

# THE LATINX HOMELESS EXPERIENCE IN LOS ANGELES

PRESENTED BY  
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# PRESENTERS

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# OPENING STATEMENT

We are Angelenos who work in the homeless service industry in Los Angeles, and we identify as Latinas.

During our careers at working for homeless service providers in the non-profit sector we have serviced Latinx Angelenos experiencing homelessness. Within the Latinx community we have encountered generations of Latinos living in Los Angeles and those who have recently immigrated to this country. Some of our newer Latinos have come into our county legally and some have not. We are no way experts on the complexities in regard to immigration, assylum and legal status specific to California as well as those specific to each of the states that you are all from.

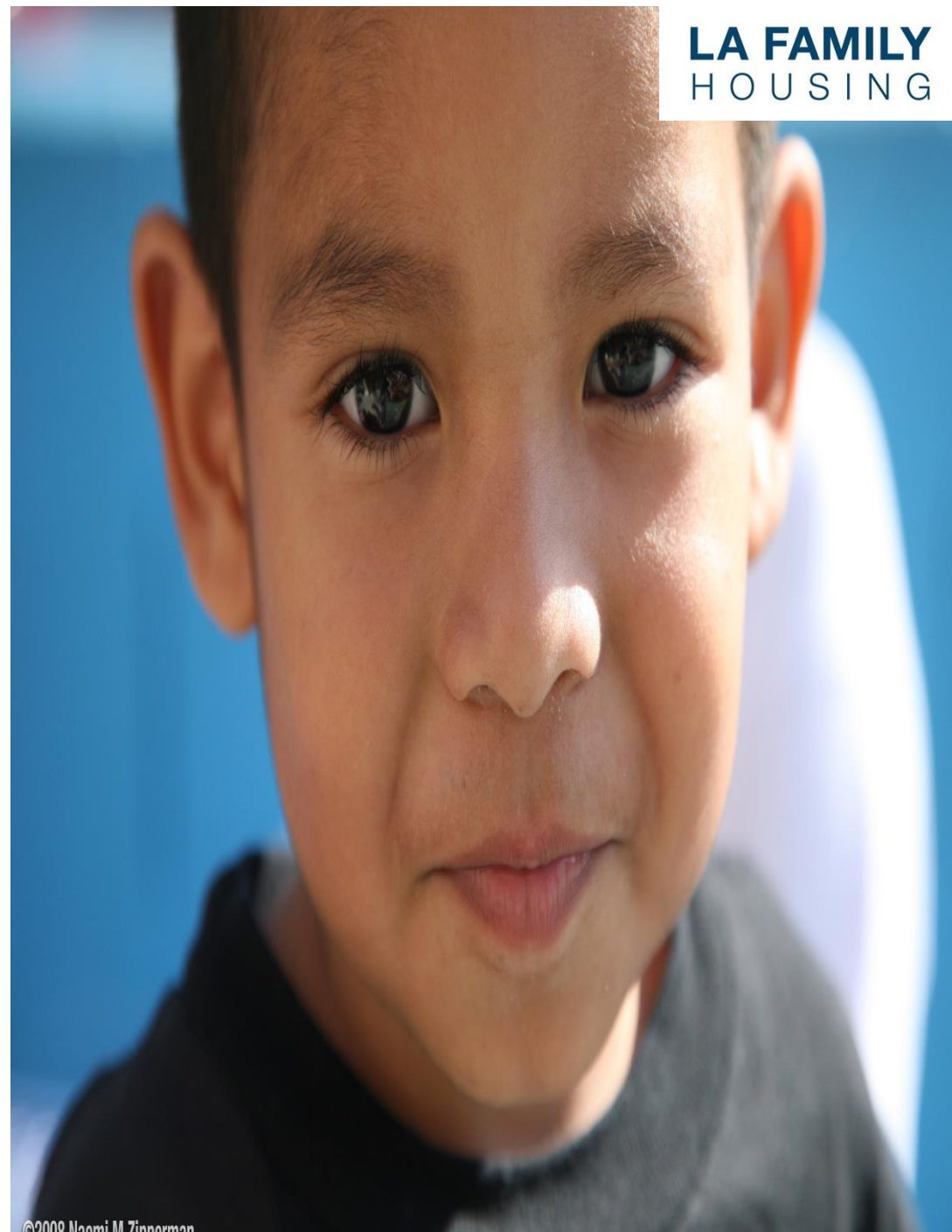
We have been able to successful house, re-home, and prevent homelessness for many Latinx people that come through our doors and would like to share with you some insight on the Latinx homeless experience in Los Angeles and the success stories our agency has had with this demographic of individuals despite all the barriers they face with obtaining permanent housing.

This Presentation aims to provide insight into what the homeless experience is like for Latinx individuals in Los Angeles. We aim to allow for insight into resourceful methods and approaches that our agency has used to address this crisis and obtain permanent housing for Latinx families and individuals experiencing homelessness.



# Learning Objectives

- Insight into what the homeless experience is like for Latinx individuals.
- Resourceful methods and approaches used to address Latinx families and individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing.
- Explore successful housing options for Latinx communities.



# LATINX TERMINOLOGY

- The term Latinx is a term used to describe people who are of or relate to Latin American origin or descent. It is a gender-neutral nonbinary alternative to Latino or Latina.
- When referring to Latinx experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles we are referring to
  - Citizens
  - Permanent Residents
  - Temporary Residents
  - Refugees and Asylum Seekers
  - Undocumented Immigrants
  - Stateless Persons
- Mixed status family is term used to reference a family in which members include people of different citizenship status background.
- Undocumented is a term used for those who have no way to prove legal residency and are unable to obtain documentation.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Generation is a term used to identify the first generation that is born in the US after parents immigrate to this country. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation are terms to identify the number of generations that have been born in the US.



# HISTORY OF THE LATINX EXPERIENCE

Homelessness is a prevalent issue in Los Angeles County that affects multiple populations and subgroups in their own specific manner. One of the marginalized groups that is experiencing homelessness is the Latinx community who face disproportionately rates of homelessness.



# INCOME 2024 VS 2020



## Area Median Income

often referred to as simply AMI — is a key metric in affordable housing. Area median income is defined as the midpoint of a specific area’s income distribution and is calculated on an annual basis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2020

AMI	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
50%	\$39,450	\$45,050	\$50,700	\$56,300	\$60,850	\$65,350	\$69,850	\$74,350
80%	\$63,100	\$72,100	\$81,100	\$90,100	\$97,350	\$104,550	\$111,750	\$118,950

2024

AMI	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
30%	\$29,150	\$33,300	\$37,450	\$41,600	\$44,950	\$48,300	\$51,600	\$54,950
50%	\$48,550	\$55,450	\$62,400	\$69,350	\$74,900	\$80,450	\$86,000	\$91,550

+23%

50% AMI has increased 23% since 2020, acknowledging a greater impact for a family units than an individual household.



# COST OF HOUSING 2024 VS 2020

## Fair Market Rate

The 40th percentile of gross rents for typical, non-substandard rental units occupied by recent movers in a local housing market

Many households were already living on the edge of homelessness and had adapted to Los Angeles’ housing affordability crisis by doubling up in overcrowded, substandard housing. Scholars who have examined “doubled-up homelessness”—the practice of sharing housing because of economic hardship or housing loss—at the national level found that in 2019, Latinx were nearly three times as likely than non-Latinxs to be doubled-up .

Final FY 2020 & Final FY 2019 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	<a href="#">Efficiency</a>	<a href="#">One-Bedroom</a>	Two-Bedroom	<a href="#">Three-Bedroom</a>	<a href="#">Four-Bedroom</a>
FY 2020 FMR	\$1,279	\$1,517	\$1,956	\$2,614	\$2,857
<a href="#">FY 2019 FMR</a>	\$1,158	\$1,384	\$1,791	\$2,401	\$2,641

Final FY 2024 & Final FY 2023 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	<a href="#">Efficiency</a>	<a href="#">One-Bedroom</a>	Two-Bedroom	<a href="#">Three-Bedroom</a>	<a href="#">Four-Bedroom</a>
FY 2024 FMR	\$1,777	\$2,006	\$2,544	\$3,263	\$3,600
<a href="#">FY 2023 FMR</a>	\$1,534	\$1,747	\$2,222	\$2,888	\$3,170

+39%

FMR has increased  
39% for efficiency

+32%

FMR has increased  
32 % for One-  
Bedroom

+30%

FMR has increased  
30 % for Two-  
Bedroom



# LATINX HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES

LA FAMILY  
HOUSING

**71,320**

On any given night, we estimate that **71,320 people** are experiencing homelessness in LA County—a **27% increase** from 2020

**+10%**

**46,260** people experience homelessness in LA City on any given night—a **10% increase** from 2020

**+32%**

Latinx homelessness increased by **32%** in the city of LA from 2020.

**40.5%**

Latinx homelessness increased by **40.5%** in the County of Los Angeles from 2020.





# Latinx History

- In Los Angeles City and County, immigrant family homelessness is growing regardless of funding, programs, and services allocated to resolving the issue.
- Government Funding restrictions for mixed families and/or fully undocumented households.
- COVID is disproportionately impacted the Latinx Community.
- Graduation rates for Latinx in high school and college/university.
- Average household size of Latinx families, including multi-generational members.
- Cultural traditions from religious and indigenous backgrounds.
- Latinx community includes multiple different nationalities.
- Politicized subject matter of immigration status within our country.
- Household fear of interacting with law enforcement and/or government departments, generational trauma associated.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Generation guilt/internalized racism.







# STIGMAS AND BARRIERS

Now that we have some insight into the number of Latinx individuals and families experiencing homelessness, we will discuss families some of the stigmas and barriers.







# Stigmas and Barriers

- Latinx and Evictions
- Fear of Deportation
- Family Obligations in Latinx Families
- Large Households Barriers
- LGBTQ, Trans and Non-Binary Latinx intersectionality
- Mental Health
- Income
- Employment
- Limited Housing Options
- Exclusionary Screening Process
- Limited Subsidy Options
- Property Manager Bias and Stigmas
- Colorism





# Employment Barriers

Latinx households face unequal employment opportunities.

- Individuals with a second language accents are treated differently.
- Undocumented Latinx families who obtain employment often have lower-paying jobs and are provided insufficient training. This at times places them at higher safety risks than others while having limited employment rights.
- Forcing them to work long hours without taking breaks, lunches, or paying them for overtime.







# Employment Barriers

- Intentionally paying Latinx employees' cash to avoid taxes or providing benefits.
- Despite Latinos having the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group in the state (58.6% compared to 57.1 % for white workers), Latinos continue to face inequities and hardships and as a result are more vulnerable to economic downturns.

**Wage Disparities:** Latinx workers are often concentrated in lower-wage jobs and have limited access to higher-paying positions. Even when they secure higher-wage jobs, they are paid less than other Californians.

**Sexism and Racism:** Latinx women encounter sexism and racism in California's economy, which adds additional hurdles to achieving economic security.







# Employment Statistics

Employment rates for Latinx individuals in the United States have increased by 2.3 % from May 2023 to May 2024.

Unemployment rates in the United States have increased by 43 % from May 2023 to May 2024.

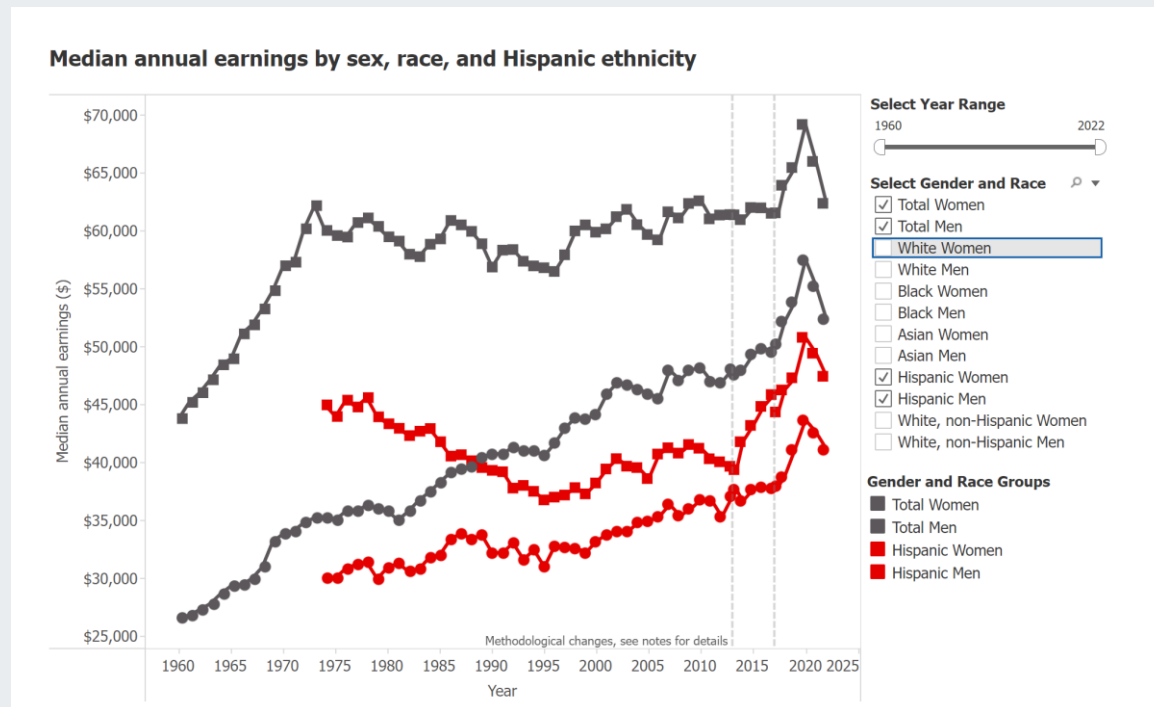
State	All	Hispanic
California	5.3	5.8%
Colorado	3.5%	4.5%
Connecticut	4.5%	5.6%
Delaware	4.0%	4.9%*





# Income Statistics

In dollar amounts, the wealth gap between White households and Black and Hispanic households increased from 2019 to 2021. For example, in 2019, the typical White household had \$168,800 more in wealth than the typical Hispanic household. This gap increased to \$201,700 in 2021.







# Undocumented Households and Income Barriers

Latinx families having children born in the U.S., may qualify for additional income through Public Programs. However, eligibility applies only to the children in the household who have citizenship status or legal immigration status.

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) provides cash assistance to certain aged, blind, and disabled legal immigrants ineligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) due to their immigration status. CAPI participants may also be eligible for Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services, and/or CalFresh benefits.

**For fully undocumented Individuals and households there are no cash assistance programs available.**







# Mental Health Barriers

- Experiencing homelessness is a stressful and traumatic event for many families, especially for children. Children who experience homelessness in early childhood are prone to developmental delays.
- Latinx families can have a high need for mental health services due to the trauma and stress they go through related to homelessness and at times exacerbated for mixed families.
- Cultural expectations impact the ability for Latinx experiencing homelessness to access mental health.

## **SAMHSA Data:**

Nearly 22% of Hispanic/Latino Americans reported having a mental illness.

Only 36% received mental health services compared to non-Hispanic Whites (52%).

## **Unmet Mental Health Needs Among Latinx Ethnic Groups in California:**

A policy brief based on data from the 2015–2019 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) revealed that nearly half (45%) of all Latinx adults who felt they needed mental health services experienced unmet need for mental health care. The unmet need varied across different Latinx ethnic groups, ranging from 38% among South Americans to 56% among Puerto Ricans.







# Mental Health Barriers

- Traditional vs. Evidence-Based Treatment:** Balancing cultural beliefs and evidence-based treatments can be challenging. Addressing this gap is crucial for effective mental health support.
- Cultural Stigma and Shame:** Mental health issues are often stigmatized, leading to prolonged suffering in silence. Discussions about mental health may be considered embarrassing or shameful, especially among older generations.
- Lack of Culturally Competent Services:** There is a shortage of mental health providers who understand the cultural nuances and needs of the Latinx community, this can include providing services in their preferred language.
- Machismo and Marianismo:** Traditional gender roles may discourage men from seeking mental health support due to societal expectations of strength and stoicism (machismo). Similarly, women may prioritize family needs over their own well-being (marianismo).
- Gender Roles:** Women and Men are often pressured to uphold traditional stereotypes based on cultural traditions that can prevent meeting their household overall needs for stable housing.







# METHOD AND APPROACHES

We have discussed stigmas and barriers let's talk about the approaches and methods we use to overcome some of the stigmas and barriers Latinx community experience to successfully lead them to permanent housing.





# OUR SERVICE MODEL

**LA FAMILY**  
HOUSING



LA Family Housing connects thousands of people with housing placements and supportive services that enable them to transition out of homelessness and retain long-term housing stability. We increase our impact through community partnerships and real estate development supported by financial sustainability.



# METHOD AND APPROACHES

## Supportive Services

- Cultural Competence - Loosely defined as the ability to understand, appreciate and interact with people from cultures or belief systems different from one's own .
- How does cultural competence relate to what we do?
- Why is this helpful?

How our agency translates that throughout specialized departments







# METHOD AND APPROACHES

## Supportive Services Continued

- Housing First
- Trauma Informed
- Harm Reduction
- Advocacy
- Advanced Staff Training
- Technical Advisor Support from LAHSA assist with obtaining documentation and birth record delays
- Linkages to agencies and advocacy groups that can do the work

Thus LAHSA began the process of creating the Task Force on Latinx People Experiencing Homelessness —the group of experts on homelessness charged with creating a detailed report on system reforms that would better serve the Latino population. The Task Force recruited members from service providers, city and county officials, and LAHSA staff. In December 2023, the Task Force held its first meeting, officially beginning the eleven-month report-writing process.







# METHOD AND APPROACHES

## Journey to Permanent Housing

- In House Designated Acquisitions Team dedicated to locating housing opportunities.
  - Locations Team who focuses in locating landlords willing to rent units to Latinx undocumented families.
- Incentivizing partnerships.
- Housing & Employment Fairs.
  - Ensuring a space for personable interactions with landlords and employers
- Alternative Housing Solutions to meet the specific family needs.
  - Split leasing, intentionality supporting multi-generational households.
- Employment specialist who specialize in finding employers willing to work with our Latinx communities undocumented families.



# ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

LA FAMILY  
HOUSING



## Advocacy

Staff who advocate for their Latinx participants, are partnering with individuals by providing culturally relevant case management services. To make effective change in the life of others, it is important to highlight the needs and limitation of Latinx individuals and raise concerns for the greater good of the Latinx community.



## Building Trust

To build trust with Latinx households and achieve self-sustainability, agencies must advocate for systems change. Transparency promotes effectiveness by establishing trust, which is needed to properly identify needs. Vulnerable populations need to trust staff to be able to work together to achieve the common goal of obtaining housing.



## Sensitive Approaches

Being culturally competent about the needs of the population we serve allows staff to maintain a housing first trauma informed approach to make informed decisions about the resources that can be offered to meet the needs of Latinx households.



PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORIES

**LA FAMILY**  
HOUSING

# Carlos' Story







PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORIES

**LA FAMILY**  
HOUSING

# Juana's Story





PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORIES

**LA FAMILY**  
HOUSING

# ENRIQUE'S STORY



THANK YOU!

