June 12, 2017

Dear LA County Board of Supervisors,

For many people working on the front line, the 23% increase in the number of our neighbors experiencing homelessness announced by the LA Homeless Services Authority last week was not unexpected. It confirms what we already know – that the homeless crisis is enormous and the time for thoughtful action is now.

On March 7th, 69.3% of the voters in L.A. County reached deep to help pay for an ambitious plan to end homelessness in 10 years. Thank you for your leadership in putting Measure H on the ballot.

During the campaign, we promised the voters that Measure H would help people across L.A. County, including women and children, veterans, and those with mental illness get the support they need to break the cycle of poverty. We promised the voters that over the first five years, we would end homelessness for 45,000 families and individuals and prevent another 30,000 families and individuals from falling into homelessness. We aim to keep all of those promises made to both the people experiencing homelessness and to the voters.

We are ready to meet this great challenge with you. It is our joint responsibility to hold each other accountable to the goals we’ve set and the work that they require. It is our joint responsibility to document and share how these funds are spent and what the outcomes are.

We commend you for directing the CEO to conduct an open process around the initial Measure H allocations. The process with the 50-member Measure H Revenue Planning Work Group has been transparent, inclusive, informative and reflects a meaningful collaboration between county departments, cities, social services providers and people with lived experience.

We also support the LA Homeless Services Authority’s work to bring social service providers and people with lived experience together to share their experience with the aim of improving our service delivery. It is critical that this dialogue and collaboration continue. It is equally critical that our experiences and learning from our on-the-ground work are reflected in the funding priorities and contracting procedures.

Let the rise in the homelessness count give us all a renewed sense of purpose and urgency as we move forward together.

Thank you.

(over for list of signers)
United Way of Greater LA
A Community of Friends
Affordable Living for the Aging
American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare
Amity Foundation
Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP)
Bet Tzedek
Blessed Sacrament
California Community Foundation
Catholic Charities
CD Tech
Children’s Defense Fund
Chrysalis
Clifford Beers Housing Corporation for Supportive Housing
Covenant House - CA
Door of Hope
Downtown Women’s Center
Enterprise Community Partners
First Place for Youth
Grand Challenge to End Homelessness
Harbor Interfaith Services
Homeless Health Care LA
HOPICS
Hospital Association of Southern California
Housing Long Beach
Housing Works
Imagine LA
Inner City Law Center
Inquilinos Unidos
Jenesse Center
Jovenes, Inc.
Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)
LA Family Housing
LA Reintegration Council
LA THRIVES
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Los Angeles NAACP
Managed Career Solutions (MCS)
Mental Health America – LA (MHA-LA)
Move LA
National Foster Youth Institute
One LA
Pacoima Beautiful
PATH
Prevention Institute
Public Counsel
Rainbow Services
Safe Place for Youth
Shelter Partnership
South Bay Homeless Coalition
Southern California Health & Rehabilitation Program (SCHARP)
Special Service for Groups (SSG)
St. Anne’s
St. Joseph Center
The People Concern (OPCC & LAMP)
The Village Family Services
The Whole Child
U.S. VETS
Union Station Homeless Services
Upward Bound House
Vets Advocacy
Weingart Center Association
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS) (over for letter)