Women overwhelmingly reported (82%) that access to housing was the most urgently needed resource, but also the most difficult to access.

Mental healthcare was also highlighted as a critically needed resource. Just over a quarter (28.1%) of respondents indicated that mental health services would improve their communities.

More than one-third (37%) of respondents indicated a preference for accessing services in women-only environments.

The need for a trauma-informed approach to services provision was also highlighted, with 40% of respondents reporting that housing service providers did not understand their trauma and another 35% reporting that street outreach/case management providers did not understand their trauma.

Homelessness is not inevitable. It is a societal problem that bears especially hard on women. We need committed community members like you to help us develop policies that will transform systems and change lives.
ADVOCACY ACTIONS

01 DECREASE barriers to entry for shelter and make shelter environments safer and more welcoming for women of all abilities and backgrounds. Prohibit publicly funded shelters from accepting rent or public assistance benefits in exchange for participants’ stay.

02 CEASE sanitation sweeps that destroy tents and possessions, and decriminalize poverty and homelessness by eliminating “quality of life” citations.

03 PROVIDE 24/7 access to trash cans, showers, and clean restrooms for unsheltered individuals. Build more “safe sleeping” lots, winter shelters, and cooling centers, and strengthen outreach programs in local public libraries.

04 PROVIDE tailored programs for older women to decrease social isolation, and remove barriers to resources for undocumented women.

05 HIRE staff with experience of homelessness in direct service, administrative, and program roles. Train all first responders and City and Country staff in trauma-informed care, cultural humility, and racial, gender, and LGBTQIA+ equity.

The Downtown Women’s Center is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.

We envision a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy.

Visit the Downtown Women’s Center online to read the full report.

www.DowntownWomensCenter.org
#EveryWomanHoused