



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO RELEASE OF 2021 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT

LOS ANGELES, CA – The 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count confirms that homelessness continues to be one of the most critical socioeconomic and public health issues impacting Los Angeles. According to the results released yesterday by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), 69,144 people in Los Angeles County are experiencing homelessness each night (a 4% increase from 2020). Homelessness among women has also increased 2.4%. Given that homelessness among women increased by 18% from 2019 to 2020, this year's moderate increase in homelessness highlights the critical importance of COVID-era programs and funding and demonstrates the impact that the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) has had in serving unhoused women.

Throughout an unprecedented global pandemic, limited-time responses like the FEMA [Project Roomkey](#) program, local rent moratoriums, HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers, and Recovery Rehousing funds have sheltered more people than ever before. The DWC, who reaches over 5,700 women annually through its onsite and community housing programs, has been at the forefront in its response to the ongoing need for permanent supportive housing for women. In 2021, because of new COVID related interventions, DWC housed more women than ever before, a 63% increase over the previous year. The DWC also served 212 women through its Project Roomkey site, with nearly 50% of women moving directly into permanent housing.

"Homelessness disproportionately impacts women, and DWC is committed to expanding our reach in Los Angeles County to meet their ongoing needs," said Amy Turk, CEO of DWC. "What the 2022 Homeless Count numbers show is that the new investments in solving homelessness are taking hold. We still have a long way to go to eradicate homelessness, though, which is why DWC is working to bring over 250 new permanent supportive housing units online."

DWC's upcoming County-wide Women's Needs Assessment will also inform findings and recommendations from the 2022 Homeless Count. Conducted every three years since 2001, the 2022 assessment is the first reporting on the needs, conditions, and demographics of women experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County. The assessment's findings, which will be in Spring of 2023, will help DWC determine the best way to tackle homelessness and better assist the communities it serves.

About the Downtown Women's Center (DWC)

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.

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