



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

CONTACT: Sean Gallitz
sgallitz@actumllc.com
(414) 315-0436

NEW STATE LEGISLATION WOULD INCREASE SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS & UNACCOMPANIED WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

SB 914, introduced by Senator Susan Rubio and co-sponsored by Downtown Women's Center, would require state and local homelessness plans to specifically address the needs of these highly vulnerable subpopulations

Yesterday, California State Senator Susan Rubio (SD 22-Baldwin Park) formally introduced Senate Bill 914, which seeks to advance an unprecedented gender equity lens in both state and local homeless responses systems.

Co-sponsored by the Downtown Women's Center, along with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and Rainbow Services, SB 914 will improve California's response to homelessness by requiring cities, counties, and continuums of care to address the historically unmet needs of domestic violence survivors – who make up 18% of the state's unhoused population – and unaccompanied women, who are experiencing homelessness without children or other dependents and are nearly 1-in-3 of all unhoused individuals nationally.

These jurisdictions will need to identify domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women as vulnerable subpopulations for whom specific support systems need to be developed. The bill also requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set measurable goals aimed at preventing and ending their incidence of homelessness.

“The Downtown Women's Center is extremely proud to co-sponsor this historic legislation” said Amy Turk, C.E.O. of the Downtown Women's Center, “SB 914 will directly address longstanding gaps within our current homeless response system and ensures domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women are recognized and accounted for with the support and services they need. DWC looks forward to this legislation becoming law and California becoming the national leader on combating women's homelessness.”

“Domestic violence is one of the leading drivers of homelessness for women, and unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness wait on average more than 10 years to access stable housing, a rate twice that of men,” said Sen. Rubio. “Despite making up a significant portion of the homeless

population, our state's homelessness response does not appropriately consider the needs of these groups. I want to thank the bill's coauthors Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Lisa Calderon, Cristina Garcia, and Blanca Rubio for joining me. They know that this bill will ensure these vulnerable populations are not forgotten in our efforts to end homelessness."

"It is critical that California's state and local approaches to addressing homelessness incorporate a gendered and intersectional analysis," said Krista Colón, Public Policy Director for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. "This bill will create the foundation for more responsive and inclusive homelessness systems for millions of survivors and their families."

"Rainbow Services is proud to co-sponsor this bill by Senator Rubio, acknowledging domestic violence as a main driver of homelessness for women and gender-expansive individuals," said Elizabeth Eastlund, Executive Director of Rainbow Services. "We are excited that this bill will begin to address the unique needs of domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women ensuring existing systems collaborate to support these populations."

###

*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.*