



PPCC Glossary of Terms Related to Homelessness

- **Homelessness** – The situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. The term (or the alternate term “houselessness”) is often used to describe people living unsheltered on sidewalks, in tents or camps, or in cars or RVs, who have no home or a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

A Bridge Home – Los Angeles program involving facilities on public property designed to provide shelter as an alternative to encampments for people experiencing homelessness / houselessness (“PEH,” defined below), *i.e.*, to provide a “bridge” between street homelessness and long-term or permanent housing. An example is the “A Bridge Home” facility in Venice (also known as the Pacific Sunset Bridge Home), which is located in a residential neighborhood and had been controversial for several years due to ongoing unsafe and unhealthy conditions within and outside of the facility. Councilwoman Traci Park (Council District 11 / CD 11) has worked to ameliorate the unacceptable conditions while also supporting an extension of the facility’s lease in order to provide much-needed interim housing / shelter (defined below). An “A Bridge Home” facility has not been proposed for Pacific Palisades.

Affordable Housing – Widely defined as any type of housing, including rental / home ownership, permanent / temporary, for-profit / non-profit, that costs less than 30% of a household’s pre-tax income. More specifically defined by the City of Los Angeles Planning Dept. as “any housing unit that has a formal covenant or other legal protection that guarantees that the housing unit can only be occupied by someone within a set schedule of income. These units can be located in a building that is entirely income restricted, or in a mixed-income building where only a certain percentage of the units are restricted. The housing cost of restricted affordable units is based on the current Area Median Income (AMI) in Los Angeles County, which in 2021 was \$80,000.”

At-risk of Homelessness / Houselessness – Phrase describing people who are not yet experiencing homelessness / houselessness (see “PEH,” defined below), but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

Boise case – Important 2018 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (*Martin v. City of Boise*), holding that under the 8th Amendment to the Constitution, a city cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances with criminal penalties if it does not have enough homeless shelter beds available for its homeless population – although the ruling does not necessarily mean a city cannot enforce *any* restrictions on camping on public property (as the City of Los Angeles has done with LAMC Sec. 41.18, defined below). In 2019, PPCC’s letter supporting an amicus brief by Brentwood Community Council was submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in connection with the City of Boise’s petition for review of the Ninth Circuit’s decision, seeking clarity as to what actions by local governments to restrict camping on public

property may be permissible under the Constitution. Although the Supreme Court declined review in *Boise*, subsequent cases now proceeding through the judicial system may provide such clarity.

CARE / CARE+ – “Comprehensive Cleaning & Rapid Engagement” program, administered by the City Sanitation Department; provides for cleaning or “sweeps” of encampments, in which PEH (defined below) are asked by law enforcement to remove their tents and belongings temporarily while Sanitation workers then sweep, power wash and remove trash and hazardous materials from the area. The sweeps are accompanied by outreach and offers of service. Several such sweeps have taken place in CD 11.

CARE Courts / Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment Courts – New program, initiated statewide by Governor Gavin Newsom and expected to be launched in Los Angeles County in December 2023 (per vote of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors), which is “aimed at helping the thousands of Californians who are suffering mental health and substance use disorders leading to homelessness” (Governor’s office). Briefly, the process begins with a verified petition brought by a family member, friend, law enforcement or behavioral health worker, along with an affidavit from a licensed healthcare professional, demonstrating that an individual is suffering from a severe mental disorder and qualifies for the program. If qualified and accepted into the program, the individual is given a treatment plan and assigned an advocate and legal counsel to guide them through the process (with various steps and consequences after a year in the program, depending on status of compliance).

Case Management – A collaborative and client-centered approach to service provision for PEH (defined below), in which a case worker assesses the needs of the client and when appropriate, arranges, coordinates and advocates for delivery and access to a range of programs and services to address the individual’s needs.

CES / Coordinated Entry System – A coordinated system whereby all providers allocate housing and services through a single process and according to a shared protocol (see “LAHSA,” defined below).

Chronic Homelessness / Houselessness – Long-lasting or recurring homelessness / houselessness, defined by the federal government as a condition which impacts people who live with a documented disability and have experienced not having a home for at least a year, or repeatedly over three years (see also “Houseless / Houselessness” and “Unhoused Persons,” both defined below).

CoC / Continuum of Care – A network of agencies bound to a geographic area, which includes social services, healthcare, shelter services and housing providers, that organize and deliver funding and support to meet the needs of homeless / unhoused persons (defined below). LAHSA (defined below) is the lead agency for the CoC in Los Angeles County.

Congregate Shelter – A shared living environment combining housing and services such as case management (defined above) and employment services. People are typically separated by gender and often sleep in an open area with others in a congregate setting. Such shelters may also have set hours of operation and prohibitions on smoking, drugs and weapons.

Downtown Women’s Shelter – Nonprofit organization founded in 1978, described as the “only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.” Provides services such as education, counseling, meals, job training, permanent supportive housing (defined below) and healthcare.

Emergency Shelter – Facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for PEH (defined below), *e.g.*, cold and hot weather shelters that open during extreme temperatures. Los Angeles County periodically opens a limited number of emergency Winter Shelters (defined below) during colder months.

Fifty-One Fifty / 5150 – Number of the state Welfare & Institutions Code section that allows an adult who is experiencing a mental health crisis to be involuntarily detained for a 72-hour psychiatric hospitalization when evaluated to be a danger to others or to himself or herself, or to be gravely disabled; often referred to as “5150 holds.” A bill is now pending in the state legislature (SB 43) to expand the Sec. 5150 definition of “gravely disabled” (see “Lanterman-Petris-Short Act,” defined below).

Food Insecurity – Condition often experienced by PEH (defined below) of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one’s basic needs.

HACLA / Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles – One of the largest public housing authorities in the U.S. Provides affordable housing and a range of services and programs for low income, homeless / houseless, disabled, children and senior residents; administers Section 8 Housing Vouchers (defined below) in Los Angeles as well as projects developed under Proposition HHH (defined below).

HET / Homeless Engagement Team – LAHSA (defined below) maintains and coordinates a number of HETs in communities throughout the City and County of Los Angeles, who provide direct outreach services to PEH (defined below). An outreach team from The People Concern (defined below) – funded by the community and working alongside the Palisades LAPD beach detail as well as volunteers from PPTFH (defined below) – has effectively served as an HET in Pacific Palisades for several years.

Homeless Services Delivery System – System of services that help people move from homelessness / houselessness (defined above and below) to being housed permanently (see also “PATH Providers” and “Transition from Homelessness,” both defined below).

Housing First – A homelessness / houselessness response philosophy that prioritizes giving people permanent, life-long housing, without preconditions such as sobriety, participation in mandatory treatment programs or acceptance of other services. This approach highlights the need for housing above other contributing factors such as mental health, addiction and healthcare. Although the State of California and many cities, including Los Angeles, originally adopted the Housing First policy as a way to end homelessness, critics note that over the past several years homelessness has steadily increased and it is extremely expensive to provide housing as a priority. Recently, Governor Newsom has acknowledged that “healthcare and housing can no longer be divorced” and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has recognized that mental health and addiction are significant factors in homelessness / houselessness which must be addressed along with housing.

Housing Insecurity – Term used to describe the varied experiences and challenges of people who are homeless / houseless, as well as those who are at risk of becoming so. Use of this terminology emphasizes the complex factors that contribute to a person becoming homeless / unhoused (see “Unhoused Persons,” defined below), including mental health issues and addiction / substance abuse as well as job loss, rent increase, personal economic situation, poverty and lack of affordable housing.

Houseless / Houselessness – Terms sometimes used in place of “homeless” or “homelessness,” to distinguish between persons without a house (structure providing a place for permanent nighttime residence) and those without a home ((the personal community in which a person lives), *i.e.*, to express

the view that people described as homeless / unhoused are not necessarily without homes (see also “Unhoused Persons,” defined below).

Inside Safe Program – Mayor Bass’ signature program to clear homeless encampments by offering motel rooms and services to unhoused Angelenos. The goal is to move everyone from motels (a type of “Interim Housing / Shelter” or “Transitional Housing,” both defined below) into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Although offered, mental health and/or addiction treatment is not a precondition to being provided a motel room. The Mayor has partnered with Councilwoman Park in using Inside Safe to successfully clear certain targeted encampments in CD 11. The City of Los Angeles has allocated \$250 million to continue and expand Inside Safe over the next year. Mayor Bass has explained that it is very expensive to acquire and provide motel rooms and housing, and that more funding, including federal and State funds, will be needed. The Mayor has released some data on the program and is expected to release more, as her office continues to evaluate the program’s efficacy. According to data released to date, the program has had an 83% retention rate, with about 17% of individuals placed in the program having left their motel rooms or exiting the program entirely. These numbers are expected to fluctuate.

Interim Housing / Shelter – A form of transitional or “bridge” housing that provides safe temporary accommodation for people who have nowhere to spend the night (see also “A Bridge Home,” defined above, and “Transitional Housing,” defined below).

LA Alliance for Human Rights lawsuit – Widely-reported case brought in federal court in 2020 by a coalition of downtown Los Angeles businesses, residents and other groups against the City and County of Los Angeles. The Alliance alleges that government inaction has allowed development of a dangerous environment for businesses and residents, due to the continued, ever-expanding state of homelessness and accompanying unhealthy and unsafe conditions in the downtown Skid Row area. The District Court judge overseeing the case, the Hon. David O. Carter, recently approved a settlement with the City, in which the City is to provide \$3 billion to fund as many as 16,000 beds or housing units for non-mentally ill homeless / unhoused persons in five years. A proposed settlement with the County had not been approved as of July 2023 (*but see update on p. 8**)

LAHSA / Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority – Regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless / unhoused persons in Los Angeles County (including in the City of Los Angeles); lead agency in the Los Angeles CoC / Continuum of Care (defined above). Manages the CES (defined above) for the County, and administers over \$800 million annually in federal, State, County and City funds for programs that provide shelter, housing and services to PEH (defined below). Former City Controller Ron Galperin and others have criticized both LAHSA and HACLA (defined above) for, among other things, mismanagement and/or prioritizing “Housing First” (defined above) over transitional shelters and support services.

LAMC Sec. 41.18 – The so-called “anti-camping” ordinance in Los Angeles, which bans homeless / unhoused persons from camping overnight on public property / in the public right of way close to certain locations such as schools, daycare centers, parks, libraries (“Sensitive Sites,” defined below) and underpasses/overpasses. The ordinance provides a process for Councilmembers to petition the City Council to designate sites for enforcement under Sec. 41.18 (but petitions and designations are not preconditions for enforcement near *schools and daycare centers*). Individuals at all encampment sites are offered housing and services before any enforcement takes place. Using the 41.18 process as a tool along with the Inside Safe program, Councilwoman Park has brought petitions in Council for several sites in CD 11 to be designated under Sec. 41.18. PPCC supports the use of Sec. 41.18 with offers of housing

and services. The Los Angeles City Council has directed a report by the City's Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) as to Sec. 41.18 outcomes; to date, the CLA's analysis is pending.

Lanterman-Petris-Short Act – State law enacted in 1967 (Welfare & Institutions Code Sec. 5000, *et seq.*), providing that Californians can be held for treatment against their will *only if they are deemed a danger to themselves or others, or are determined to be gravely disabled*; often referred to as “5150 Holds” (see also “Fifty-One-Fifty / 5150,” defined above). Under the Act, law enforcement officers and mental health professionals in California may place individuals meeting the criteria on 72-hour emergency “5150 holds.” A bill to amend the Act (SB 43) is now moving forward in the state legislature, supported by Councilwoman Park and the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, SB 43 would *expand the definition of “gravely disabled”* in the Act to mean a condition in which, as a result of a mental health disorder or severe substance use disorder (or both), a person is unable to provide for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, or shelter, personal safety or necessary medical care.

Long-Term Housing – Defined under federal law as housing that is “sustainable, accessible, affordable, and safe for the foreseeable future and is – (A) rented or owned by the individual; (B) subsidized by a voucher or other program which is not time-limited and is available for as long as the individual meets the eligibility requirements for the voucher or program; or (C) provided directly by a program, agency, or organization and is not time-limited and is available for as long as the individual meets the eligibility requirements for the program, agency, or organization.”

Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative – Central body for the County's efforts to expand and enhance services for PEH (defined below) and those at-risk of homelessness / houselessness (defined above). The Initiative, created by the County Board of Supervisors in 2015, is part of the County's Chief Executive Office and is partially funded by Measure H revenues (voter-approved ¼-cent sales tax).

PATH Providers / Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness – Local public or nonprofit organizations that receive federal PATH funds to service PEH (defined below) with serious mental illness and to assist their transition to permanent housing. The Los Angeles County Mental Health Department is a PATH Provider for the County (see “Transition from Homelessness,” defined below). *Note:* PATH Providers are distinct from an entity named “PATH,” which is a separate nonprofit service provider (defined below) operating in Los Angeles and other California cities.

PEH / People Experiencing Homelessness / Houselessness – Persons in a state of homelessness or houselessness, as described above. The acronym “PEH” is often used in place of the full phrase by officials and/or volunteers who work with homeless / unhoused persons or on homelessness issues.

Permanent Supportive Housing – Affordable, subsidized, non-time-limited housing. Participation in services or other preconditions are not required for residents, but services such as case management (defined above), healthcare and mental health or substance abuse support may be offered as needed.

PIT / Point in Time Count – Federally-mandated annual census count of PEH (defined above). The PIT (conducted on one night / early morning) includes those who are sheltered and unsheltered. LAHSA (defined above) oversees the count in Los Angeles; PPTFH (defined below) has managed and conducted the count in Pacific Palisades for several years. The resulting data is used by the federal government to allocate resources and support homelessness services. The 2023 PIT found an estimated 46,260 PEH in the City of Los Angeles, with 6,669 homeless / unhoused persons in SPA 5 (see “SPA / Service Planning

Area,” defined below). Official numbers for each of the individual neighborhoods in the SPAs (e.g., Pacific Palisades in SPA 5) have not been released to date.

PPTFH / Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness – Originally initiated in 2014 as a PPCC committee, the PPTFH became a highly respected independent 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission includes providing leadership and resources to manage and eliminate the destructive consequences of homelessness in the Palisades. As of May 2023, PPTFH has restructured its model, including entering into a new partnership arrangement with its longtime service provider The People Concern (defined below). The organization continues to seek volunteers to engage in the important work of helping homeless / unhoused persons in the Palisades and keeping the community safe.

Project Room Key – Collaborative, temporary effort by the State, the County and City of Los Angeles and LAHSA (defined above), initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable homeless / unhoused persons. Now ended, the project provided a way for people who did not have a house to stay inside in order to prevent the spread of the virus. LAHSA continues to oversee the operation of a number of former Project Room Key units to continue to provide shelter or housing.

Proposition HHH – \$1.2 billion bond measure funding the development of supportive housing in Los Angeles County; passed overwhelmingly by Los Angeles voters in 2016; projected to build 10,000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (defined above) in a 10-year span. Seven years later, fewer than 3,000 units have been built, at an average cost of approximately \$600,000 per unit – made up of about \$132,000 per unit in HHH funding, with additional financing from multiple sources required in order to meet the expense of red tape / regulations. HACLA (defined above) periodically updates progress on HHH construction. The program has been heavily criticized for being behind schedule and far above cost projections.

Rapid Rehousing – A solution to homelessness / houselessness, designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing by offering flexible, time-limited assistance. Offered with preconditions, such as employment, income and/or sobriety; resources and services provided are typically tailored to the unique needs of the household.

Safe Camping / Safe Sleeping – Organized sites where camping or overnight sleeping is legal / sanctioned by local government; security and supportive services are often provided. Temporary Safe Camping / Safe Sleeping / shelter sites (so-called “Safe Sleep Villages”) have been located in a few downtown areas of Los Angeles, operated by a San Francisco based non-profit called Urban Alchemy. Culver City and the City of San Diego also recently opened Safe Camping / Safe Sleeping sites. Los Angeles City officials such as Mayor Bass and Councilwoman Park have publicly stated that they oppose forms of Safe Camping / Safe Sleeping (e.g., sanctioned encampments) *on beaches and in public parks*.

Safe Parking – Program intended to provide vehicle dwellers with a safe and legal place to park overnight; open to persons who apply and meet various criteria. Security, restrooms and access to resources and services are offered. Safe Parking sites on the Westside are located in West LA, Sawtelle and Culver City; a former 24/7 Safe Parking site at Westchester Park that was unsupervised, poorly operated, unsafe and highly controversial has been discontinued (see also “Vanlords,” defined below).

Section 8 Housing Vouchers – Federal program administered by local housing authorities. HACLA (defined above) administers the program in the City of Los Angeles. Eligible tenants receive vouchers they can use to help pay for apartments in the private market. There is a waiting list for vouchers in Los

Angeles which is currently closed. Problems with the program have been widely reported, including landlord rejections, unused vouchers and long wait times for vouchers to become available and/or for individuals who have vouchers to be assigned an apartment. PPTFH (defined above) reports that housing vouchers and housing are currently at a near standstill in Pacific Palisades and on the Westside.

Sensitive Sites – Sites where homeless encampments are located in the public right of way near *public parks and libraries*, and that require a petition and designation by City Council before enforcement can begin under LAMC Sec. 41.18 (defined above). Sites near *schools and day care centers* are deemed so sensitive that they do not require prior designation by City Council for Sec. 41.18 enforcement.

Service Provider – Defined under federal law as a nonprofit, nongovernmental homeless provider, such as a homeless shelter, a homeless service or advocacy program, or coalition or other nonprofit organization carrying out a community-based homeless or housing program that has a documented history of effective work concerning homelessness. St. Joseph Center and The People Concern (both defined below) are longtime service providers in CD11, the Westside and other areas in Los Angeles.

Service-Resistant – Homeless / unhoused persons who consistently refuse offers of housing / services.

SPA / Service Planning Area – Geographical area for health planning purposes. Los Angeles County is divided into eight SPAs; Pacific Palisades is in SPA 5 (West). Each SPA has an Area Health Office/Center that is responsible for planning public health and clinical services according to the community's health needs. The SPA 5 Health Center is the Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center, 2509 Pico Boulevard, Room 320, Santa Monica, CA 90405 (see also "PIT / Point in Time Count," defined above).

State of Emergency on Homelessness – In early 2023, the County Board of Supervisors and Mayor Bass proclaimed a local emergency on homeless for, respectively, Los Angeles County and City, which, as explained, will in turn allow for streamlining and acceleration of contracting, procurement and hiring related to homelessness in both jurisdictions, as well as acceleration of licensed beds in healthcare facilities, interim housing and permanent supportive housing (defined above).

St. Joseph Center – Nonprofit organization that provides homeless services in CD 11, the Westside and the greater Los Angeles region; the lead CES / Coordinated Entry System provider (defined above) on the Westside for Brentwood, Culver City, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica and Venice.

TAY / Transitional Age Youth Program – State program to prevent homelessness / houselessness, and to secure and maintain housing for young adults aged 18 to 24 years, with priority given to those currently or formerly in the foster care or probation systems.

The People Concern – Nonprofit organization that provides homeless services in CD 11, the Westside and throughout Los Angeles; longtime partner of PPTFH in providing outreach, funded by the community, in Pacific Palisades (see also "HET," defined above). Currently under a new partnership arrangement in which it will continue to fulfill its service contract with PPTFH and for a period of time will act as fiscal sponsor for homeless outreach services in the Palisades.

Tiny Home Village – A form of transitional housing (defined below) in which several small (typically 8'x8') "houses" are built on available land along with central communal facilities such as bathrooms, laundry, cooking and dining areas. A number of Tiny Home Villages are located in Los Angeles, including on the Brentwood Veterans' Administration campus (serving homeless / unhoused vets).

Transitional Housing – Time-limited housing for homeless / unhoused individuals or families who are in the process of moving to permanent housing; also offers supportive services to assist people shifting from homelessness to being housed permanently.

Transition from Homelessness – Pathway of moving from homelessness / houselessness to recovery, independence and permanent housing. In Los Angeles, the County Mental Health Department – a federally-funded PATH Provider (defined above) – provides numerous services to assist persons who have mental illness with transitioning from homelessness to housing, including screening / diagnosis, mental health and substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation, job training, education and housing services. The Department’s mission as a PATH Provider is “to optimize the hope, wellbeing and life trajectory of Los Angeles County’s most vulnerable through access to care and resources that promote not only independence and personal recovery but also connectedness and community reintegration.”

Unhoused Persons – Term sometimes used in place of “homeless persons,” to describe people who are without a house (structure providing a place for permanent nighttime residence) (see also “Homelessness / Houselessness,” defined above).

Vanlords – Individuals who rent out RVs or similar vehicles (often old, dilapidated vehicles purchased from salvage lots) as vehicle dwellings, without regard to safety or habitability. Unregulated RVs (rental or otherwise) have been proliferating on residential streets in Venice and other locations in CD 11, frustrating residents and causing hazardous conditions, including fires that have erupted in some RVs. The current status of City enforcement of RV parking regulations in residential neighborhoods is confusing and complicated; according to CD 11, lack of enforcement is a result of many factors, including the City Council’s failure to pass new regulations after allowing the former Municipal Code section that regulated RVs (LAMC Sec. 85.02) to expire; insufficient LADOT staff and/or capacity to conduct enforcement; insufficient towing and storage capacity for RVs; and lack of adequate Safe Parking sites (defined above). Councilwoman Park has introduced several motions in City Council intended to regulate RVs (e.g., to crack down on RV rentals by vanlords; to ban RV dwelling in certain neighborhoods; to create a pilot program to rehouse RV dwellers).

Winter Shelters – Program operated by LAHSA (defined above), in which a limited number of shelters are offered to PEH (defined above) on a temporary basis during colder months in Los Angeles (generally November to March). Meals and case management services (defined above) are provided. Winter Shelters in 2022-23 were located in areas such as downtown Los Angeles, East and South Los Angeles and Lancaster (not in CD 11 or near Pacific Palisades).

Wraparound Services – Services designed to provide comprehensive, personalized support and resources so that individuals and families are able to address the complex issues and challenges that often accompany homelessness / houselessness and can interfere with obtaining long-term housing stability.

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*A settlement with the County and the City has now been reached in the LA Alliance for Human Rights lawsuit; see September 12, 2023 statement at: https://www.la-alliance.org/court_documents.