

# Homelessness is Not a Crime and Must Not Be Treated As One

To criminalize homelessness does not address its root causes and is especially inappropriate in downtown Los Angeles, where there exist inadequate alternative resources for many sleeping on the streets.

**THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,400 EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL BEDS TO ACCOMMODATE THE 6,000 – 8,000 HOMELESS PEOPLE DOWNTOWN.**

**Of the 1350 emergency beds:<sup>1</sup>**

**619 beds (45 %) are reserved for single men at 7 locations**

**212 beds (16 %) are reserved for single women at 2 locations**

**180 beds (13 %) are reserved for women with children at 1 location**

**296 beds (22 %) are reserved for either adult men or women**

**75 beds (6%) are beds funded through LAHSA's Winter Shelter Program and will cease operations in March**

**Of the 2050 transitional beds:<sup>2</sup>**

**759 beds (37 %) are reserved for men at 9 locations**

**161 beds (8 %) are reserved for women at 5 locations**

**12 women with children (0.5%) can be accommodated at 2 locations<sup>3</sup>**

**247 beds (12%) are reserved for either adult men or women**

**Additionally, 1 program with 360 housing units (18%)**

**accommodates both genders and all ages but requires rent money, proof of income, and valid California identification<sup>4</sup>**

In addition to the inadequate supply of shelter downtown, a majority of transitional housing beds (69%) have population or program requirements – either serving only certain sub-groups of the homeless population (e.g. victims of domestic violence) or requiring residents to enroll in a substance abuse treatment and/or Christian study program. Only 267 transitional beds (13%) are without population, program, or income and rent requirements. **Despite these stipulations, however, emergency shelter and transitional housing beds in downtown Los Angeles on the whole have a 90 – 100% occupancy rate. Short term housing downtown is full and an additional 2,500 – 4,500 homeless people have no alternatives to sleeping on the streets.**

<sup>1</sup> 56 emergency beds (4%) are unknown in the gender they serve

<sup>2</sup> 492 transitional beds (20%) are unknown in the gender they serve

<sup>3</sup> This figure was calculated as 12 beds although the actual bed count might be higher depending on the size of families receiving shelter at these programs

<sup>4</sup> This figure was calculated as 360 beds, although the actual bed count might be higher depending on the size of families dwelling in individual units