#)

<sup>6</sup> [California Policy Lab, "Health Conditions Among Unsheltered Adults in the U.S." October 2019](#)



## **Support**

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California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

*(Co-Sponsor)*

Downtown Women's Center *(Co-Sponsor)*

Rainbow Services *(Co-Sponsor)*

## **Support (continued)**

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Brilliant Corners

Central City Association

Future without Violence

Good Shepherd Center

Haven Hills, Inc.

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles

Hub for Urban Initiatives

Imagine LA

Little Hoover Commission

Little Tokyo Service Center

Sojourn

The Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law

The People Concern

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Venice Community Housing Corporation

Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

## **For More Information**

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