

Skid Row Fact Sheet

DPSS Staff Assigned to Skid Row: One Deputy District Director, one Eligibility Supervisor (ES), three Eligibility Workers (EWs), and four Homeless Case Managers (HCMs).

Skid Row Assessment Team (SRAT) Roving - Consists of one DCFS staff, one DPSS HCM, and one "on call" DMH staff who drive around or walk the streets of Skid Row (between 3rd and 8th street and Main and Alameda) to link homeless families living on Skid Row to any available benefits and resources. Team completes the following:

- General Assessment of family including DCFS assessment of safety for children;
- Crisis Intervention;
- DMH referrals;
- Transportation to area shelters and collocated EWs, DMH and DPSS as necessary;
- Obtain emergency shelter vouchers for families who are not eligible or have exhausted homeless benefits.
(Immediate response/within 24 hours)

Family's Benefits Access Teams (Collocated Eligibility staff) - EWs are outstationed at the Union Rescue Mission, Midnight Mission, and on an on-call basis, at the Weingart Access Center to facilitate access to benefits for homeless families.

EWs on Skid Row

- Identify families in need of CalWORKs and/or homeless services and benefits;
- Work with EWs/ES/DDDs in District Housing Program Units to resolve case issues;
- Work with shelters in the area to link families who are not eligible to CalWORKs;
- Handout flyers with CalWORKs programs information;
- Contact Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for emergency shelter vouchers for families who are not eligible or have exhausted homeless benefits;
- Link eligible families to HCMs on-site for case management services;
- Handout General Relief (GR) cards with nearest GR district information for individuals without families who they may encounter.
(Immediate response/within 24 hours)

HCMs on Skid Row

- Provide intensive case management to families on Skid Row and move the family out of Skid Row and into a stable transitional or permanent housing situation.
- Receive direct referrals for homeless families from the outstationed eligibility staff and/or the HCM assigned to the SRAT roving team;
- Initiate immediate contact with family by meeting the family at the shelter, hotel, mission, or Metro Family district office;
- Provide case management as appropriate during the time the family is living in Skid Row and for at least 10 days after a family has moved out of Skid Row;
- Make routine referrals to DMH and DPH.
- Make referrals to the Beyond Shelter Demonstration Project for Housing First.
(Immediate response/within 24 hours)

MEETINGS:

Daily multi-disciplinary case reviews of families encountered the previous day take place every morning at the Midnight Mission and at Union Rescue Mission. The DCFS Team Leader leads the case review and tracks needed follow-up on the families discussed.

Weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings between the various Department's staff and managers are held at the downtown DMH office to review and address the families' needs and services provided.

TRAINING:

Training takes place on an ongoing basis as needed. Specific training on public health, personal safety, child safety issues, and Permanent Homeless Assistance Services (PHASE) data entry has also been provided to staff.

BEYOND SHELTER/HOUSING LOCATORS

Beyond Shelter provides case management to families referred by the SRAT into the Skid Row Demonstration Project. The goal of the project is to voucher the families out of Skid Row, enroll them into Beyond Shelter's Housing First program, and ultimately move the families into permanent housing. Those families not served by Beyond Shelter will be referred to other Housing Locators. Beyond Shelter is assisting the 300 families referred into the project and is no longer accepting new families. The CEO is exploring the addition of a new Housing Locator for the Skid Row area.

CURRENT DATA:

From the period of January 8, 2005 through July 31, 2008, the SRAT has assisted 1,610 new families.