



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER HOSTED DEPLOYMENT SITE FOR THE SKID ROW  
COMMUNITY LOS ANGELES 2022 POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT**

Yesterday, the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) hosted a deployment site in Skid Row for the Downtown Los Angeles 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) count in partnership with the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA). The PIT count, critical to determining federal funding to address homelessness and providing an accurate picture of the issue in Los Angeles County, was conducted after the pandemic forced a postponement of the 2021 count.

Those in attendance to support the PIT count included United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis McDonough, Representative Mark Takano, Mayor Eric Garcetti, the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Downtown Women's Center CEO Amy Turk, and LAHSA Executive Director Heidi Marston.

"Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority. The PIT count assists us in that goal by informing the VA's approach to outreach and care, helping us understand trends, and assisting us in allocating resources according to Veterans' needs," said Secretary Denis McDonough.

"Thanks to the Downtown Women's Center for supporting the PIT count but more importantly for providing expertise on the issues impacting women, especially women Veterans, experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. Women Veterans can face unique challenges and the VA appreciates partners who share our commitment to serve them."

"While I was pleased to see the number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness has decreased nationwide, it is clear from my participation in the 2022 PIT Count that there is still more work to be done to address homelessness," said Representative Mark Takano, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "I know Secretary McDonough is committed to VA's Housing First policy, and I stand ready to work with Secretary McDonough, Supervisor Hilda Solis, and organizations including LAHSA and DWC, as we work to reduce homelessness in Los Angeles and across the nation."

“After not being able to move forward with last year’s PIT Count due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s efforts will provide us with data that illustrates the current state of homelessness in Los Angeles County and help the Board of Supervisors drive homeless system funding to areas most in need,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District. “We must mitigate the systemic inequities driving this crisis which have led to a disproportionate number of women of color into homelessness. By working with organizations such as DWC who serve the most vulnerable in our region, we can end homelessness in Los Angeles County.”

“The annual point in time count is one of the most important tools we have for measuring and informing our response to the homelessness crisis, and it’s a moment when we need everyone in our community to step up and help,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “The Downtown Women’s Center is a critical partner in this fight, and I am grateful for their leadership and support.”

“The Homeless Count is a community effort that requires the participation of many organizations and volunteers to collect and effectively utilize data on homelessness in Los Angeles,” said Amy Turk, C.E.O. of the Downtown Women’s Center. “Much like Veterans, women are a unique subpopulation within this demographic and require funding and programs to address their unique needs, including trauma-informed care like that provided by DWC.”

This week, thousands of volunteers spread out across the county to participate in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The data from this year’s Count will help us understand who our unhoused neighbors are, their needs, and the programs we need to continue to build to support them getting rehoused,” said Heidi Marston, Executive Director of LAHSA. “This is a significant Homeless Count — not only is it the first since the pandemic began, but it is how we will wrap our arms around the impacts of COVID-19 and both marshal resources and build momentum to quickly roll out the services, support, and housing that people need and deserve.”

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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](http://www.DowntownWomensCenter.org)