



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWC Statement in Response to the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

Los Angeles, CA – Women’s homelessness has increased by 6%, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count released today, demonstrating the urgent need for women-centered policies, programs, and services to reach the 22,320 women currently experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care.

“The 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count findings highlight the enormous balancing act of prioritizing both immediate and emergency responses, which are key to preventing new instances of homelessness, while still growing access to housing and long-term supportive services for retention,” said Amy Turk, CEO of Downtown Women’s Center.

The increase in women’s homelessness mirrors an uptick taking place nationally. Between 2020 and 2022, both the number of women experiencing homelessness as individuals and the number of women experiencing unsheltered homelessness increased at a greater rate than men according to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report.

Downtown Women’s Center (DWC) views these trends as a critical call to action. We must expand resources and services for women, who remain exceedingly vulnerable to homelessness and housing insecurity. In particular, we must emphasize services for Black Angelenos, who make up 31.7% of the Count, but only 8% of Los Angeles County’s population. Above all, we must be guided by the stories and experiences of the people actually navigating and surviving our social welfare systems, from health care and employment to housing and homelessness.

DWC is doing just that. Our Every Woman Housed Initiative provides the full continuum of services to unhoused women who have experienced long-term homelessness and have been historically underserved by traditional housing programs. Wraparound supportive services include housing specialists to assist with housing retention, employment coordinators to support with job readiness, clinicians to provide trauma-informed and culturally responsive emotional support, and peer specialists with lived experience of homelessness and knowledge of community resources. To date, the Every Woman Housed Initiative has reached 279 women through mobile access center outreach teams, served 102 women in interim housing, and permanently housed 227 women.

On July 13, 2023, DWC will be releasing the first Los Angeles County Women’s Needs Assessment produced in partnership with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Homelessness Initiative (HI), Hub for Urban Initiatives, and Urban Institute. This landmark report, the largest study on women experiencing homelessness in the country, examines responses from over 600 women across Los Angeles County’s eight service planning areas and offers concrete policy recommendations based on the real-life experiences of women accessing services.

For more information about the upcoming Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment, contact Downtown Women's Center at comms@downtownwomenscenter.org.

About The Downtown Women's Center

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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