



Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness

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President & CEO of Imagine LA

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Introduction

MY PERSPECTIVE

- **CEO, Imagine LA** - Focused on nothing but ending family homelessness and poverty in LA for the last 15 years
- **Co-Chair of Family Caucus** - 22 agencies providing family homelessness services (part of the Los Angeles Homeless Provider Alliance, founding Steering Committee member)
- **Business Executive, Economics and Systems Engineering**
- 25 years



Imagine LA

ABOUT US

- **Our Mission:** *Ending the cycle of family homelessness and poverty, together*
- **Our Why:** No family, no child, no parent, should face the near-certain fate of being stuck in the cycle of poverty and its most extreme form, homelessness. By working to end a whole family's homelessness and underlying poverty, we will prevent future homelessness, and its life-altering trauma, for future generations.
- **Who We Serve:**
 - 3 families in 2008 → 300+ families in 2022
 - Majority of Families led by 86% single women
 - 86% BIPOC
 - 53% live in South LA
 - 16% have experienced substance abuse issues, 12% have themselves been in the child welfare system, 44% have experienced interpersonal violence, 47% have had mental health challenges, and 25% have a child with neuro-diversity.



Imagine LA: Ending Family Homelessness & Poverty

HOW WE DO IT

■ Family Partnership Model


Scattered site + Permanent Supportive Housing onsite services

- Intensive Case Management
- Mentorship (1:1 every member of family ages 5 and up)
- Economic Mobility
 1. Living-Wage Career Pathways
 2. Access to Childcare
 3. Financial Fitness
 4. Navigating Social Safety Net
- Family Fun Events



Imagine LA

- **Our Impact**
 - Housing is well maintained
 - On Economic Mobility Pathways
 - Kids excelling in school
 - Embracing Physical & Mental Health
 - Feel safe and hopeful
- **Our funding mix + partnership with DHS**
- **Systems Change - Navigating the Complex Social Benefits System for Low-Income Working Families**
 1. Findings from USC research (30 benefits...)
 2. Social Benefit Calculator
 3. Benefit System Policy Advocacy



EXAMINING THE COMPLEX SOCIAL SAFETY NET FOR LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES:
How Benefits and Resources Respond to Increases in Wages

Authors: Soledad De Gregorio, Rebecca Smith, Gary Painter, Molly Creighton

USCPrice
Sol Price School of Public Policy
Sol Price Center for Social Innovation

IMAGINE LA
TOGETHER

Major Challenges to Ending Family Homelessness in LA

- **No “home” for family homelessness demographic**
- **No leadership from City, County, LAHSA or State**
- **CES for Families not functioning**
- **No coordinated focus on family solutions**
- **No clear measures of success**
- **No accountability or Transparency**
- **Lack of dedicated impact-driven funding**
- **Why?**
 - Families experiencing homelessness are "**invisible**"
 - Family demographic is **not anyone’s priority**
 - **Lack of clear governance and funding streams**
 - Navigating the convoluted, intertwined, overlapping, yet siloed social support benefit systems and institutions – **It is complicated!**



Ending Family Homelessness in LA

Bright Lights

- **Abigail Marquez**, General Manager, Community Investment for *Families* Department, City of Los Angeles
- **2022 Family Homelessness Challenge Grants** and Technical Assistance Program
- **Family Economic Mobility Pathways**
- **Family Social Benefits Calculator**
- **Dedicated Family PSH & Affordable Housing**



**We all need to recognize that
an investment in
ending generational family homelessness and poverty
has an exponential impact.**

Ending Family Homelessness in LA

The solutions to ending family homelessness and poverty are known and achievable; they are:

- **Visible accountable leadership**
- **Aligned housing and social benefit policies**
- **Clear matrixes of success**
- **Dedicated funding**
- **Transparency**
- **Sharing of best practices and knowledge**

I / Family Caucus are ready to help!



Thank you!

Q&A

