There’s no simple solution or easy fix to the homelessness crisis affecting our County. One big complication is that 67% of the adults experiencing homelessness are justice-involved, leading to long-term economic and social exclusion. That’s where the Public Defender’s Office comes in.

My team is part of Los Angeles County’s holistic and multi-disciplinary approach to helping our most needy and vulnerable residents, and I am proud to share with you more about what my office is doing to help.

We know all too well that a person’s past follows them. Even minor criminal convictions can be a barrier to finding a permanent and safe place to live and can hinder someone looking for stable employment.

To make the law and its benefits available to our most vulnerable neighbors and do what we can to address the homeless crisis, we created the Public Defender’s Homeless Outreach Unit, or “Help Squad.” The Public Defender’s Office has two colorful vans and an SUV that traverse our County to meet the men and women experiencing homelessness and bring our resources to them. We regularly collaborate with County and city stakeholders, as well as community and faith-based organizations, to help remove barriers to housing and services.

Our mobile law office works to expunge the criminal records of people without housing to help eliminate one impediment to ultimately finding stability. Since the “Help Squad” was mobilized in...
January 2018, more than 3,000 people experiencing homelessness have been helped. That means they’re one step closer to finding work, permanent housing and stability. This wouldn’t be possible without your support and the historic ¼-cent Measure H sales tax.

Our homeless neighbors deserve a fair and just system, a safe and comfortable place to call home, and a stable, productive life. Together, we will achieve that.

Thanks to you...

3,247 PETITIONS

...have been filed by the Public Defender’s Office’s Help Squad to clean the records of people experiencing homelessness.

People helping people
VIDEO: Legal clinic on wheels delivers second chances

For those experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their home, clearing past criminal records can open doors to employment, housing, benefits and more. A mobile legal clinic operated by the Public Defender's Office can deliver second chances.

In case you missed it

- The Board of Supervisors voted to study and identify ways to support American Indians and Alaska Natives who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in LA County.

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