

October 23, 2015

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Members of the City Council,

We applaud your decision to declare a State of Emergency on homelessness and your accompanying pledge to invest \$100 million annually in response to this growing crisis. This is the minimum level of funding needed to dramatically decrease the number of people living and dying on our streets.

This \$100 million must constitute new resources in addition to the clearly insufficient amount that is already being spent on homelessness. We believe it should target those experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of destitution, with a substantial portion dedicated to those at the very lowest incomes in the United States. The City's commitment is an excellent starting point and, together with the \$200 million recently committed by the County, should enable us to make significant progress.

As service providers and nonprofit housing developers, we have expertise on what is effective to address and resolve homelessness in Los Angeles. We expect a strategic partnership between our agencies and the City as this plan moves forward. In order to meet the scope of this challenge, we need to find creative new ways to tackle homelessness, but it is important that these efforts be guided by nationally recognized effective best practices. To this end, we urge you to build on existing investments like housing development programs, the Coordinated Entry System and Housing for Health program, rather than create new service delivery systems that might work at cross-purposes to current efforts.

Collectively, our organizations have 79,599 volunteers and 209,791 individual donors who contribute their time and money to our work, representing a major constituency in Los Angeles that cares deeply about this issue. We stand with you in the urgent task of preventing and ending homelessness in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A Community of Friends
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
The Center at Blessed Sacrament
Chrysalis
Covenant House California
Dolores Mission
Downtown Women's Center
Fair Opportunity for Change, Inc.
First to Serve, Inc.
Good Seed Community Development Corporation
Hillsides Youth Moving On
Hollywood Community Housing Corporation

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
HOPICS
House of Ruth, Inc.
Housing Works
Imagine LA
Inner City Law Center
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jovenes, Inc.
L.A. Family Housing
L.A. Kitchen
Little Tokyo Service Center
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Los Angeles Mission
Los Angeles Youth Network
Mental Health Advocacy Services
The Midnight Mission
My Friend's Place
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
New Directions for Veterans
OPCC & Lamp Community
PATH
Project New Hope
Project New Life
Proyecto Pastoral
Public Counsel
Rainbow Services
Reach For The Top
Safe Place for Youth
Sanctuary of Hope
1736 Family Crisis Center
Skid Row Housing Trust
Southern California Health & Rehabilitation Program
SRO Housing Corporation
St. Joseph Center
Step Up on Second
Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence
The Teen Project
Valley Oasis
Venice Community Housing Corporation
The Village Family Services
Volunteers of America
Union Rescue Mission
Upward Bound House
We Are 1, Inc.
The Weingart Center