Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative



October 26, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Reference: Funding for Homies Unidos Homeless Outreach Intervention Programs
Council File 26-1512

Dear Members of the City Council,

On behalf of Loyola Law School's Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SJI), we appreciate the City's continued investment in community-based homeless outreach and intervention services, including the proposed funding for Homies Unidos in Council District 10.

People experiencing homelessness face increased vulnerability to human trafficking, particularly when they lack safe housing, financial resources, and access to support services. Outreach programs can play an important role in building trust, recognizing potential exploitation, and connecting individuals with resources.

As the City continues investing in community-based outreach programs, we encourage consideration of opportunities to strengthen trafficking prevention and survivor support through these efforts.

Specifically, we recommend:

1. **Include human trafficking screening.** Incorporate human trafficking screening questions into intake and assessment forms used by homeless outreach programs to help identify individuals who may be experiencing labor or sex trafficking. Screening should be voluntary, confidential, and focused on identifying service needs.
2. **Provide training for staff.** Ensure outreach workers receive training on how to ask trafficking screening questions in a trauma-informed manner, recognize potential signs of trafficking, and connect individuals with appropriate services.
3. **Strengthen partnerships with survivor-serving organizations.** Encourage collaboration between homeless outreach programs and organizations specializing in human trafficking services.
4. **Establish referral protocols.** Ensure outreach workers have clear procedures for connecting individuals who may be experiencing trafficking with appropriate services, including housing, legal assistance, and other support.

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These recommendations would help strengthen existing outreach efforts and ensure individuals experiencing exploitation are better connected to services.

We appreciate the City's support for community-based organizations and encourage continued collaboration to address the needs of vulnerable populations, including human trafficking survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paloma Bustos

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Policy Associate
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