

# L.A. Care Commits \$20 Million to End Homelessness in Los Angeles County



In recent years, homelessness in Los Angeles has reached unprecedented levels. As a leading health plan serving vulnerable populations, we have a shared responsibility – along with local and state policy makers – to address this growing crisis by creating long-term solutions.

Based on the latest research findings addressing this multi-pronged problem, L.A. Care Health Plan has adopted a “housing first” approach that emphasizes efforts to help our members access permanent, supportive housing.

## **\$20 Million Commitment to End Homelessness**

To that end, L.A. Care in 2016 approved a **\$4 million** grant to Brilliant Corners, a key nonprofit partner in the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services’ **Housing for Health** program. This is a part of a **\$20 million** commitment to this program over the next five years, contingent upon the availability of funds. L.A. Care’s investment allows Los Angeles County to redirect county general funds toward these individuals’ other social service needs as part of the Whole Person Care program. Whole Person Care is a five year pilot through which L.A. County will obtain federal matching dollars to provide wraparound services to high-risk Medi-Cal beneficiaries, essentially doubling the impact of L.A. Care’s investment amount.

L.A. Care is investing in a long-term solution that helps our members break the cycle of homelessness, offering a path from the streets into permanent, supportive housing. Investing in housing, in turn, will also help reduce unnecessary utilization and medical expenditures for these individuals.

## **Los Angeles County’s Housing for Health Program**

Housing for Health is a program of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. The program offers permanent supportive housing, a connection to primary care, and other resources to people experiencing homelessness with complex physical and behavioral health conditions.

Through Housing for Health’s partner, Brilliant Corners, L.A. Care’s funds will cover interim and permanent housing, while Housing for Health will provide social service support and move in assistance to ensure a smooth transition from homelessness to housing and, consequently, help improve housing retention rates. Individuals will be connected to a system of care that includes intensive case management services and health, social services, and housing needs.

## **Homelessness Estimates**

From 2015 to 2016, homelessness across Los Angeles County increased by nearly six percent, and there was a 20 percent increase in encampments, tents and vehicles. Due to the Affordable Care Act and Medi-Cal expansion, L.A. Care has seen an increase of members experiencing homelessness.

In Los Angeles County in 2016, more than **46,000 people** experienced homelessness **during a specific point in time**. However, that number fluctuates throughout the year. In fact, we estimate that approximately **60,000 L.A. Care members** will experience homelessness **over the course of the calendar year**.

## **Contact**

To learn more about L.A. Care’s efforts to address homelessness in Los Angeles County, contact:  
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