

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Housing News

L.A. IS A CITY THAT DOESN'T WORK



How Did Homelessness Get This Bad?

Where are people supposed to live in Los Angeles? The homeless and housing crisis rages on while millions are out of work and housing prices are out of reach.

For decades, Los Angeles ignored its homeless crisis while numbers continued to rise. As a result, more people are sleeping under bridges, in parks and on sidewalks than ever before. Over 64,000 people are homeless in Los Angeles County and over 40,000 in the City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles was once a City we could be proud of, but the lack of leadership and a clear path forward has left us with a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions.

Many solutions have been proposed over the years but they either didn't work or were never implemented.

- Corporate Developers continue to build market rate and luxury housing, to the exclusion of very-low-income and low-income residents. We are spending taxpayer money to build units that are out of reach for the people who need it most.
- Developments for homeless housing are mired in red tape, with inspectors from the same department approving and then rejecting plans and upgrades, leaving non-profit housing developers with no roadmap to bring critical housing online.
- After voters approved Measure HHH, the City did not enact cost controls on housing and spent upwards of \$500,000 to \$700,000 for small units of homeless housing. For what they spent, it would have been less expensive to purchase condominiums and create homeownership.
- Motel conversions to permanent housing are facing red tape and code restrictions that leave units vacant while people die on the streets.

What are the solutions?

- Lower the cost to build units using pre-fabricated modular housing or take advantage of existing structures, like motels, by utilizing adaptive re-use.
- Stop the bureaucratic red tape and green light motel conversions and new homeless housing, recognizing that homelessness is a public health and humanitarian crisis that represents an emergency.
- Stop wasting money on temporary fixes and solutions that are a revolving door back into homelessness, and spend it instead on permanent housing. Taxpayers spend \$35,000 to \$45,000 per person that is chronically homeless and spends much less for those who are in permanent housing.
- Take advantage of vacant units throughout the City and County of Los Angeles to place our unhoused community into permanent housing.