



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Common Acronym List

Below is a list of the most commonly used acronyms and definitions of agencies, entities and terms associated with homeless and housing services. This list is NOT all-inclusive.

AB	Assembly Bill <i>AB is a reference to bills originating from the Assembly.</i>
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act <i>The ADA is federal legislation that was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.</i>
AFTE	Affordable Housing Trust Fund <i>The Affordable Housing Trust Fund was established by the Los Angeles Mayor and City Council through the city's budget process in June 2000.</i>
BID	Business Improvement District <i>The Los Angeles Downtown Center Business Improvement District is a coalition of over 400 property owners committed to enhancing the quality of life in Downtown Los Angeles.</i>
CalWORKs	California Work Opportunities & Responsibilities to Kids <i>CalWORKs provides temporary financial assistance and employment focused services to families with minor children who have income and property below State maximum limits for their family size.</i>
CAO	Chief Administrative Office <i>The position of chief administrative officer was established by ordinance to assist the Board of Supervisors in handling the mounting administrative details of the County. In 2007, the Board of Supervisors changed the title of the office to Chief Executive Office.</i>
CAP	Cost Allocation Plan <i>A Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) is a tool that provides a set of methods and procedures that an organization uses to apportion costs to various programs, grants, contracts and agreements.</i>
CBO	Community Based Organization <i>The focus of CBOs is to improve the general physical characteristics of a community.</i>
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant <i>The CDBG is a HUD program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.</i>
CDC	Community Development Commission <i>In 1982, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors consolidated three County entities- the Housing Authority, the Community Development Department, and the Redevelopment Agency to form the CDC. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors serves as the commissioners of the CDC.</i>
CDD	Community Development Department <i>The mission of the CDD is to improve the quality of life for L.A.</i>

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	<i>City residents by offering economic, social and employment opportunities for individuals, families and neighborhoods in need. The CDD partners with agencies and service providers throughout Los Angeles.</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Office <i>The Chief Executive Office of L.A. County is the office that is responsible for making recommendations to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors that will result in cost-efficient programs that will better serve the public, the Board and County departments.</i>
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act <i>CEQA is a California law and was passed in 1970. Under CEQA, development projects are required to submit documentation of their potential environmental impact. CEQA does not regulate land uses directly.</i>
CH	Chronically Homeless <i>A chronically homeless person is defined by HUD as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continually homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.</i>
CLA	Chief Legislative Analyst <i>The Chief Legislative Analyst's Office provides technical assistance for the L.A. City Council. Office personnel work with different Council Committees and the entire Council to research and compile information that the Council may need for the passage of City legislation.</i>
CoC	Continuum of Care <i>The Continuum of Care refers to a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness. It also refers to the system of services that help people move from homelessness to housing.</i>
COI	Conflict of Interest <i>HUD outlines COI provisions and exceptions relating to some of their programs.</i>
COG	Council of Governments <i>All cities in the County bear responsibility for land use planning, housing policy and development and essential municipal services. To foster regional planning, the cities of Los Angeles have organized themselves into seven COGs. Increasingly, planning for homeless housing has been considered through the COGs, which is a promising mechanism for ensuring regional fair share in the future development of housing and programs for homeless people.</i>
CRA	Community Redevelopment Agency <i>The CRA of the City of Los Angeles is a public agency established to attract private investment into economically</i>

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	<i>depressed communities, eliminate slums, abandoned or unsafe properties, and blight throughout Los Angeles.</i>
CSS	Community and Senior Services <i>The mission of the L.A. County Department of Community and Senior Services is to provide comprehensive human services to residents of L.A. County in partnership with communities, businesses, and public and private agencies.</i>
DCFS	Department of Children and Family Services <i>The mission of the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services is to provide a comprehensive child protection system of prevention, preservation, and permanency to ensure that children are safe, physically and emotionally healthy, educated, and in permanent homes.</i>
DGS	Department of General Services <i>The mission of the California State Department of General Services is to better serve the public by providing a variety of services to state agencies through innovative procurement and acquisition solutions, creative real estate management and design, state-of-the-art telecommunications, environmentally friendly transportation, and funding for the construction of safe schools.</i>
DHS	Department of Health Services <i>The mission of the L.A. County Department of Health Services is to improve health through quality medical care. Many of the DHS programs are low cost or no cost.</i>
DMH	Department of Mental Health <i>The L.A. County Department of Mental Health provides different types of mental health services to people of all ages. DMH mental health services include mental health assessments, crisis intervention, case management, and medication support in both residential and outpatient settings.</i>
DONE	Department of Neighborhood Empowerment <i>The mission of the L.A. City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is to promote public participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs by creating, nurturing, and supporting a citywide system of grass-roots, independent, and participatory neighborhood councils.</i>
DOT	Department of Transportation <i>The mission of the U.S. Department of Transportation is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests, and enhances the quality of life of the American people.</i>
DPSS	Department of Public Social Services <i>The mission of the L.A. County DPSS is to serve the community through programs established to alleviate hardship and promote health, personal responsibility, and economic independence.</i>
EDD	Employment Development Department <i>The California Employment Development Department offers</i>

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	<i>many services to Californians under the Job Service, Unemployment Insurance, Disability Insurance, Workforce Investment, and Labor Market Information programs. This is one of the largest state departments.</i>
EFSP	Emergency Food and Shelter Program <i>The EFSP allocates federal funds to local communities for programs such as soup kitchens, food banks, shelters, and homelessness prevention services.</i>
EH	Emergency Housing <i>Emergency housing is a temporary shelter with services that are designed to facilitate the transition from sleeping in places not meant for human habitation to appropriate housing for homeless individuals and families.</i>
EHAP	Emergency Housing Assistance Program <i>The mission of the State EHAP is to fund emergency and transitional housing programs. The funds are to assist housing programs with their operational, small capital costs, and for the expansion of their bed capacity and/or supportive services offered to clients.</i>
ESG	Emergency Shelter Grant <i>Emergency Shelter Grants provide homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Grantees are state governments, large cities, and urban counties.</i>
ESS	Emergency Shelter Services <i>CalWORKs Emergency Shelter Services provides funds for programs serving eligible homeless CalWORKs families. ESS is funded by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).</i>
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency <i>FEMA is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.</i>
FMR	Fair Market Rent <i>Under HUD, FMRs are primarily used to determine payment standard amounts for the Housing Choice Voucher program, to determine initial renewal rents for some expiring project-based Section 8 contracts, to determine initial rents for housing assistance payment (HAP) contracts in the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program (Mod Rehab), and to serve as a rent ceiling in the HOME rental assistance program.</i>
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act <i>The FOIA is federal legislation that allows for the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the U.S. Government. FOIA outlines procedures relating to disclosure and the agency records that</i>

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	<i>are must be disclosed.</i>
GR	General Relief <i>GR is a County-funded program that provides financial assistance to indigent adults who are ineligible for federal or State programs.</i>
HACLA	Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles <i>HACLA is a State-chartered public agency that provides the largest stock of affordable housing in the Los Angeles area. HACLA receives the majority of its funding through HUD. HACLA also has partnerships with City and State agencies, nonprofit foundations, community-based organizations, as well as private developers.</i>
HACoLA	Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles <i>HACoLA provides clean and safe affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and disabled persons. HACoLA helps low-income families and senior citizens find affordable housing with private landlords through the federal Section 8 program.</i>
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System <i>HMIS is a computerized data collection system designed to capture client information over time on the characteristics, service needs and accomplishments of homeless persons. HUD requires all CoC applicants to demonstrate progress in implementing HMIS.</i>
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS <i>The HOPWA Program was established by HUD to address the specific needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA makes grants to local communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families.</i>
HPI	Homeless Prevention Initiative <i>The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$100-million plan to reduce the concentration of homeless services in Skid Row by establishing five centers across the county that would provide temporary shelter and social services for homeless persons.</i>
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development <i>HUD is a federal department created in 1965 to increase homeownership, support community development and housing free from discrimination. Since 1987, HUD has been responsible for funding homeless programs, which today comprise the CoC.</i>
JPA	Joint Powers Authority <i>A Joint Powers Authority is an institution that is allowed under the laws of some U.S. states, whereby two or more public authorities can operate collectively. LAHSA is a Joint Powers Authority established in 1993 as an independent agency by the County and City of Los Angeles.</i>
LACOE	Los Angeles County Office of Education <i>LACOE is the nation's largest intermediate educational</i>

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	<i>agency, serving the county's 80 K-12 school districts, 13 community college districts, and 10 local educational agencies.</i>
LAHD	Los Angeles Housing Department <i>The mission of the LAHD is to develop citywide housing policy and to support safe and livable neighborhoods through the promotion, development, and preservation of decent and affordable housing.</i>
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department <i>LAPD is the police department of the City of Los Angeles.</i>
LASD	Los Angeles Sheriff's Department <i>LASD is a local law enforcement agency that serves Los Angeles County. LASD provides general-service law enforcement to unincorporated areas of the county as well as incorporated cities within the county who have contracted with the agency for law-enforcement services.</i>
LAUSD	Los Angeles Unified School District <i>LAUSD is the largest public school system in California and the second largest in the United States. The school district serves almost all of the City of L.A. and all or portions of several adjoining Southern California cities.</i>
MI	Mentally Ill <i>Programs that are tailored for individuals with mental illness are programs that serve individuals substantially limited in one or more major life activity by mental illness, based on confirmed clinical diagnosis, or initially by referral or staff assessment and later confirmed by clinical diagnosis.</i>
MTA	Metropolitan Transportation Authority <i>The mission of the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is to serve as a transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties.</i>
NDTF	New Directions Task Force <i>NDTF is comprised of the directors of key County departments, plus additional local entities, whose charge is to move forward the County's service integration agenda by setting policy in support of the Board's instruction to design a seamless social service delivery model. NDTF reports to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.</i>
NIMBY	Not In My Back Yard <i>The term "NIMBY" describes the opposition of residents to the nearby location of something they consider undesirable.</i>
OMB	Office of Management and Budget <i>The Office of Management and Budget is a Cabinet-level office, and is the largest office within the Executive Office of the President of the United States. It is an important conduit by which the White House oversees the activities of federal agencies.</i>
RFP	Request for Proposals <i>LAHSA program funding is distributed through a competitive bid process. In response to RFPs, released by LAHSA,</i>

	<i>agencies may submit an application for funding to operate the specified program(s). Awards are made based upon the review and scoring criteria stated in the RFP.</i>
RFQ	Request for Qualifications <i>RFQs are used to determine if an entity possesses the qualifications necessary to complete a project.</i>
SA	Substance Abuse <i>Programs that are tailored for individuals with substance abuse issues are programs that serve individuals who have acknowledged addiction problems related to alcohol and drug use and who seek services or housing to support their sobriety.</i>
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration <i>SAMHSA is a public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The mission of the agency is to be responsible for improving the accountability, capacity, and effectiveness of the Nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and mental health services delivery system.</i>
SB	Senate Bill <i>SB is a reference to bills originating from the Senate.</i>
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments <i>The mission of SCAG is to develop long-range regional plans and strategies that provide for efficient movement of people, goods and information; enhance economic growth and international trade; and improve the environment and quality of life.</i>
SPA	Service Planning Area <i>The Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council created eight geographical areas called SPAs for planning purposes. County departments use these boundaries for data collection and reporting purposes. The 2007 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count utilized SPAs to more easily manage the canvassing and enumeration of the Unsheltered Street Count.</i>
SRO	Single Room Occupancy <i>SROs are private rooms that contain either food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both, that are designed for occupancy by a single individual.</i>
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance <i>SSDI is an insurance program for disabled people who have paid FICA taxes for a certain number of calendar quarters. SSDI pays a variable monthly benefit amount, which depends on your work history. Payments begin after a 5-month waiting period from the time of disability. The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers SSDI.</i>
SSI	Supplemental Security Income <i>SSI is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and not Social Security taxes. SSI is designed to help aged and disabled people who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.</i>

SuperNOFA	Super Notice of Funding Availability <i>By using a SuperNOFA, HUD announces the availability of funding awards.</i>
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs <i>The mission of the VA is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction.</i>
PROGRAMS	
CBDO	Community Based Development Organization <i>The CBDO Program provides funding for community economic development projects that increase economic opportunity for homeless persons. The CBDO Program is funded with City of Los Angeles Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.</i>
ERT	Emergency Response Team <i>The LAHSA Emergency Response Team offers outreach services and assistance to people who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness in the City and County of L.A.</i>
ES	Emergency Shelter <i>An emergency shelter is a short-term shelter providing services designed to facilitate homeless individuals and families transition from sleeping in places not meant for human habitation to appropriate housing. Emergency shelter is provided free of charge for a maximum of ninety (90) days and is operated on a 24-hour basis. On a case-by-case basis, clients may remain for longer than ninety days if they require a longer period to accomplish a specific goal.</i>
ESF	Emergency Shelter Fund <i>The Emergency Shelter Funds Program provides funding for the development and operation of programs serving homeless individuals and families. The ESF Program is funded with County of Los Angeles general funds. LAHSA administers shelter and services projects and the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles administers capital projects.</i>
GAIN	Greater Avenues for Independence <i>The GAIN Program is a statewide initiative aimed at increasing the employment and self-sufficiency of recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the nation's major cash welfare program. The GAIN Program is developed by the L.A. County of Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and provides job skills workshops and employment counselors to support and monitor the progress of participants.</i>
GROW	General Relief Opportunities for Work <i>The GROW Program offers employment and training services to participants and is designed to help GR participants obtain jobs and achieve self-sufficiency. Substance abuse treatment is also available if necessary.</i>
HCFP	Homeless CalWORKs Families Project <i>The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established and funded an interagency Homeless CalWORKs Families Project</i>

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	<i>to address the needs of CalWORKs-eligible homeless families in which a parent has mental health problems. The administrative direction for the project is provided by DPSS. The program is provided at six sites located throughout the county. Mental health staff, specialized eligibility and GAIN workers, and LAHSA staff are co-located and collaborate to provide services at each site.</i>
OR	Outreach Services <i>The goal of outreach services is to assist clients to get off the streets or out of places not meant for human habitation and into any form of housing in the CoC. Outreach services may be provided during the day or at night.</i>
PH	Permanent Housing <i>Permanent housing for persons with disabilities is long-term housing that is commonly community-based with supportive services designed to enable homeless persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.</i>
PRA	Project-Based Rental Assistance <i>PRAs are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.</i>
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing <i>Permanent Supportive Housing programs provide permanent housing and supportive services for homeless persons with physical and/or mental health disabilities.</i>
SH	Safe Haven <i>Safe havens are supportive housing that shall not require participation in services and referrals as a condition of occupancy. Instead, it is hoped that after a period of stabilization in a safe haven, residents will be more willing to participate in services and referrals, and will eventually be ready to move to more traditional forms of housing.</i>
SHP	Supportive Housing Program <i>The Supportive Housing Program is a HUD CoC Homeless Assistance Program that provides funding for the development and operation of programs that help homeless persons transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible. Programs are administered by LAHSA.</i>
S+C	Shelter Plus Care <i>The Shelter Plus Care Program is a HUD CoC Homeless Assistance Program that provides funding for rental assistance. The program serves homeless persons with disabilities and requires appropriate supportive services to be provided. Programs are administered by the Housing Authorities.</i>
SRA	Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance <i>SRA's are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.</i>
SSO	Supportive Services Only <i>SSO projects provide services designed to address the special needs of homeless persons. Projects are classified as this component only if the project sponsor is not also providing</i>

	<i>housing to the same persons receiving the services. Examples of SSO projects include: medical services; childcare; employment programs; mental health services; substance abuse treatment; etc.</i>
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families <i>TANF provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. The Office of Family Assistance (OFA), located in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families oversees the TANF Program.</i>
TH	Transitional Housing <i>Transitional housing is housing that facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. This temporary housing is combined with supportive services to enable homeless individuals and families to live as independently as possible. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.</i>
TRA	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance <i>TRAs are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.</i>
WIB	Workforce Investment Board <i>The California Workforce Investment Board was established by Executive Order in response to the mandate of the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The Board assists the Governor in setting and guiding policy in the area of workforce development.</i>
WIC	Women, Infants and Children Program <i>WIC is a federal grant program for which Congress authorizes a specific amount of funds each year for low-income, nutritionally at risk pregnant women (through pregnancy and up to 6 weeks after birth or after pregnancy ends), breastfeeding women (up to infant's 1st birthday), non-breastfeeding postpartum women (up to 6 months after the birth of an infant or after pregnancy ends), infants (up to 1st birthday), and children up to their 5th birthday.</i>
WSP	Winter Shelter Program <i>The Winter Shelter Program is a seasonal program that provides overnight mass shelter, two meals (dinner and breakfast) and limited case management services to homeless persons during the winter. The program operates for 105 days from December 1 to March 15 of the following year. The goal of the program is to provide shelter and basic services to homeless persons during the most inclement weather. Shelter is provided free of charge.</i>

YRP	Year Round Shelter Program <i>The Year Round Shelter Program provides overnight shelter, two meals (dinner and breakfast) and case management services to homeless persons throughout the year. Shelter is provided free of charge. Although there is no predetermined set time limit on residence in the Year Round Program, providers are encouraged to utilize a ninety-day time frame in which to place clients into appropriate long-term housing. The ultimate goal of the program is to enable clients to move into long-term housing programs including permanent housing.</i>
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