

## 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Data Shows Significant Drops in Veteran And Family Homelessness Citing Focused Investment

*Data Shows Increase in Los Angeles Homelessness Since 2015 Amidst Challenging Economic/Housing Climate*

**Los Angeles, CA (May 4, 2016)** – Today, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the City-County agency tasked with addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County, released the results of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, conducted in January 2016. This was the first annual Count for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) and the largest homeless census in the nation, benefitting from the support of more than 7,500 volunteers who, for the first time, counted 100 percent of the census tracts in the LA CoC (Los Angeles County excluding Glendale Long Beach and Pasadena). The Count also captured 5,000 demographic surveys to provide rich profiles and conducted a survey-based Youth Count, which provides an important new baseline for homelessness among youth in the region.

The data support several compelling success stories in housing individuals and families, results highly aligned with sustained systemic investment of local and federal resources. Data for Los Angeles County (including our partner's data from Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena) indicated the following:

- **Veteran homelessness fell 30%** to 3,071 veterans in 2016 from 4,362 in 2015
  - **Unsheltered veterans decreased by 44%** to 1,618 in 2016 from 2,889 in 2015
- **Family homelessness fell 18%** (homeless family members) to 6,611 in 2016 from 8,103 in 2015
  - **Unsheltered family members decreased by 35%** to 1,998 family members in 2016 from 3,071 in 2015
- **13,828 housing placements in 2015** – including 3,812 veterans and 6,867 family members housed

Amidst Los Angeles' challenging economic climate, which has a less than 3% housing vacancy rate in Metropolitan Los Angeles, a Los Angeles County housing-indexed poverty rate of 27% and an affordable housing gap of 500,000+ units, the data indicated the following:

- Homelessness in Los Angeles County increased 5.7% to 46,874 in 2016 from 44,359 in 2015, including LA CoC and neighboring CoCs of Glendale, Long Beach, Pasadena
  - 74% of homeless population is unsheltered in LA County (12,347) vs 26% Sheltered (34,527)
- 43,854 people were found to be homeless in January 2016 in the LA Continuum of Care (CoC), an increase of 2,680 people, or 6.5% from 41,174 in 2015
  - Revised Youth Count methodology in the LA CoC provides more representative results over 2015
  - Youth Count figure of 2,388 homeless individuals ages 18-24 adds majority of Countywide increase
- 20% increase in most visible form of homelessness in the LA CoC – encampments, tents and vehicles

“LA’s success in significantly reducing veteran and family homelessness reinforces the importance of resources and collaborative system to deliver them. Homelessness responds to resources. When we have systemically applied City, County and federal resources, we see results,” said Peter Lynn, LAHSA Executive Director. “These are model programs to leverage and replicate in working with our City and County partners to increase homeless assistance resources and strategic investment through coordinated systems. We have a good deal more work to do, but the current collaboration between the City, the County, our non-profit partners and the federal government, the new commitments of resources, put Los Angeles in the best position to leverage our new systems and house our neighbors experiencing homelessness.”

“Our efforts through the City and County of Los Angeles Comprehensive Homeless Strategies represent a momentous time of collaboration and cooperation in the region,” said Mike Neely, LAHSA Commission Chair. “With the proposed City and County funding around homelessness and tremendous new federal resources awarded to Los Angeles by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we are poised to combat homelessness on a scale we have never experienced. LAHSA is part of a robust network of city and county agencies, nonprofits, civic and community leaders who have a shared commitment to serving and reducing the homeless population throughout Los Angeles. Together, we will continue to build out an enduring, comprehensive and systemic infrastructure for all people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles and move them from homelessness to housing.”

**To view the 2016 Homeless Count results, please visit [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org).**

### **About the Los Angeles Homeless Count**

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) coordinates the biennial Los Angeles Homeless Count for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The LA CoC includes all of Los Angeles County, except the cities of Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach, who conduct their own homeless counts. The count is a point-in-time enumeration that seeks to document the number of people without a permanent, habitable place to call home. The data collected is critical to assessing strategies and funding decisions by City and County policymakers seeking to successfully meet the needs of homeless individuals and families.

### **About the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority**

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages more than \$95 million annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. For more information visit [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org).