# Downtown Women's Center

ending homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles

# THE ISSUE

**1 IN 3** INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE WOMEN

**WOMEN'S HOMELESSESS AT A GLANCE:**

- **223,578 nationwide**
- **20,671 LA County**
- **13,330 LA City**

- Homeless women frequently experience gender-based violence
- Women of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness
- LGBTQ women are more likely to have experienced sexual assault or sexual violence
- Housing continues to be the most critically needed resource yet also the most difficult to access
- Homeless women are more likely to be older than the general population of women in Los Angeles
- Accessing necessary medical services remains a challenge

# OUR STORY

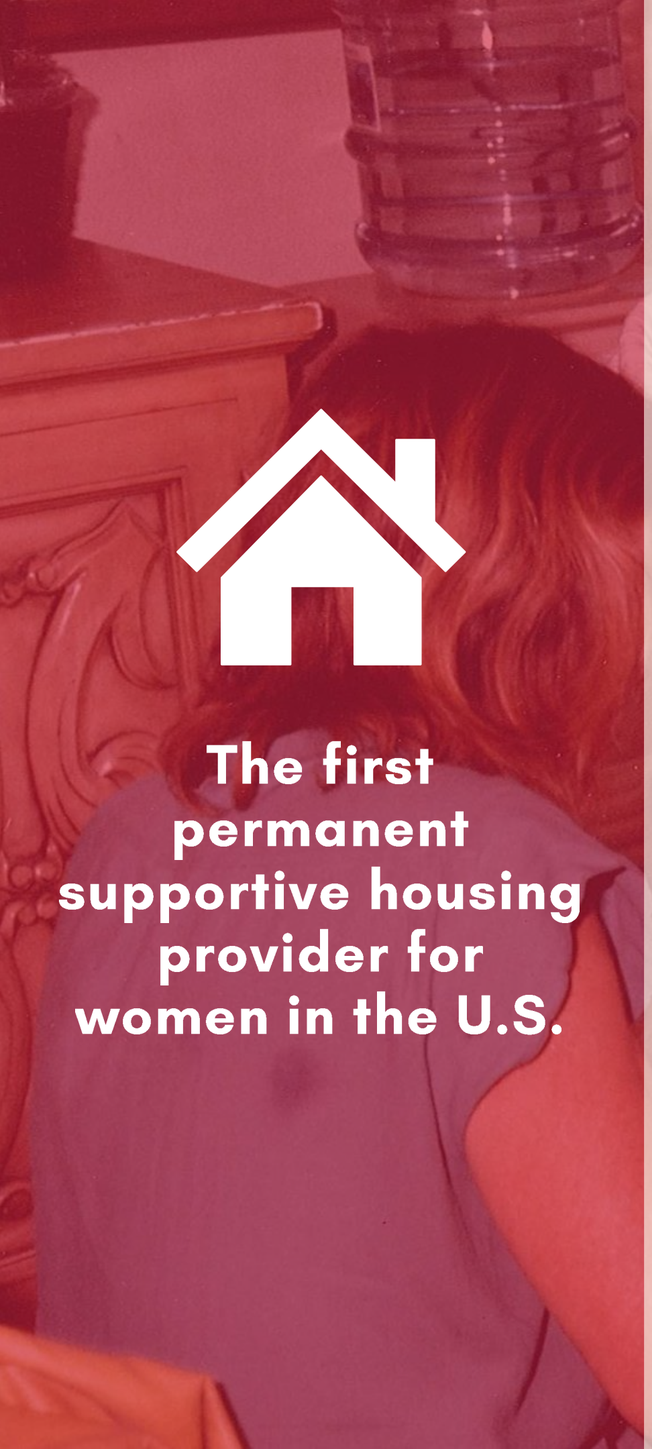
DWC is built on a friendship that grew between an unhoused woman named Rosa and an outreach worker named Jill Halverson. This friendship inspired Jill to open DWC and establish a community through which the lives of women like Rosa could be restored. In the 40 years since Jill's extraordinary act of compassion, we've reached thousands of women and transformed countless lives.

# OUR MISSION

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women.

Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy.

We envision a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability.



The first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the U.S.

The first Critical Time Intervention provider in the Western U.S.

The first and only health clinic exclusively serving women in the Skid Row community

The first and only drop-in Day Center exclusively serving unhoused women in Los Angeles

# OUR APPROACH

**WE ASK:** *"What happened to you?"*
*"What do you need to get better?"*

**NOT:** *"What's wrong with you?"*
*"Why can't you get better?"*

# TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

| REALIZE | RECOGNIZE | RESPOND | RESIST |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| the widespread impact of trauma and understand potential paths for healing | the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system | by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices | the widespread impact of trauma and understand potential paths for healing |

A CORNERSTONE IN ADDRESSING WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS

# OUR IMPACT TODAY

## HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing

Community-Based Housing

Rapid Re-Housing

Housing Justice Program

## WELLNESS

Day Center

Women's Health Clinic

Clinical Services

## EMPLOYMENT

Workforce Development

MADE by DWC

Vaccine Ambassadors

## ADVOCACY

DWC Advocates

Domestic Violence & Homeless Services Coalition

Community-based research

**99%**

**HOUSING RETENTION RATE**

**208K**

**MEALS SERVED**

**5,700**

**WOMEN SERVED**

# OUR COMMUNITY

**5.5K+**

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED ANNUALLY

**30K+**

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

11K FOLLOWERS

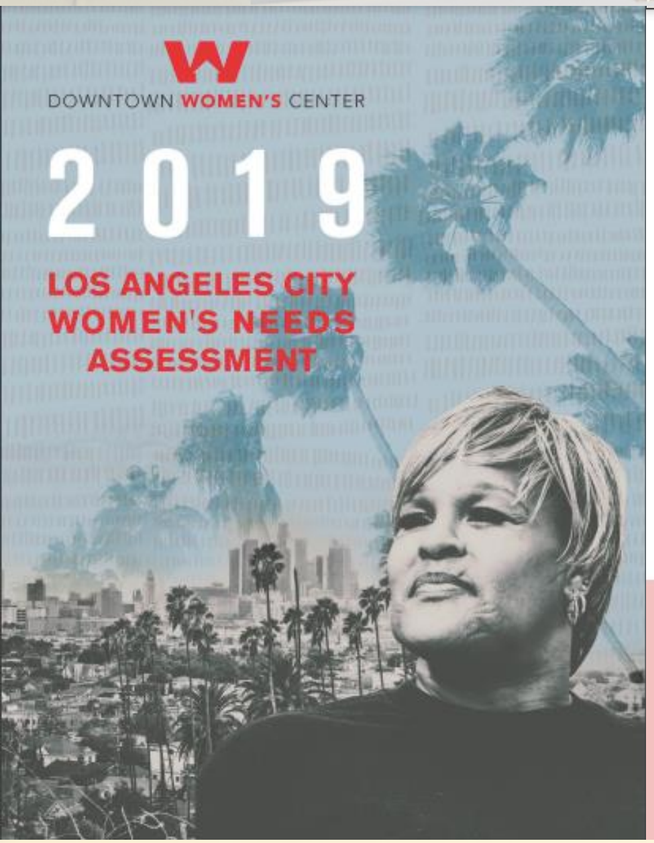
5.8K FOLLOWERS

10.2K FOLLOWERS

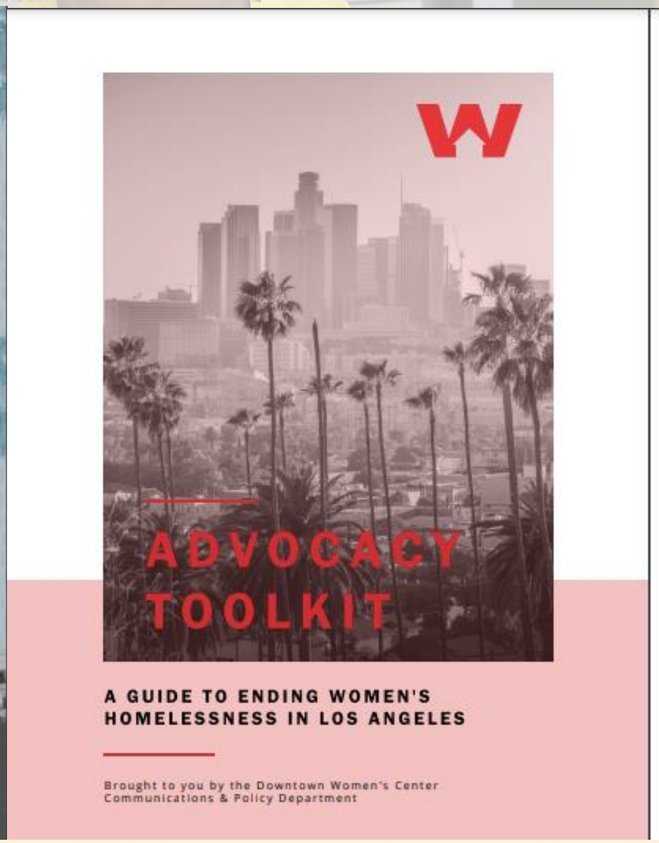
13K+ SUBSCRIBERS

# ONLINE RESOURCES

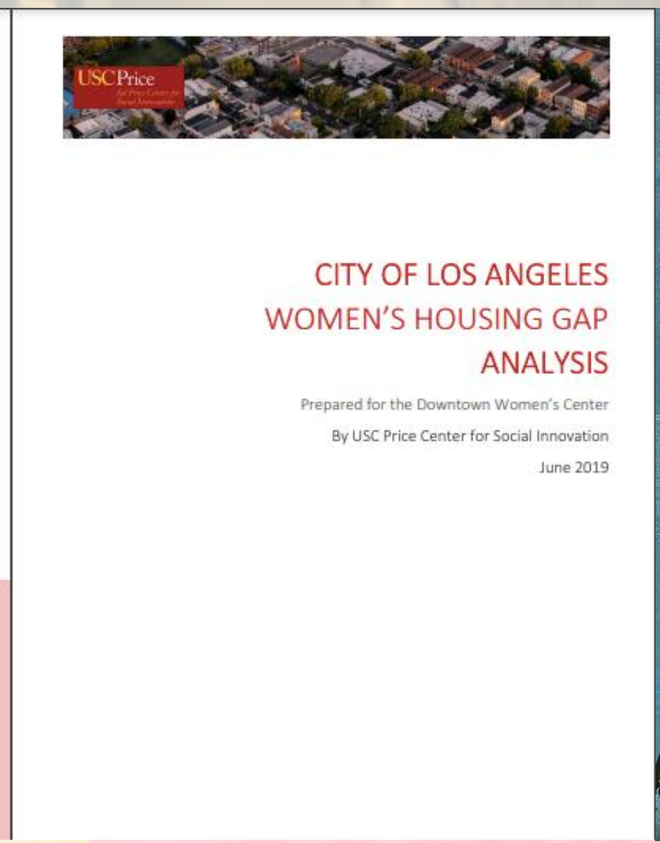
## DWC WOMEN'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT



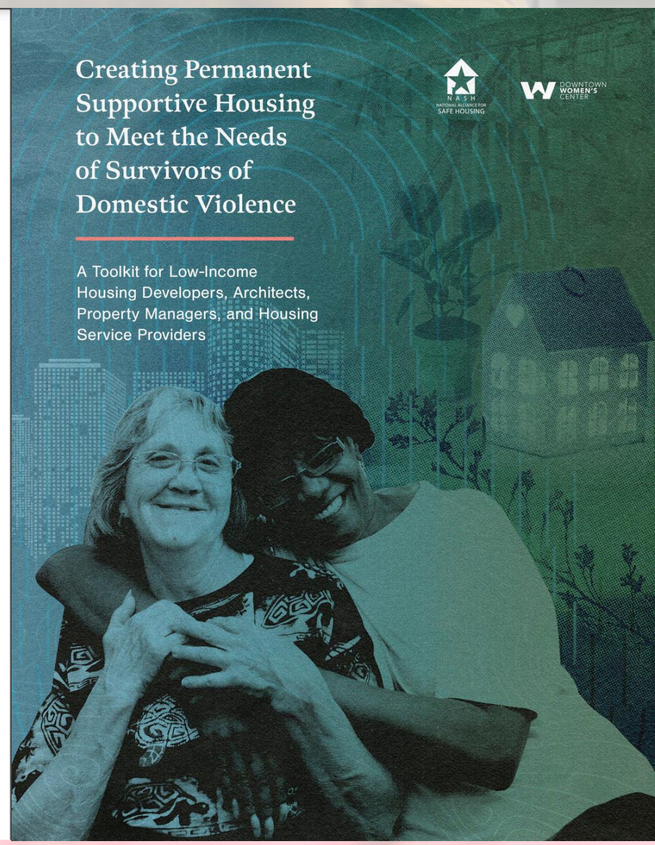

## ADVOCACY TOOLKIT




## WOMEN'S HOUSING GAP ANALYSIS




## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TOOLKIT




**www.DowntownWomensCenter.org/Publications**

# Homelessness is not inevitable.

**It is a societal problem that bears especially hard on women. We need committed communities and partners like you to help us change systems and lives.**

## BECOME AN AGENT OF CHANGE TODAY

1. Volunteer
2. Shop at MADE by DWC
3. Call your elected officials and be a YIMBY!