Welcome to The Way Home, your guide to how LA County is helping people and communities affected by homelessness.

Current Edition | November 7, 2019 | En Español

A message from Emergency Management Director Kevin McGowan

Earthquakes, wildfires, mudslides and other disasters don’t discriminate between the housed and unhoused. All our neighbors should be safe in an emergency.

That’s why the LA County Office of Emergency Management has joined with our partners and stakeholders — including the LA County Sheriff Department’s Homeless Outreach Services Team, LA County Fire Department and the LA County Homeless Initiative — to make sure countywide preparedness and emergency plans include people experiencing homelessness.

We are proud that LA County is one of the only emergency management teams in the country that has an emergency manager dedicated to emergency planning, education and prevention for people who are experiencing homelessness. Because when it comes to an emergency, no one should be left behind.

Last week’s extreme fire, wind and weather conditions prompted our partners at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to engage people who are experiencing homelessness about fire prevention and safety to protect themselves, their neighbors and their community. LAHSA and a nonprofit partner contacted more than 300 people experiencing homelessness. In addition to conducting outreach, LAHSA and partners helped staff evacuation centers and provided masks and bus tokens to those in need.

As the County continues to support and aid our homeless neighbors on their journey back to permanent housing and stability, we also remain focused on their safety and that of our communities no matter the circumstances.

Day in and day out, we’re working to keep all LA County residents and communities safe.
Thanks to you...

…fire safety flyers are being handed out by outreach teams, including those from LAHSA and the LA County Sheriff’s Department’s Homeless Outreach Services Team. The flyers provide tips and information on fire safety and prevention. These educational materials were created by the LA County Office of Emergency Management and partners –including the LA County Fire Department and the LA County Homeless Initiative.

People helping people
VIDEO: An outreach team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department hike into the hills to educate residents living in encampments about the dangers of fire season.

In case you missed it

- The LA County Homeless Initiative is hosting [community listening sessions](#) to determine how to spend local Measure H tax dollars to combat and prevent homelessness.
- LA's Coordinated Outreach Strategy received a [Special Merit Award](#) at the 33rd Annual Productivity and Quality Awards in October.

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas.