



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

**PRESS RELEASE
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DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER RELEASES HISTORIC "EVERY WOMAN HOUSED" ACTION PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN IN SKID ROW

At today's hearing for the *LA Alliance for Human Rights vs. the City of Los Angeles* federal court case presided over by Judge David O. Carter, the Downtown Women's Center CEO Amy Turk will formally release "Every Woman Housed," an action plan to permanently end homelessness for all 600 individual women and 55 unsheltered families currently residing in Skid Row.

Through a multi-pronged approach consisting of outreach and intake, short-term responses, and long-term solutions, the "Every Woman Housed: Action Plan for Housing Women and Families in Skid Row" outlines a roadmap for sheltering 400 women in 180 days and permanently ending homelessness for 600 women, while providing on-going housing retention services over the next two years. It proposes leveraging the Downtown Women's Center's existing resources, with additional resources from the City and County of Los Angeles, to address the racial and gender inequities called out in Judge Carter's April 20th injunction.

Black women, who make up less than 9% of the total female population in Los Angeles County, account for 37% of the region's unhoused female population, according to the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count; a disproportionate 60% of Skid Row's unhoused community is also Black.

"The Every Woman Housed Action Plan is a historic opportunity for us to end women's homelessness in Skid Row, in a way that centers the needs and experiences of these women without threatening re-traumatization or further marginalization," said Turk.

The plan builds upon the organization's 43 years of experience serving unhoused women through its Skid Row Access Center, which currently serves 5,300 women every year. It also proposes scaling DWC's Housing Justice Program, formerly [Project 100](#), which provides culturally competent services and housing to historically under-served women in Skid Row.

"We talk a lot about the urgency of lifting women and families out of homelessness and off of Skid Row, but talk is cheap unless we're willing to back it up with action," said City Councilmember Kevin de León (CD14). "The odds of escaping Skid Row are disproportionately stacked against unhoused women and families living on its streets. The horrific rate of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other traumas against Skid Row women demands a unified approach – the City, the County, and LAHSA making significant investments to lift our most vulnerable off the streets with a sense of urgency. That's why the Downtown Women Center's Every Woman Housed Action Plan is such a vital step towards providing a way home for the unsheltered women of Los Angeles."

"In the City of Los Angeles, there is a critical need to dedicate research, strategies, and programs aimed squarely at combating the continuing crisis of women's homelessness in Skid Row and beyond," remarked Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas (CD10), chair of the City Council's Homelessness and Poverty Committee. "The number of women experiencing homelessness has more than doubled since 2013, at a rate outpacing that of men. The gendered economic inequities exacerbated by COVID-19 are a further impetus for the city to act decisively in combating women's homelessness."

For details, the Downtown Women's Center's "Every Woman Housed Action Plan" can be found [here](#).

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*The **Downtown Women's Center (DWC)** is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions 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. For more information, visit www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.*