

Community Co-Designed Encampment Resolution in Skid Row



Pastor Blue

@streetpastorblue

Executive Director & Co-Founder, Blue Hollywood Street Sanctuary

Molly Rysman

Director of Policy and Planning, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services – Housing for Health

The Skid Row Action Plan (SRAP) in Los Angeles is a groundbreaking community project that put the voices of those experiencing homelessness in Skid Row at the forefront of developing solutions to unsheltered homelessness. This session will challenge participants to consider how they can bring people experiencing homelessness to the decision-making table, not just as advisors, but as co-designers and leaders in encampment resolution and uplifting communities.



Bringing People Home.



HOUSING FOR HEALTH

Community Co-Designed
Encampment Resolution
in Skid Row

Presented by:
Pastor Blue & Molly Rysman

About Molly

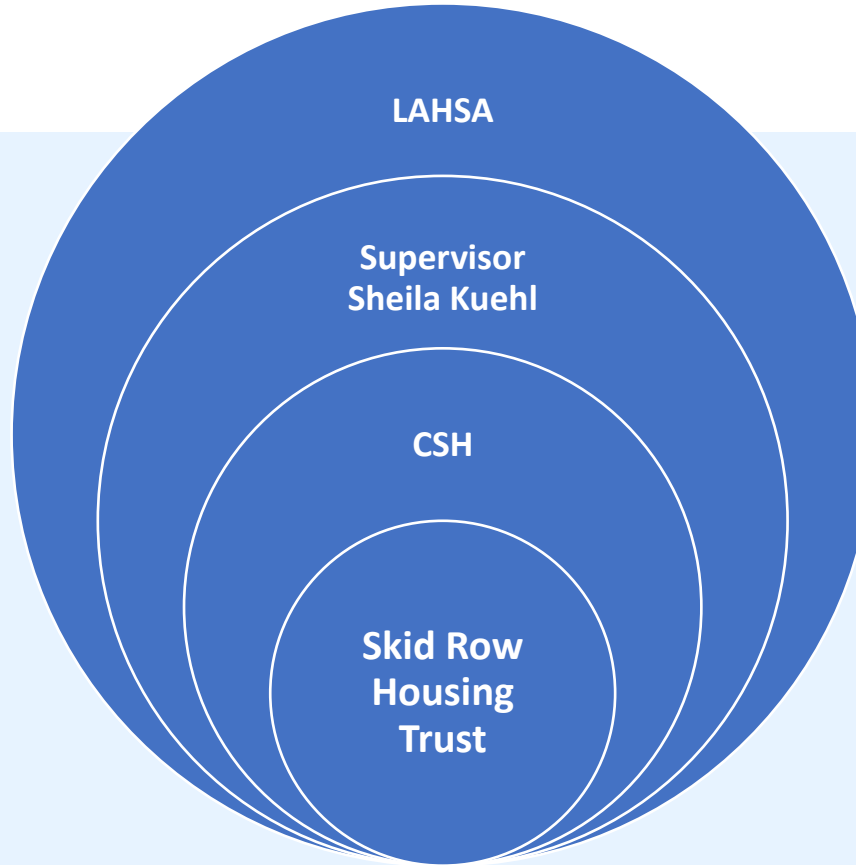


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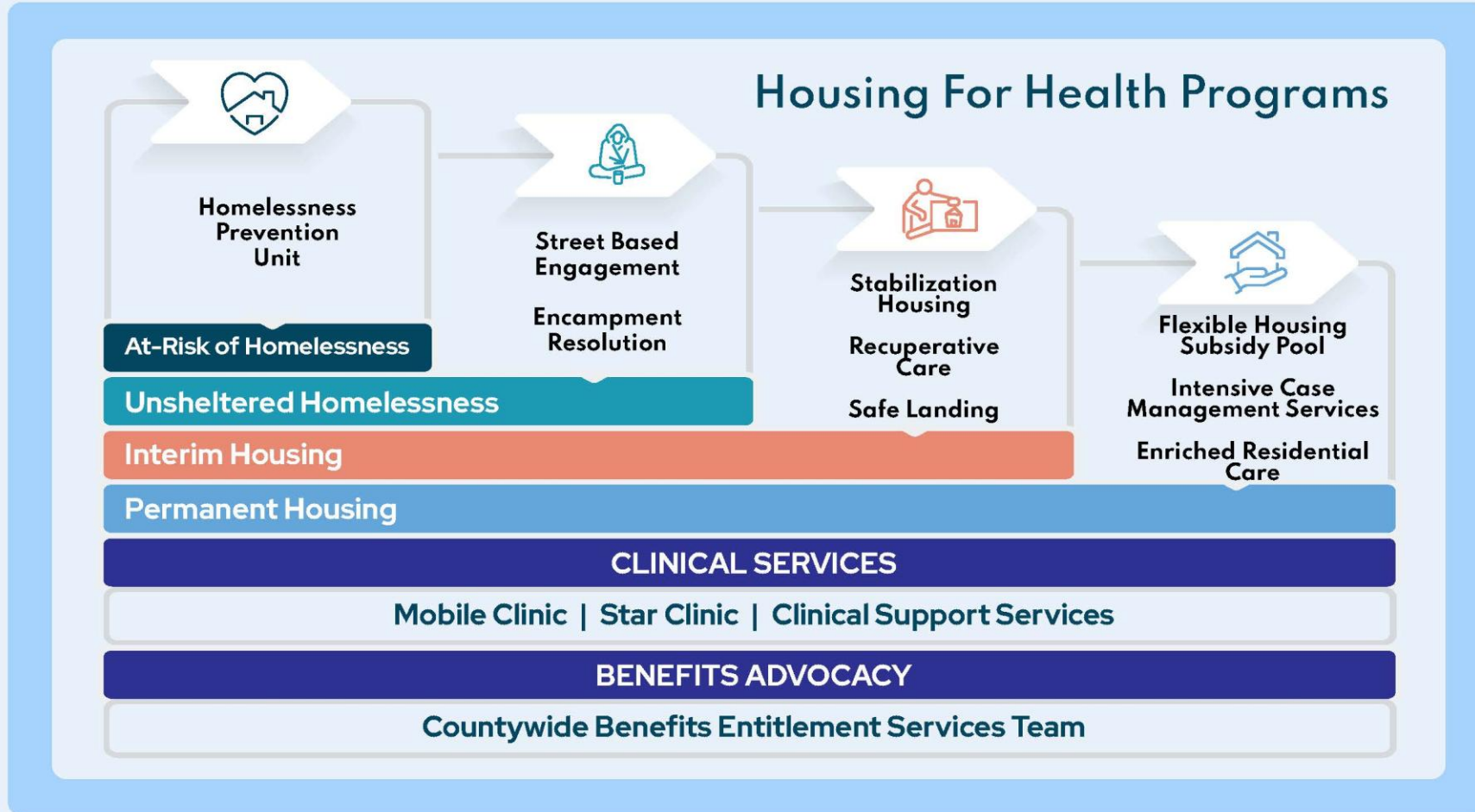


UCLA

- Pronouns: She/her
- About Me: Gen X Jewish Mom
- Joined HFH: June 2023
- Things I Like: Family, Cooking, Hiking, Books, Live Music



Housing for Health

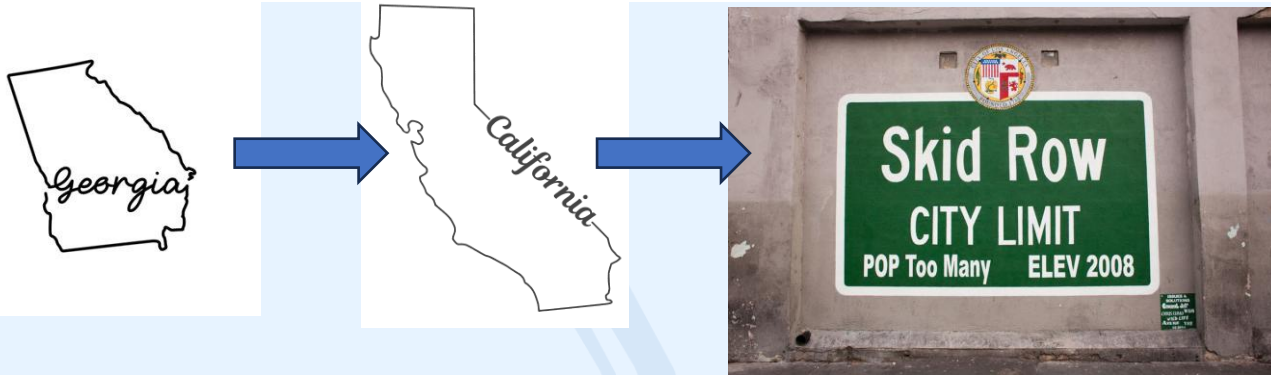


Skid Row is our
homebase

47,000 people
served in 2023

Complex and
vulnerable people
experiencing or at-
risk of homelessness

About Pastor Blue



Quincy Brown — aka Pastor Blue — is a longtime street pastor who harnessed his own homelessness lived experience to build Blue Hollywood Street Sanctuary

After starting in 2019 serving barbecue from the back of his van, Pastor Blue has grown Blue Hollywood in a sidewalk refuge and community-building project



Blue Hollywood Street Sanctuary



Community and harm reduction saves lives and every life matters

Blue Hollywood Street Sanctuary is the only Harm Reduction program in Skid Row founded by and for individuals with lived experience

The Street Sanctuary offers community outreach, casework, and social programming (like “coffee and cuts” Thursdays and monthly Birthday Bash BBQs)

The Street Sanctuary is a Black-led community resource center and harm reduction program provided outdoors 24-hours per day

About You

- Name
- Pronouns
- Community
- How does your work involve encampment resolution efforts in your community?





Skid Row Strong



CHANGEWELLPROJECT
PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

IMPLEMENTING THE SKID ROW ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY DESIGN PROCESS + RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2024

ATTACHMENT B

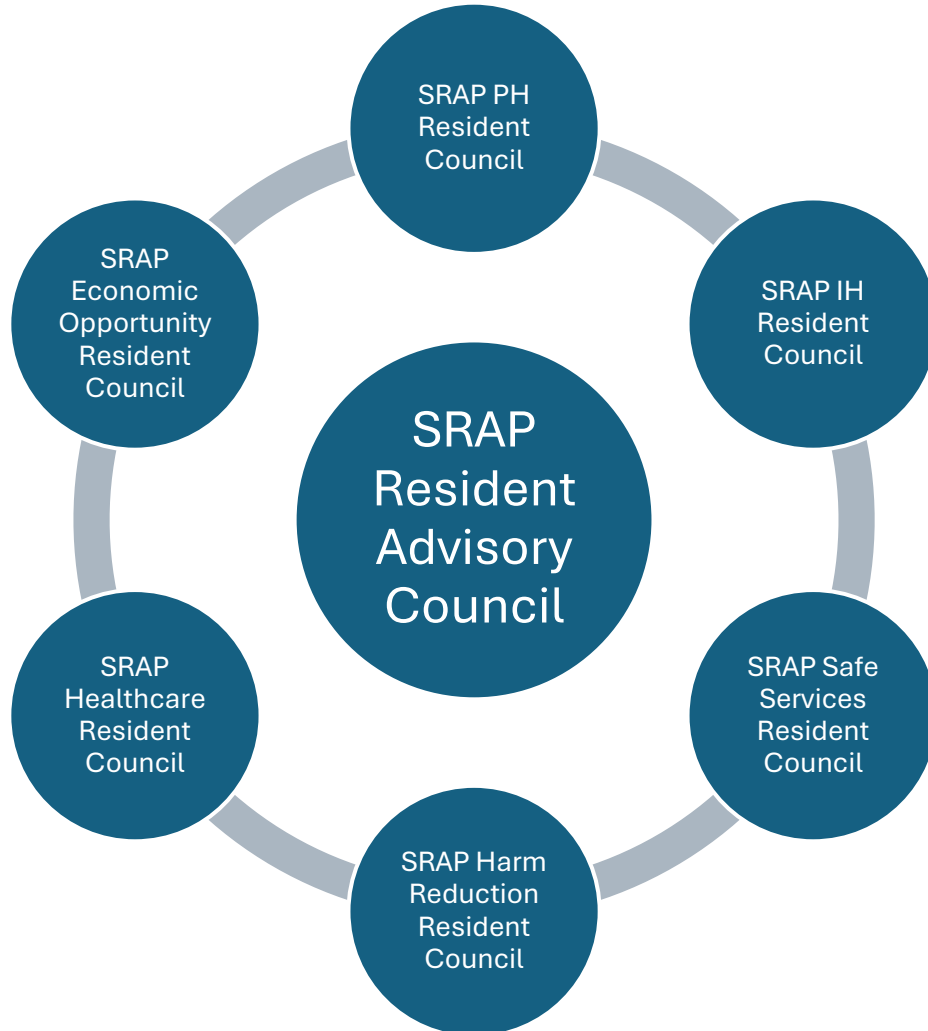
- June 2022 County Board of Supervisors (BOS) motion to create SRAP
- August 2022 SRAP Resident Advisory Committee formed
- Community Listening Sessions launched
- December 2022 Skid Row Action Plan released to BOS
- 2023 Change Well Project led co-design process with the residents and service providers in Skid Row, and the governmental agencies including multiple Los Angeles County (LA County) departments, the City of Los Angeles, and the LAHSA to utilize a community design process to guide the implementation of all the SRAP recommendations
- April 2024 Skid Row Action Plan Implementation Plan released to BOS and public
- November 2024 First Resident Council formed



Skid Row Action Plan Recommendation Domains

- Permanent Housing
- Interim Housing
- Safe Services
- Harm Reduction
- Health
- Economic Opportunity

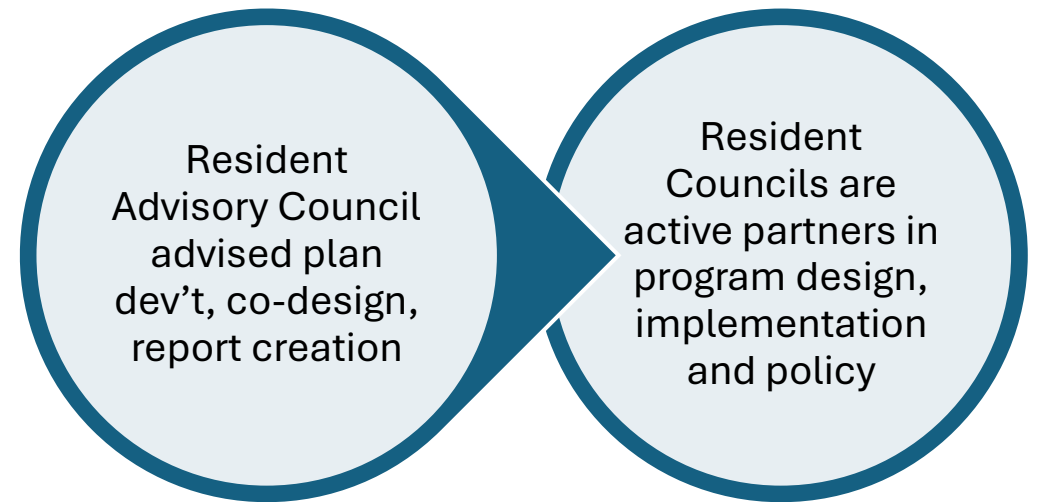
SRAP Resident Advisory Committee & Resident Councils



August 2022 SRAP Resident Advisory Committee formed

November 2024 SRAP PH Resident Council seated

February 2025 application process opened for SRAP Safe Services Resident Council



Day 1





Skid Row Encampment Resolution

Strong Foundation

- Resilient and creative community
- Preserving community and found family
- Outreach Coordination and Infrastructure
- Existing Interim Housing
- Permanent Housing Pipeline
- Existing Interim Housing

Additional Resources

- Permanent Housing Subsidies
- Housing Navigation
- Additional non-congregate Interim Housing
- Safe Landing Triage Beds
- Interim Housing Training and Technical Assistance Team
- Data Analysis





Creating Safe Spaces

Improving Access to Interim and Permanent Housing

Skid Row Access Center

- Air Traffic Control model for IH placement
- Outreach staff can walk-in to case conference IH needs of participants
- Goal is same-day IH placement


Safe Landing

- 24/7 access to recliners where participants can rest until a IH bed is located
- Goal is same-day IH placement, but can take up to 2 weeks to locate an appropriate bed
- Extremely low-barrier
- Onsite clinical staff to triage and assess participants

Housing Navigation

- Dedicated intensive case management to support securing permanent housing



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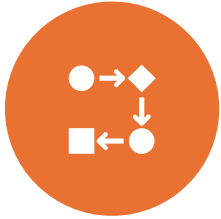
Improving the Quality of Interim and Permanent Housing

Interim Housing Training and
Technical Assistance Team

Flexible Housing Subsidy
Pool & Unit Acquisition
Strategy

SRAP Permanent Housing
Resident Council

Co-Design Questions



How have you seen co-design practices utilized in your community?



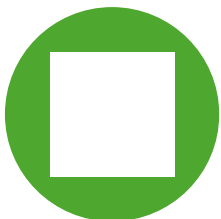
How can co-design practices be utilized in your community in the future?



How can people experiencing homelessness be supported as co-designers and leaders in your community?



What questions do you have for the group?



How can your community create safe spaces for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness?

Hit us up

Pastor Blue

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 - mrysman@dhs.lacounty.gov
 - [Housing for Health - Housing For Health](#)