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Addressing Vehicular Homelessness

A Study of Safe Parking LA

This research was made possible by a generous grant from Safe Parking LA.

Research Report

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About This Report

This report presents our descriptive analysis of Safe Parking LA (SPLA), an overnight parking program for individuals experiencing vehicular homelessness in Los Angeles. In our analysis, we compare SPLA participants with the broader homeless population in terms of demographics, chronicity, and employment; examine relationships between receipt of SPLA's wraparound services and housing destinations on program exit; and discuss SPLA's operational costs relative to other interim housing providers.

RAND Housing Center

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Summary

Issue

Homelessness in the Los Angeles (LA) area remains a pressing challenge for state and local policymakers: More than 67,000 people experience homelessness on a given night according to the 2025 PIT count, and a growing segment of this population is living in cars, vans, or recreational vehicles (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2025). Research suggests that people experiencing vehicular homelessness are more likely to be employed and experiencing homelessness for the first time and less likely to exhibit chronic homelessness, mental illness, or substance use disorders (Giamarino, Blumenberg, and Brozen, 2024; Lewis, Rabinowitz Bussell, and Livingstone, 2025).

Evidence on interventions designed to serve this population remains thin. Safe parking programs have emerged as a targeted response, but few rigorous evaluations exist to document whom these programs serve, what services are provided, and how those services relate to housing outcomes.

Key Findings

This report presents our evaluation of Safe Parking LA (SPLA), a nonprofit organization providing safe overnight parking and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing vehicular homelessness in LA County. It is intended for LA County and LA City officials, homelessness service providers, and researchers interested in the role of safe parking as a targeted, low-cost intervention in the broader portfolio of strategies to address homelessness. The findings from our evaluation are as follows:

- SPLA participants are less likely to be chronically homeless and more likely to be employed, suggesting that SPLA reaches people relatively early in their homelessness trajectory.
- Most SPLA participants exit homelessness with relatively modest support because they exit to permanent housing without requiring an ongoing housing subsidy. Of all participants exiting to permanent housing, 61 percent exit to unsubsidized rentals or living situations with family or friends.
- Housing planning, housing search and placement assistance, transportation support, and food assistance are associated with higher rates of exit to permanent housing.
- Emergency-oriented services, such as hotel or motel assistance, and crisis and bridge housing referrals appear more closely linked to temporary shelter or short-term stabilization than to permanent housing

- At an estimated $55 per space-night, SPLA's costs are comparable with or below those of A Bridge Home sites, emergency shelters, and tiny home villages while SPLA provides a broad variety of supportive wraparound services.

Approach

This study addresses four primary research questions developed in conjunction with SPLA staff:

1. What are the demographic, employment, and health characteristics of SPLA participants?
2. How do SPLA participants compare with other homeless populations in LA along dimensions of demographics, chronicity, employment, and duration of homelessness?
3. What is the relationship between SPLA services and participant housing outcomes?
4. How do the costs of safe parking compare with other common homelessness interventions?

We analyzed administrative data on 1,501 unique SPLA participants served between July 2020 and December 2025. We estimated relationships between SPLA service receipt and housing destinations on exiting the SPLA program and drew comparisons with external surveys of the broader homeless population. Our analysis is exploratory and descriptive, focusing on observed associations between SPLA services and housing outcomes, rather than a rigorous assessment of causal impact.

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Chapter 1. Origins of Safe Parking Programs

According to the 2025 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) point in time (PIT) count, more than 67,000 people in the greater Los Angeles (LA) area were experiencing homelessness on a given night (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority [LAHSA], 2025). Recent research found that homeless services, health services, and criminal justice system involvement can cost upward of $100,000 per homeless person annually for the most-severe cases (Flaming, Toros, and Burns, 2015).

In the overall homeless population, a growing segment consists of individuals and families living in their vehicles. Of the more than 18,000 dwellings of unsheltered homeless individuals recorded in the 2025 PIT count, more than 12,000 were cars, vans, or recreational vehicles (Economic Roundtable, 2025). Vehicular homelessness is associated with unique challenges, such as legal restrictions on overnight parking that might lead to ticketing or towing. However, vehicular homelessness could also present unique opportunities to resolve homelessness by preserving mobility and thus bolstering ties to employment and support networks.

Although research on vehicular homelessness remains limited, a growing body of work has shown that this population is distinct from other segments of the unsheltered homeless. Studies of vehicle residents in LA find that, relative to those in tents or on the streets, members of this population are more likely to be women, white, older, employed, and living with children, and they are more likely to be experiencing homelessness for the first time. They also exhibit lower rates of chronic homelessness, mental illness, and substance use disorders (Giamarino, Blumenberg, and Brozen, 2024; Lewis, Rabinowitz Bussell, and Livingstone, 2025).

Research points to job loss, medical crises, domestic violence, divorce, and eviction as common triggers of vehicular homelessness, often compounded by a lack of social safety net or family support to absorb the shock (Lewis, Rabinowitz Bussell, and Livingstone, 2025; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH], 2022). Many individuals choose vehicles over traditional shelters because of restrictions on entry, such as curfews and sobriety requirements, the inability to shelter with pets or partners, and perceptions that shelters are unsafe (Lewis, Rabinowitz Bussell, and Livingstone, 2025; USICH, 2022). Survey data from West LA found that 49 percent of vehicle-dwelling respondents reported moving into a vehicle because it represented higher-quality shelter than available alternatives, and 44 percent cited safety considerations associated with traditional shelters (Kennedy et al., 2025).

Communities have increasingly criminalized vehicular homelessness. A recent study found that between 2006 and 2019, 64 new laws restricting living in vehicles were enacted in the 187 major cities surveyed, representing a 213-percent increase (National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 2019). Some municipalities have enacted outright bans; many others restrict the types of vehicles, locations, and time limits, which indirectly limits the use of

vehicles for shelter (USICH, 2022). Criminalization of vehicular homelessness can push people into a downward cycle of justice system involvement, financial distress, and longer periods of homelessness—towing fees, fines, vehicle impoundment, suspension of driver's licenses, and other penalties can compound to create additional barriers to obtaining stable housing.

Safe parking programs have emerged as a targeted intervention for people experiencing vehicular homelessness, providing secure overnight parking locations with access to bathroom facilities and food, alongside supportive services designed to stabilize participants and facilitate transitions back into stable housing. Beginning in Santa Barbara, California, in 2004, safe parking programs have since been implemented in 43 communities across the country, primarily concentrated on the West Coast (McElwain, Schiele, and Waheed, 2021). These programs recognize that individuals living in vehicles often maintain employment, family connections, and other stabilizing factors that distinguish them from other segments of the homeless population, and that early supportive interventions could prevent individuals from slipping into more-extreme levels of need.

In this report, we present findings from a descriptive quantitative evaluation of Safe Parking LA (SPLA), a nonprofit organization operating safe parking facilities throughout LA County. SPLA enlisted RAND for an exploratory analysis with four primary objectives:

1. understanding who SPLA serves, including demographics, employment, health conditions, and other indicators of need
2. comparing SPLA participants with other homeless populations along key dimensions of demographics, chronic homelessness status, employment, and duration of homelessness
3. examining how SPLA service receipt is correlated with housing outcomes
4. benchmarking safe parking service costs against other common homelessness interventions.

Organization of This Report

Chapter 2 describes SPLA's locations, capacity, and services provided; Chapter 3 outlines the data sources, methods, and limitations of this study. Chapter 4 presents summary statistics of SPLA participants' demographics, services received in the program, and comparisons with other populations of homeless individuals in the LA area. Chapter 5 presents findings on the relationships between SPLA services and housing outcomes on exiting the program, and Chapter 6 presents cost comparisons between SPLA and other interim housing providers. Chapter 7 concludes with a discussion of these findings in the broader homelessness support ecosystem.

Chapter 2. SPLA: Services, Sites, and Funding

SPLA is a nonprofit organization founded in 2017 that provides safe overnight parking for individuals and families living in their vehicles in LA County. It began operating one lot with 12 spaces and has since grown into the largest safe parking provider in LA; it has more than 140 spaces across six lots available each night. SPLA partners with organizations that have underutilized parking lots throughout the LA area and provides legal overnight parking, onsite sanitation, and security personnel. Additional core amenities vary by location and over time, but often include Wi-Fi, meal services, and mobile health clinics. The program is funded through a variety of sources. Local governments reimburse SPLA for qualified program expenses, providing the majority of SPLA's funding, followed by nongovernmental grants, direct donor contributions, and government grants.

SPLA operates four safe parking locations available to the general public, a lot on the West LA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) campus offering tailored support to veterans, and a women's lot in Edendale offering trauma-informed support for female participants. Table 2.1 lists the operational SPLA lots and respective capacities.

Table 2.1. SPLA Locations and Capacities

Location	Population Served	Number of Spaces
West LA VA	Veteran	15
West LA Municipal Center	General	25
West Valley Branch Library	General	25
Beit T'Shuvah	General	19
LA Convention Center	General	30
Edendale Branch Library	Women	29
	Total	143

SOURCE: SPLA staff, email communications with the authors, August 6, 2026.
NOTE: As of September 2026. Lot locations and capacities vary over time.

In addition to the core parking services, SPLA offers a variety of additional support designed to facilitate returns to stable housing, such as case management, emergency financial assistance, and referrals to other services. SPLA offers direct financial assistance for such needs as auto repair, insurance, and security deposits and provides structured nonfinancial services, such as housing search assistance and budgeting skills training. There is no fixed maximum level of financial support that participants can receive, although funding can be limited by available cash flow as a result of the timing of government reimbursements and donor contributions. When

sufficient funding exists, financial assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis with priority given to expenses that have a direct pathway to housing stability.

Participants can also be referred to third-party organizations for employment readiness training, legal assistance, and other services generally provided free of charge. Table 2.2 details the variety of services available to SPLA participants.

SPLA also operates its Warmline call center, which helps potential participants enroll in the program and refers individuals who are ineligible for its services to other appropriate service providers. The Warmline operates seven days a week, and coordinators review eligibility, guide potential participants through the application process, and refer individuals to other services if they are not eligible to enroll with SPLA.

To be eligible for the program, participants must be unhoused, have an operational vehicle, a valid driver's license, and be the authorized operator of the vehicle per insurance and registration documents. Participants who do not meet these criteria can be granted a conditional parking permit allowing them to park with SPLA while they resolve documentation issues. In addition to these required materials, participants must agree to work toward housing with SPLA's case managers and agree to comply with SPLA's code of conduct and policies.

Separately from the Warmline, prospective participants can begin the enrollment process by completing an online application or requesting an in-person intake. Participants are generally self-referred through SPLA's website or referred by other homelessness service providers and agencies participating in the coordinated entry system.

Newly permitted participants have 72 hours to begin using their assigned space, after which their space will be made available to other individuals or families. Active participants in the program can be away from their space for up to three nights within a week; the spaces of participants exceeding this threshold will be reassigned unless previously approved by SPLA staff. Participants also might transfer between lots for job, school, medical, or safety reasons, conditional on spaces being available in their desired lot.

Table 2.2. SPLA Services

Service Type	Service	Description
Direct financial assistance	Auto repair	Coverage of maintenance and repair expenses to ensure that participants have a functioning vehicle
	Auto insurance	Monthly insurance payments and AAA membership
	Vehicle registration	Annual registration fees and smog check expenses
	Hotel stays	Used when participants are unable to sleep in their vehicle (for example, because of injury), require an indoor setting with WiFi for a job interview, or other special circumstances
	Housing assistance	Payments for security deposits, monthly rent, furniture, or other housing-related expenses to facilitate exits to permanent housing
	Food or gas cards	Gift cards for gas, food, hygiene items, and other necessities
	Transportation	Taxis or rideshares when participants' vehicles are temporarily inoperable or unregistered
	Credit repair	Cost to enroll in credit repair programs for qualified candidates, assistance filing disputes, negotiating debts and creating a roadmap to improve credit
	Employment and education support	Coverage of work and/or school materials aimed at increasing earning potential, such as testing materials, exam certifications, or other work necessities
Nonfinancial assistance	Housing planning	Individualized document to identify barriers and map out the steps, goals, and resources needed to secure permanent housing
	Housing search	Assisting participants with private-market housing search, tours, and applications
	Meals	Onsite meals provided by volunteers or local partners
	Hygiene	Access to showers, laundry facilities, etc.
	Budgeting	Budgeting for savings, housing, and vehicle repairs
Referrals	Life skills training	Program providing resume creation, interview preparation, and other life coaching services along with access to computers, phones, and professional attire
	Legal	Assistance from legal nonprofits
	Medical	Referrals to receive consultations, vaccines, primary care, and specialized care
	Mental health	Referral to behavioral health clinics, therapists, psychiatric treatment, etc.
	Employment	Referral to job-training programs
	Housing programs	Referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), or temporary housing programs
	Pet services	Referrals to animal care clinics
	Public benefits navigation	Help participants find, apply for, and maintain public and private assistance programs, such as food aid, health care, and general relief

SOURCE: SPLA staff, email communications with author, August 5, 2026.
NOTE: This table summarizes the major services available to SPLA participants during the study period. Service categories are not mutually exclusive, and participants might receive multiple forms of support during enrollment. Descriptions are based on SPLA program documentation and staff input.

Chapter 3. How We Studied SPLA

Data Sources

SPLA

We received data on demographics, exit destinations, service provision, direct financial assistance, and call records of participants served from July 2020 to December 2025. We combined data provided to us by SPLA from three internal SPLA systems:

1. **HMIS:** participant-level data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), detailing demographics, health conditions (such as substance use disorders or mental disabilities), indicators of chronic homelessness, and participants' self-reported exit destinations when ending participation in SPLA services
2. **financial assistance tracker:** participant-level data from SPLA's financial assistance tracker, an internal system that tracks direct monetary assistance, referrals, meals, and other participant services
3. **Warmline:** call records from SPLA's Warmline, documenting inbound inquiries about SPLA and responses to screening questions to determine SPLA eligibility. The Warmline is an important touchpoint for participants to either enroll with SPLA or be referred to other, more appropriate support services.

Participants in the HMIS and financial assistance datasets shared unique identifiers, allowing us to link participant demographics and exit destinations to the financial support and other services they received in the program.[1] The Warmline, although useful for clarifying additional participant characteristics (such as employment and duration of homelessness), was not linkable to the broader HMIS data system. Table 3.1 summarizes the data sources and variables available from each source.

[1] The HMIS system also contains some financial assistance records, but the two systems in isolation do not completely catalog all financial support transactions. The two systems require manual entry, which results in missing data if relying only on a single source.

Table 3.1. Data Sources

Data System	Key Information	Variables
HMIS	Demographics	Age, race, ethnicity, gender, veteran status
	Health conditions	Mental health disorders, physical disabilities, substance use disorders, HIV/AIDS status
	Chronic homelessness	Indicator for participants meeting HUD's definition of chronic homelessness
	Prior living situations	Where participants were residing immediately before entering SPLA
	Exit destinations	Where participants go when they exit SPLA
	Financial assistance	Dates and amounts of financial assistance
	Unique identifier	Person-level identifier allowing link to financial assistance data
Financial assistance tracker	Parking records	Entry and exit dates, lot locations, length of stay (LOS)
	Financial assistance	Transaction dates and amounts for repairs, insurance, registration, hotel stays, rental assistance, etc.
	Nonfinancial services	Dates that participants receive meals, hygiene items, housing planning and search consultations, referrals, etc.
	Unique identifier	Person-level identifier allowing link to HMIS
Warmline	Demographics	Age, race, ethnicity, gender, veteran status
	Enrollment status	Whether callers eventually enroll with SPLA
	Duration of homelessness	How long callers have been homeless
	Income sources	Whether callers are employed, public benefit income sources
	Pets/support animals	Whether callers have pets

SOURCE: Features information from SPLA data dictionaries.
NOTE: This table summarizes the key variables available from each source and is not exhaustive. HMIS and financial assistance data were linkable at the participant level through shared identifiers; Warmline data were analyzed separately because they could not be reliably linked.

Our primary analytic dataset merges the financial assistance and HMIS datasets and yields a sample of 1,501 unique participants. We limit our supplemental analysis of the Warmline data to the 1,262 unique callers who eventually enrolled in SPLA; we did so because callers who were referred to other services generally had less complete data. Certain key variables, such as duration of homelessness and income sources, are available only in the Warmline data, making that material a valuable supplement to the core HMIS data. The sample of Warmline enrollees is a subset of the participants in the HMIS data and differs on some key dimensions. Notably, Warmline enrollees are more likely to be female and less likely to be veterans than those in the full HMIS sample; other key demographics are not materially different. Figure A.1 in the appendix presents these differences between the SPLA HMIS and Warmline datasets.

LAHSA Unsheltered Homeless Count Demographic Survey

In addition to SPLA's internal data, we drew on external sources to compare participants with other homeless populations across dimensions of demographics, duration of homelessness, employment, and other factors. The first external source is the 2025 LAHSA Unsheltered Homeless Count Demographic Survey (Economic Roundtable, 2025), an annual profile of the unhoused population in LA. To avoid overlapping with the SPLA sample, we limit these data to respondents who are not living in a vehicle, resulting in an analytic sample of 3,611 individuals.

Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS)

We draw additional comparisons with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness surveyed in the LA LEADS project (Abramson et al., 2026), which is an enumeration effort and demographic survey documenting characteristics of people living unsheltered in three "hot spot" neighborhoods in LA: Skid Row, Hollywood, and Venice. We similarly limit this sample to individuals not living in a vehicle. Because of the smaller sample size in the LA LEADS data, we combine survey data from three years (2023–2025), yielding a sample of 574 individuals.

Analytic Approach

Comparisons with Other Unsheltered Homeless Populations in Los Angeles County

To shed light on the types of individuals that SPLA serves and how they compare with other Angelenos experiencing homelessness without program assistance, we generated comparisons between SPLA participants and other homeless populations in LA. For these comparisons, we harmonized demographic and health variables across four data sources: SPLA HMIS records, SPLA Warmline intake surveys, the LAHSA Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (Economic Roundtable, 2025), and data from the RAND LA LEADS survey (Abramson, 2026) as described in the previous section. We restricted all samples to individuals ages 25 and older to match LAHSA's sampling frame. We recoded variables into comparable binary indicators for demographics (age groups, gender, Hispanic ethnicity, race categories), chronic homelessness status, and economic indicators (employment, receipt of public benefits). For variables available from both SPLA's HMIS and Warmline data, we rely on HMIS because of its more complete coverage of SPLA participants and higher data quality. We base comparisons of homeless duration, employment, and benefit receipt on Warmline data because of their lack of availability in HMIS. We do not compare certain variables because of definitional differences between the three sources. For example, definitions of substance use disorder and physical disabilities are not uniform across the SPLA Warmline intake screener, LAHSA Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Demographic Survey, and LEADS survey instrument, and are thus not directly comparable.

We conducted two sets of two-sample chi-square tests to assess whether observed differences in proportions were statistically significant: (1) SPLA versus LAHSA and (2) SPLA versus LA LEADS. For each variable, we calculated the chi-square *p*-value testing the null hypothesis of no difference between the two groups and summarized the mean proportions and differences across data sources.

Estimating Associations Between Services and Housing Outcomes

To examine how SPLA services are associated with housing outcomes, we analyzed combined HMIS and financial assistance data for SPLA participants, restricted to heads of household who exited the program. We focused on heads of household because their records are more complete, and exit destination is defined only for program leavers. The resulting analytic file contains 1,338 unique individuals.

We examined three mutually exclusive exit outcomes: (1) exit to permanent housing, such as renting with or without a subsidy, homeownership, or living with family or friends with permanent tenure; (2) exit to unsheltered homelessness, such as streets, vehicles, parks, or abandoned buildings; and (3) exit to temporary or interim housing, such as motels, emergency shelters, temporary living with relatives or friends, and other short-term placements. These outcomes capture the main housing trajectories of policy interest in the SPLA data.

Financial assistance information was drawn from two sources: SPLA's internal financial assistance tracker and HMIS-extracted financial assistance records. Because the two systems recorded some overlapping payments, we first harmonized transactions into comparable service categories and removed duplicate records. The final analytic dataset contained 29 financial and nonfinancial service categories; for the main regression analysis, we focused on 20 core categories, excluding very rare categories and categories too closely tied to the final housing outcome to serve as meaningful predictors.

We then estimated statistical models relating service receipt to housing outcomes while adjusting for participant characteristics and time in the program. To ensure that findings were not driven by any single way of measuring service use, we tested multiple specifications: whether a participant ever received a service, how often they received it, and how much financial assistance they received. We also examined whether these relationships differed for participants with shorter stays in the program versus longer ones. Full model specifications and regression results are reported in appendix subsection "Analytic Sample and Model Specification," and the corresponding regression estimates are reported in Tables A.4 through A.6.

Limitations of Our Analysis

This analysis is subject to several important limitations. The primary outcome of interest is the self-reported exit destination recorded at the time participants leave the SPLA program, and this measure has several challenges. Some participants depart the program without completing an

exit interview, resulting in missing data for this key variable. If participants with missing exit destination data are systematically different from those in our sample, this could yield biased results. For those who do provide exit information, there is a risk of misclassification or inaccurate reporting of their housing status at the time of departure. In addition, the available data do not allow tracking of longer-term housing outcomes, which limits the ability to assess whether housing placements persist after program exit.

Statistical precision is limited by the number of participants in our analysis and influenced by the number of control variables in our model. Real relationships between SPLA services and housing outcomes might exist that we are unable to precisely detect in this analysis. Future analyses would benefit from data from additional years or providers.

The analysis relies solely on administrative data collected and maintained by SPLA. As a result, we cannot examine a variety of potentially relevant outcomes, such as interactions with law enforcement, employment status, receipt of public assistance, or health care use. The absence of these data limits our ability to assess the broader impacts of the program, including its cost-effectiveness in reducing future public expenditures.

We did not compare housing outcomes of individuals who did not participate in SPLA, which limits our ability to draw causal conclusions about program effects. In an ideal research setting, random assignment or natural variation in program participation and service receipt would support estimation of causal impacts. Without these conditions, this analysis is exploratory and descriptive, focusing on observed associations between SPLA services and housing outcomes. Although the analysis adjusts for observable characteristics available in the HMIS data, we cannot rule out the influence of unmeasured confounding variables that could affect both service receipt and housing outcomes.

Finally, our work is purely a quantitative assessment of SPLA data and lacks qualitative information from participants that would provide insights on lived experiences, impactful services, and other program components that are not feasible with a quantitative assessment alone.

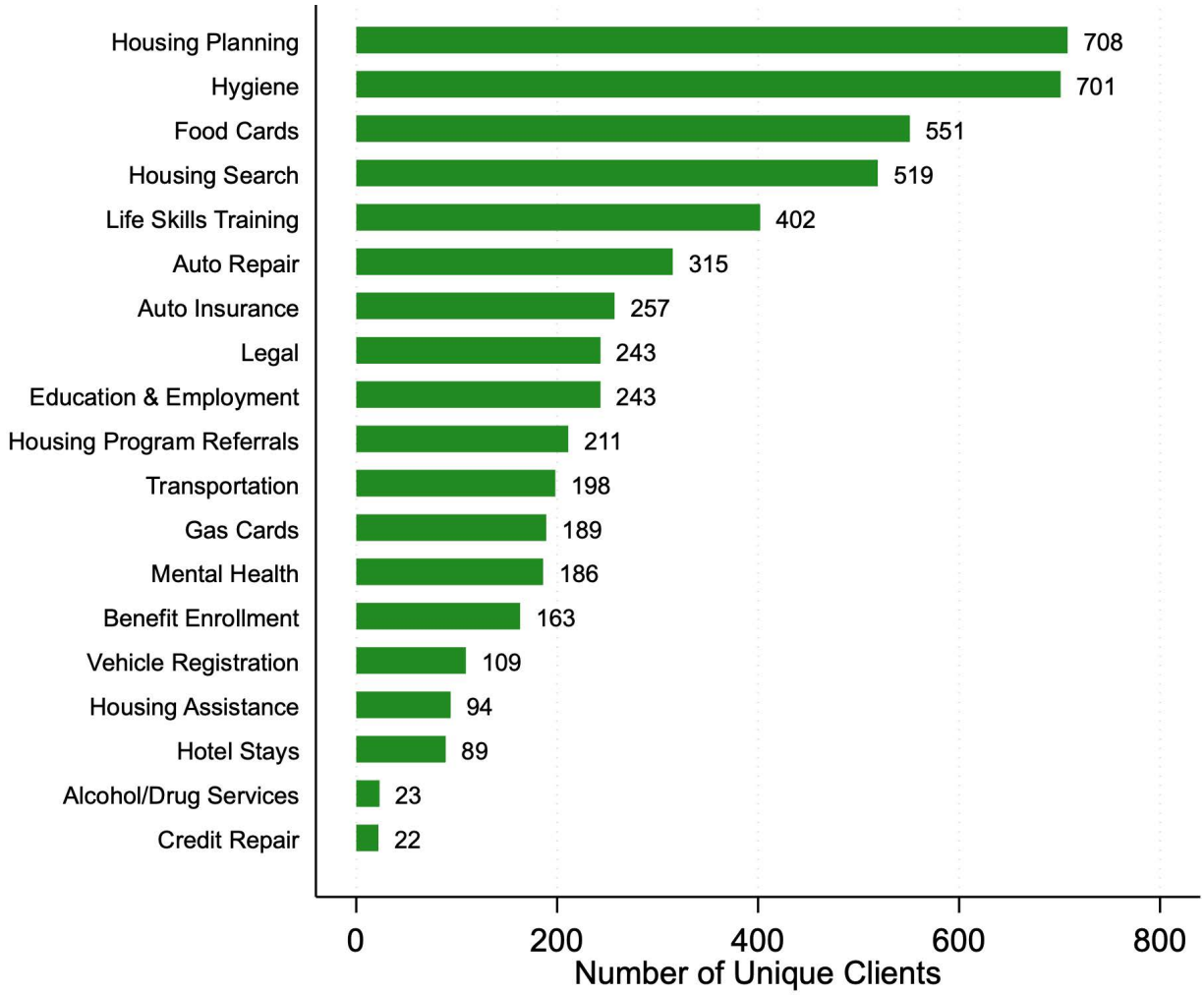
Chapter 4. SPLA Services and Participant Demographics, Employment, and Program Engagement

In this chapter, we first summarize the total amounts of supportive services that SPLA has provided over the study period. We then describe observable characteristics of participants in the program (demographics, employment, and duration of homelessness), characterize how these participants engage with SPLA (LOS, number of times enrolled), and summarize the amounts and types of financial assistance they receive.

SPLA Delivers a Broad Range of Supportive Services

Over the study period, SPLA provided basic necessities and housing-focused wraparound services to hundreds of participants. Figure 4.1 displays the number of unique participants who received these services over the study period.

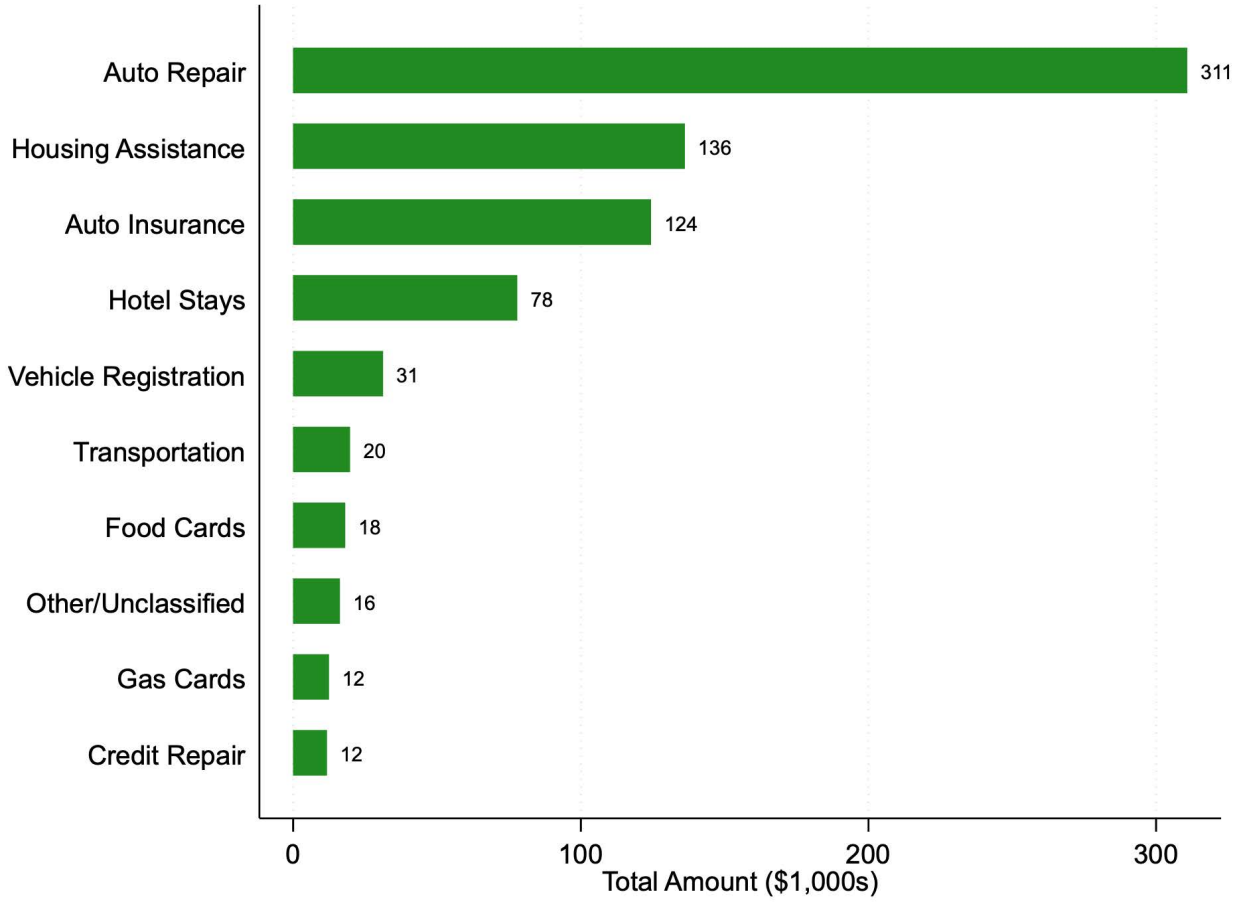
Figure 4.1. Unique Participants Served, by Service Category



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: This figure shows the number of unique participants who received various SPLA services during the study period. Certain lower-cost service categories, such as hygiene, food, and gas cards, are not well documented and likely understated. Services with low frequency are excluded for readability.

Over the study's duration, SPLA distributed more than $760,000 in direct financial assistance to participants. More than 40 percent of expenditures went to vehicle repairs, and the remaining financial assistance was spread across rental and moving assistance, hotel stays, insurance, registration, and other smaller categories. Figure 4.2 displays the sum of SPLA's expenditures by category from July 2020 through December 2025.

Figure 4.2. Total Financial Assistance, by Category



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: This figure shows the total financial assistance paid by major category. *Other/unclassified* refers to payments for storage units, document assistance, educational supplies, items for employment and job search, and other small categories.

Participant Demographics

The majority of SPLA participants are Black, non-Hispanic and tend to be male. Participants tend to be middle-aged adults; there are also smaller shares of transition-age youth and adults over the age of 65. Nearly 80 percent are not chronically homeless, and fewer than 5 percent report a substance use disorder. Physical and mental health conditions are more prevalent, but the majority of participants do not report suffering from these conditions. Table 4.1 summarizes key demographics of the 1,501 unique SPLA participants in our sample.

Table 4.1. Demographics

Category	*N*	Percentage
Race		
Black/African American	610	40.6
White	581	38.7
Asian	62	4.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	18	1.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9	0.6
Multiracial/other	34	2.3
Gender		
Female	614	41.0
Male	867	57.9
Nonbinary	17	1.1
Veteran status		
Veteran	234	15.6
Nonveteran	1,232	82.1
Not collected	35	2.3
Age group		
Under 18	30	2.0
TAY (18–24)	69	4.6
25–34	325	21.8
35–44	315	21.1
45–54	320	21.4
55–64	289	19.4
65+	145	9.7
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	324	22.6
Non-Hispanic	1,112	77.4
Chronically homeless		
Yes	278	20.3
No	1,090	79.7
Physical disability		
Yes	392	26.1
No	967	64.4
Not collected	142	9.5
Mental health disorder		
Yes	447	29.8
No	876	58.4
Not collected	178	11.9
Substance use disorder		
Alcohol	28	1.9
Drug	21	1.4
Both	13	0.9
Not collected	185	12.3
No	1,254	83.5
Family structure		
Head of household	1,432	95.4
Child, spouse or other	69	4.6

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.
NOTE: TAY = transition-age youth. Summary statistics count heads of household and family members. Female includes transgender females. Male includes transgender males.

Veterans Are a Distinct Subgroup

Veterans constitute an important subgroup within SPLA, accounting for 16 percent of participants ($N = 234$) reflecting the program's focus on serving this population through the West LA VA lot. Compared with nonveteran participants, veterans are older (43 percent are ages 55 or older, compared with 27 percent of nonveterans), male (79 percent versus 54 percent), more likely to report a physical disability (37 percent versus 25 percent), and more likely to report a mental health disorder (39 percent versus 28 percent). Although veterans may apply for any SPLA lot available to the general population, the vast majority (87 percent) are served through the VA lot. Table 4.2 presents demographic characteristics of veteran SPLA participants and differences between the veteran and nonveteran populations.

Table 4.2. Veteran Demographics

	Veteran		Nonveteran	
Category	***N***	**Percentage**	***N***	**Percentage**
Total	234		1,232	
Race				
Black/African American	86	36.8	514	41.7
White	106	45.3	466	37.8
Asian	8	3.4	54	4.4
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	3.0	11	0.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0.9	7	0.6
Multiracial/other	3	1.3	31	2.5
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	50	21.4	270	21.9
Non-Hispanic	179	76.5	917	74.4
Gender				
Female	49	20.9	552	44.8
Male	185	79.1	662	53.7
Nonbinary	0	0.0	17	1.4
Age group				
Under 18	0	0.0	29	2.4
TAY (18–24)	3	1.3	61	5.0
25–34	31	13.2	289	23.5
35–44	53	22.6	253	20.5
45–54	47	20.1	269	21.8
55–64	58	24.8	228	18.5
65+	42	17.9	101	8.2
Chronically homeless				
Yes	48	20.5	226	18.3
No	186	79.5	892	72.4
Physical disability				
Yes	87	37.2	304	24.7
No	111	47.4	840	68.2
Not collected	36	15.4	88	7.1

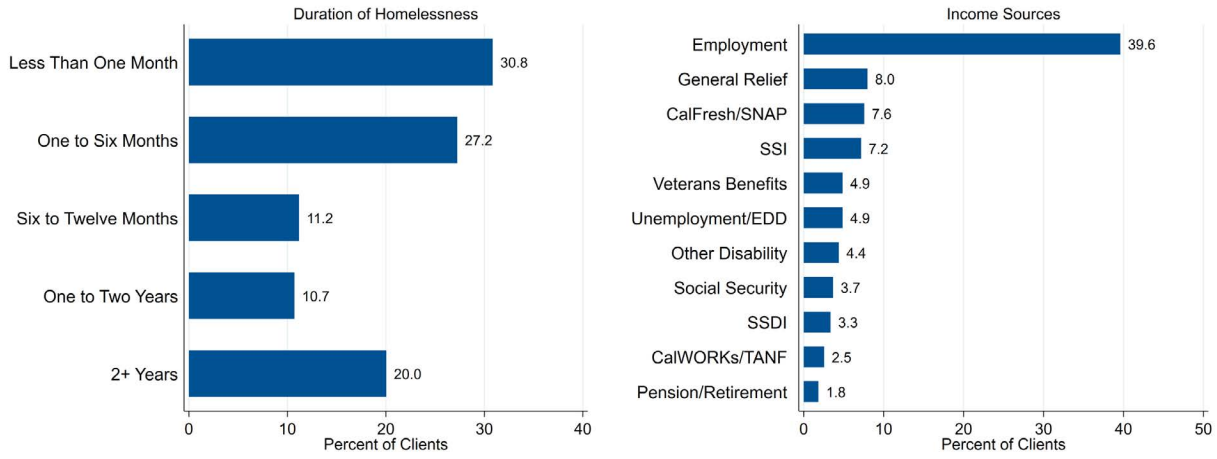
Category	Veteran		Nonveteran	
	N	Percentage	*N*	Percentage
Mental health disorder				
Yes	92	39.3	351	28.5
No	98	41.9	767	62.3
Not collected	44	18.8	114	9.3
Substance use disorder				
Alcohol	4	1.7	24	1.9
Drug	6	2.6	15	1.2
Both	1	0.4	12	1.0
No	173	73.9	1,065	86.4
Not collected	50	21.4	116	9.4
Family structure				
Head of household	231	98.7	1,172	95.1
Child, spouse, or other	3	1.3	60	4.9

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.
NOTE: Summary statistics count heads of household and family members. Female includes transgender females. Male includes transgender males.

Many Participants Are Employed and Have Been Homeless for a Short Period of Time

Nearly 70 percent of SPLA program enrollees through the Warmline have been homeless for less than one year and 30 percent have been homeless for less than one month. Nearly 40 percent of Warmline enrollees are employed, and many receive other income from public benefit sources. Figure 4.3 displays the distribution of durations of homelessness and income sources among enrollees through the Warmline.

Figure 4.3. Duration of Homelessness and Income Sources Reported by SPLA Warmline Enrollees

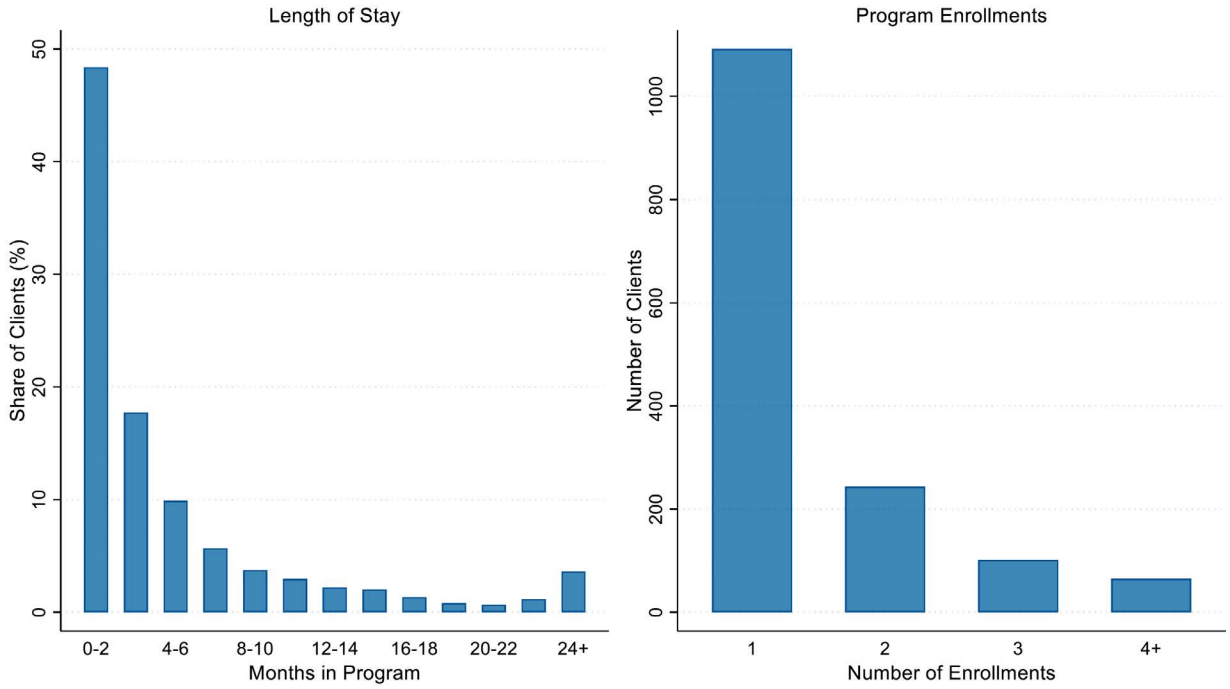


SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA Warmline.
NOTE: These figures show the share of participants reporting various durations of homelessness (left panel) and sources of income (right panel). Both are based on self-reported Warmline intake survey data.

Most Participants Stay Fewer Than Two Months

The majority of participants spend a short time in the program: Nearly 50 percent spent fewer than two months in an SPLA lot (cumulatively over all stays). Although most participants enrolled a single time, roughly 25 percent reenrolled at least once. Figure 4.4 displays the distribution of cumulative LOS and number of enrollments.

Figure 4.4. LOS and Number of Enrollments



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: These figures show the cumulative LOS of SPLA participants over all enrollments (left panel) and the number of enrollments (right panel).

Financial Assistance Can Be Substantial for Participants Who Receive It

The median SPLA participant does not receive any direct financial assistance. Given the relatively short median LOS, many participants might not be parked with SPLA long enough to need certain services (such as registration or vehicle repairs) or be eligible for services (such as rental assistance) that require potentially long spells to find housing. Financial assistance can be significant for participants who do receive it, ranging as high as $7,720 in total assistance across all categories. Table 4.3 presents summary statistics of total financial assistance and each category.

Table 4.3. Financial Assistance Summary Statistics

Category	Mean (All Participants)	SD	Max	Mean (Conditional on Receiving Any Financial Assistance)	*N* (Conditional on Receiving Any Financial Assistance)
Total financial assistance	$506	$987	$7,720	$1,218	623
Vehicle repair	$207	$545	$5,499	$1,029	302
Housing assistance	$84	$408	$5,744	$1,566	81
Auto insurance	$83	$276	$3,143	$488	255
Hotel stays	$52	$253	$3,275	$876	89
Vehicle registration	$21	$104	$1,204	$368	85
Transportation	$13	$67	$1,078	$124	160
Food cards	$12	$44	$550	$93	195
Other	$9	$66	$1,359	$230	57
Gas cards	$8	$41	$550	$115	109
Credit repair	$8	$75	$900	$691	17

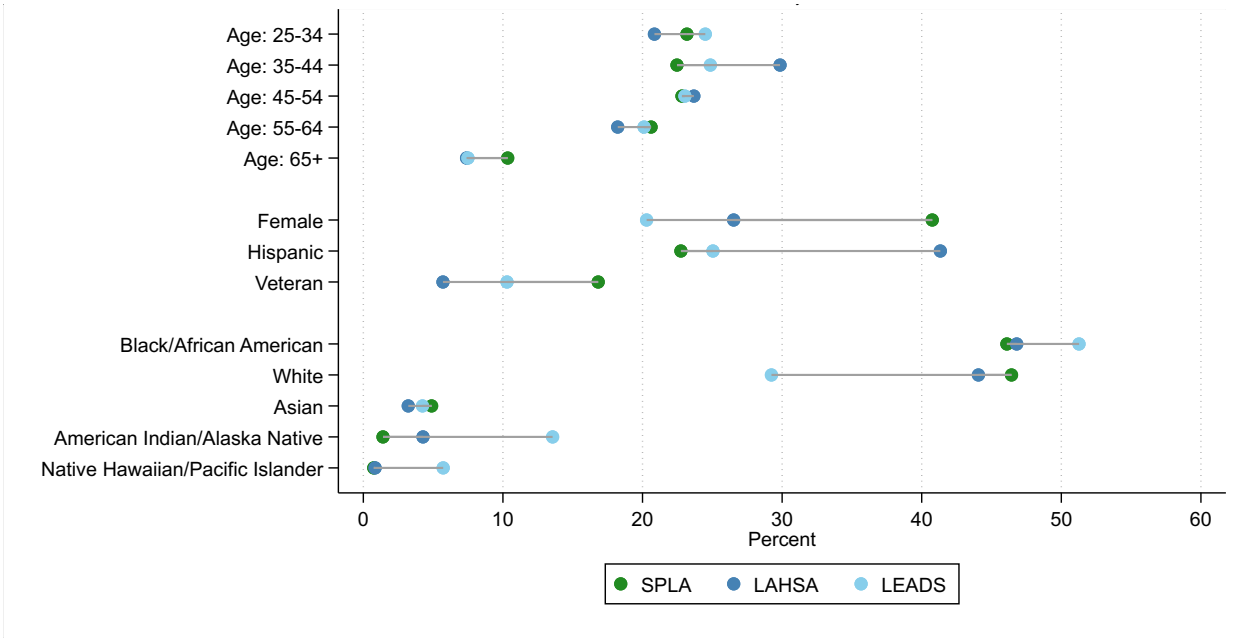
SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: The number of participants receiving nonzero financial support differs slightly from those reported in Figure 2.1. In some cases, there were records of participants receiving financial support, but the dollar amounts of support were missing. Transactions missing dollar amounts are excluded from calculations in this table. *Direct housing assistance* refers to security deposit, rent, furniture, and moving assistance.

SPLA Participants Are Less Chronically Homeless and More Employed Than Other Homeless Populations

Comparisons between SPLA participants and individuals in the LA LEADS (Abramson, 2026) and LAHSA (Economic Roundtable, 2025) data reveal important differences in the types of people that SPLA serves. Demographic differences are relatively minor, but measures of chronicity and financial stability deviate meaningfully.

The three different populations tend to be of similar ages, although individuals in the LAHSA data are slightly more likely to be in the 35–44 age bracket. The most-notable demographic differences between SPLA participants and other populations are on the dimensions of ethnicity, veteran status, and gender. SPLA participants are substantially more likely to be female than other populations. This might be expected given the female-specific services in the Edendale lot. SPLA participants are also less likely to be Hispanic than both LA LEADS and LAHSA, and SPLA disproportionately serves veterans (16 percent of SPLA, as opposed to 10 percent and 7 percent for LA LEADS and LAHSA, respectively), reflecting the program's focus on serving homeless veterans through the VA lot in West LA. Figure 4.5 displays demographic comparisons between SPLA participants and these two samples of people experiencing homelessness. Details of mean differences and significance tests appears in Table A.1 in the appendix.

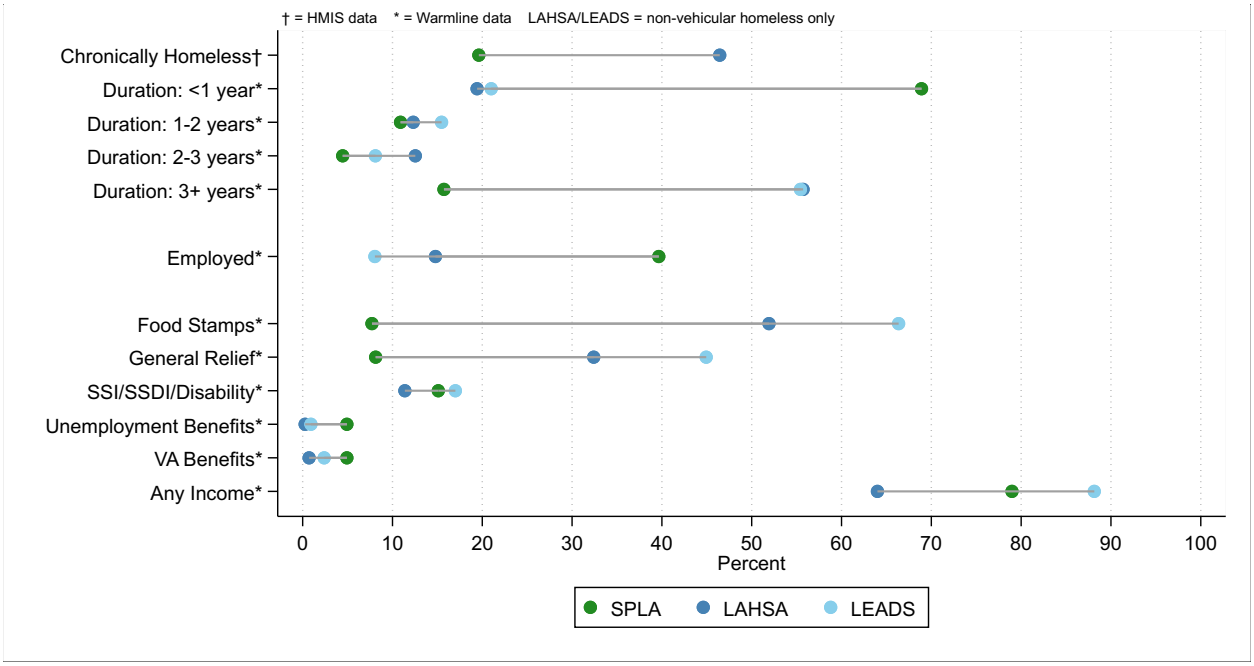
Figure 4.5. Demographic Differences Between SPLA Participants and Two Samples of the Broader Homeless Population of LA



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and Warmline; Economic Roundtable, 2025; and Abramson, 2026.
NOTE: This figure displays demographic differences between SPLA participants and the non-vehicular homeless in the 2025 LAHSA demographic survey and LA LEADS survey.

SPLA participants also differ from other populations in terms of chronicity and financial stability (Figure 4.6). SPLA participants are 27 percentage points less likely to be chronically homeless than their peers in the LAHSA data. Participants are also substantially more likely to report being homeless for less than one year—33 percentage points more than LAHSA and 48 percentage points more than LA LEADS. Although SPLA participants are slightly less likely than the LA LEADS population to receive some type of income (either employment or public benefits), the difference is primarily driven by substantially higher rates of food stamp and general relief receipt in LA LEADS, whereas SPLA participants are substantially more likely to earn employment income. In total, 61 percent of enrollees do not receive any form of public assistance, and only 4 percent of enrollees who are employed receive public assistance, suggesting a high baseline level of self-sufficiency. Comparisons between SPLA participants and the broader vehicular homeless subpopulations from these datasets show similar patterns of differences, but of a generally smaller magnitude. Relative to other vehicular homeless populations, SPLA participants are less chronically homeless, more likely to be employed, and less reliant on public benefits. Table A.2 in the appendix summarizes these differences.

Figure 4.6. Financial and Chronicity Differences Between SPLA Participants and Two Samples of the Broader Homeless Population of LA



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and Warmline; Economic Roundtable, 2025; and Abramson, 2026.
NOTE: This figure displays differences between SPLA participants and the non-vehicular homeless in the 2025 LAHSA demographic survey and LA LEADS survey along the dimensions of chronicity, duration of homelessness, employment, and income. We do not compare along dimensions of mental and physical disabilities and substance use disorders because of definitional differences between the various survey instruments.

Chapter 5. Housing-Focused Services Most Consistently Linked to Permanent Housing Exits

In this chapter we present analysis of average outcomes among SPLA participants and how those outcomes are moderated by a variety of services that SPLA provides. We examine the relationships between specific services and financial supports and three mutually exclusive exit destinations: permanent housing, temporary or interim housing, and unsheltered homelessness. We first explore how the exit destinations of participants who spend more time in the SPLA program (and thus receive a greater intensity of services) vary relative to participants with shorter stays. We then estimate a series of linear regressions to identify which services are correlated with these housing outcomes while controlling for observable characteristics and LOS.

Throughout the following chapter, it is important to note that this analysis is descriptive, and we cannot provide insights on the causal impacts of SPLA services. Without random assignment of services to individuals, we cannot estimate the housing situations that participants would have exited to in the absence of SPLA. Participants receive services based on a combination of assessed need, case manager judgment, unobservable participant characteristics, and resource availability, all of which also influence the probability of favorable housing outcomes, creating multiple potentially confounding factors that our research design cannot account for. Consequently, readers should interpret these results as identifying patterns of association, not as evidence of the causal impacts of SPLA's services.

SPLA Services Appear to Support Both Permanent Housing and Short-Term Stabilization

The analyses in this chapter suggest that SPLA's model works through multiple pathways. Some services—particularly housing planning, housing search support, transportation, and selected financial assistance—are most closely tied to exits to permanent housing. Other services, particularly hotel or motel assistance and crisis referrals, appear more connected to short-term stabilization and interim placement.

This distinction is important for how program impact is understood. Not all positive outcomes are immediate permanent housing exits. For some participants, SPLA services might be more closely linked to avoiding an unsheltered exit, connecting to temporary shelter or crisis housing, or maintaining stability long enough to pursue a longer-term housing pathway.

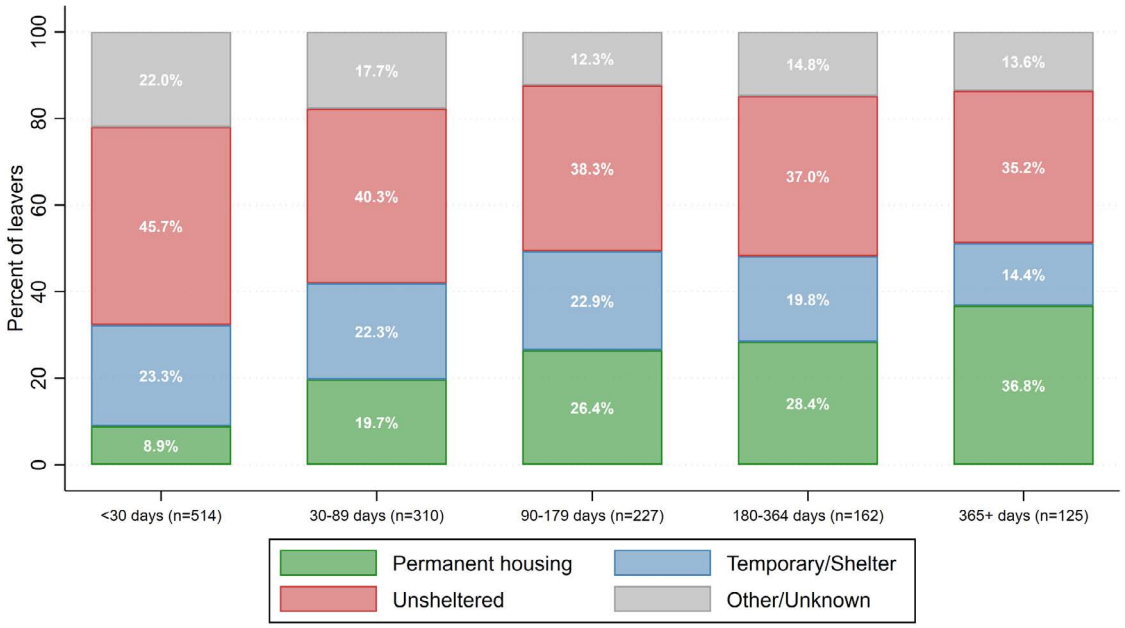
Overall, the results are consistent with SPLA serving many participants before they experience more-prolonged or more-severe housing instability. Service coordination, transportation support, targeted financial assistance, and emergency stabilization each appear to play different roles in participants' housing outcomes.

Exits to Permanent Housing and Temporary Shelter Vary by Time in Program

Participants who spend more time in an SPLA lot tend to have more-favorable housing outcomes when they exit the program than those who spend less time. Figure 5.1 presents summary data on participants' exit destinations after leaving SPLA, broken down by cumulative LOS. Fewer than 10 percent of participants who spend under 30 cumulative days with SPLA exit to permanent housing, whereas participants spending greater than 365 days exit to permanent housing at a rate of nearly 40 percent. The share exiting to permanent housing increases steadily with days in the program. The share of exits to temporary housing is relatively stable through tenures of 227 days, after which it declines in favor of more-permanent exits. Forty-six percent of participants spending fewer than 30 days exit to unsheltered homelessness, and this share steadily decreases to 35 percent for individuals residing with SPLA for longer than one year.

Although longer stays with SPLA appear positively associated with housing outcomes, several other factors might distinguish longer-staying participants from others. For example, a longer duration in one SPLA lot could signal stronger preferences for that specific neighborhood, which could indicate familial networks, job ties, or other external factors positively correlated with future housing stability. Additionally, completing rental applications, navigating housing subsidy waitlists, securing appropriate identification, and other prerequisites to stable housing take time, making short stays mechanically less likely to end in permanent housing. This issue is explored further in the following subsection when examining service use and housing outcomes. The observed association between longer stays and exits to permanent housing thus likely reflects a combination of the cumulative benefits of SPLA services, differences in participant characteristics, and timing-related factors—given that securing stable housing often requires time to complete applications, documentation, and subsidy processes.

Figure 5.1. Exit Destination, by LOS and Head of Household



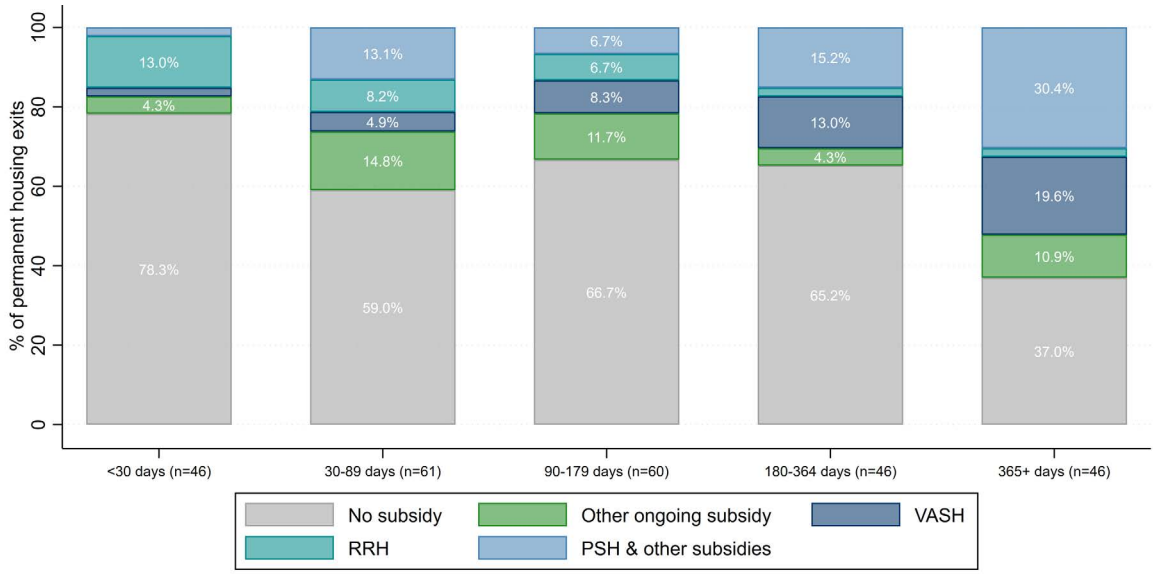
SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: This figure displays the breakdown of exit destinations across varying lengths of stay. Permanent housing exits are to rentals by the participant with or without subsidies and to permanent housing with friends or relatives. Temporary housing situations are shelters, hotels, or temporary living situations with friends or relatives. Unsheltered exits involve living in a vehicle, public space, or other area not meant for habitation.

A large share of participants exiting to permanent housing do so without requiring an ongoing housing subsidy. Of all participants classified as exiting to permanent housing, 61 percent exit to their own rentals or living situations with family that involve no ongoing subsidy. The remaining individuals exit to PSH, RRH, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), or other subsidized placements. Although RRH is grouped with permanent housing in the broader exit classification used in Figure 5.1, it differs from PSH and VASH in that the subsidy is time-limited rather than ongoing. The growth in the share of exits to permanent housing is more pronounced for the veteran subsample, growing from around 6 percent at less than 30 days to nearly 53 percent for 365 days or more (see Figure A.3 in the appendix).

Figure 5.2 displays how LOS correlates with the type of housing exit that participants achieve. Participants who spend shorter periods with SPLA are more likely to self-resolve or enter shorter-term RRH programs, whereas participants who stay longer than one year are less likely to self-resolve and more likely to obtain housing through PSH, VASH, or other long-term programs. The relatively high share of individuals able to secure housing without subsidies reflects the characteristics of the population that SPLA serves, including some participants who might require only short-term support while navigating temporary financial shocks. For participants with longer stays, SPLA might function as a stable base from which to navigate the extended processing times and waitlists associated with permanent public housing subsidies.

However, we cannot determine from this data whether earlier PSH and VASH exits reflect prior waitlist status or screening completed before SPLA enrollment.

Figure 5.2. Permanent Housing Exit Pathways, by LOS and Head of Household



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.
NOTE: This figure displays the breakdown of specific exit destinations for participants who exit to permanent housing. PSH and other subsidies—namely, housing choice vouchers, housing stability vouchers, public housing, and other uncategorized permanent support.

Housing Navigation and Transportation Support Show Strongest Service Association

Beyond providing safe and legal access to overnight parking, another core feature of SPLA's model is the wraparound services designed to help participants resolve their homelessness and facilitate longer-term stability. These can take the form of direct pathways to stable housing, such as housing search services and referrals to housing subsidies, or indirect pathways that facilitate stability. For example, as described in Chapter 2, 40 percent of financial expenditures go to vehicle maintenance and repair. Although this might appear to be an indirect method of achieving housing stability, access to a vehicle can help facilitate a housing search across a broader geographic area and ensure that participants can maintain employment, attend medical appointments and legal consultations, and generally support autonomy and self-sufficiency. Many participants' employment is also directly tied to their vehicle. Warmline intake surveys indicated that 20 percent of employed enrollees relied on some type of vehicle-dependent gig work (e.g., DoorDash) as their sole source of income. Short-term hotel stays could also support long-term housing indirectly. As discussed later in this section, these services appear more

closely associated with temporary or transitional exits than with permanent housing, but they still can play an important role in short-term stabilization by giving participants a safe indoor setting during periods of acute need, such as preparing for employment-related activities. In addition to financial assistance, other services and referrals help participants create a budget, gain employment, access public benefits, and develop skills that could lower the probability of returning to homelessness and generally improve participants' quality of life. The following section explores associations between these services and the exit destination outcomes of interest.

We estimated a series of linear probability models (LPMs) to examine how SPLA services are associated with three exit outcomes: permanent housing, interim or temporary shelter settings, and unsheltered homelessness. These models adjust for LOS and key participant characteristics (such as age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness, and prior living situations), so the estimates should be interpreted as conditional associations rather than simple descriptive differences. Across specifications, the strongest and most-consistent findings suggest that SPLA's service model is associated with greater housing stability, particularly through housing-focused support, transportation assistance, and selected forms of financial assistance. By contrast, emergency-oriented services—particularly hotel or motel assistance, crisis or bridge emergency housing referrals, and some direct transportation support—appear more closely linked to temporary shelter or short-term stabilization rather than permanent housing.

SPLA Housing-Related Services Are Most Associated with Permanent Housing Exits

Several services are positively associated with exits to permanent housing. Housing planning, housing search, transportation support, food assistance, and referrals to permanent housing programs all show positive relationships with permanent housing outcomes across one or more model specifications. Full regression results for all specifications are reported in Table A.4 in the appendix.

The clearest patterns are for housing-focused services. Participants who received housing and services plans or housing search and placement assistance were more likely to exit to permanent housing, suggesting that service coordination and active housing navigation are central parts of SPLA's pathway to housing stability. Transportation assistance also showed a consistent positive relationship with exits to permanent housing, which might reflect the importance of mobility in helping participants access critical appointments, complete paperwork, search for housing, and maintain connections to employment or support systems when their own vehicles are awaiting repairs, registration, or insurance.

Among financial assistance categories, food cards were the only individual spending type that showed a clear positive association with exits to permanent housing (excluding rental, moving, and furniture assistance which are mechanically related to permanent housing). However, food assistance is not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the probability of

exiting to unsheltered homelessness, a pattern we might expect if the relationship reflected a genuine causal pathway to housing stability. It is possible that, rather than reflecting an independent contribution to housing outcomes, this result is a spurious correlation or that it proxies for some other dimension of program engagement or participant characteristics not captured in our controls. By contrast, gas card assistance shows a negative association with permanent housing in some specifications. This result is difficult to interpret substantively and could similarly reflect unobserved participant need or instability rather than a negative effect of the assistance itself. As described earlier, SPLA staff also noted that gas cards were tracked inconsistently over time, which further limits interpretation of these coefficients.

Other monetary categories showed relatively small and insignificant relationships with permanent housing exit. Total financial assistance across all categories was positively associated with exits to permanent housing, although the magnitude of the relationship was modest. These null or weak relationships should not necessarily be interpreted as evidence that financial support does not matter. For some categories, such as vehicle repair assistance, receipt depends on whether a participant happens to experience a specific problem, such as a breakdown, rather than on a broader service strategy applied across participants. The more policy-relevant comparison, outcomes for a participant who experiences a breakdown and receives financial support versus one who experiences a breakdown and does not, is not observable in our data because SPLA aims to provide assistance to all participants who face such needs. This limits our ability to detect the stabilizing role that certain types of financial assistance might play in preventing unsheltered exits for participants who would otherwise face cascading consequences from unaddressed financial shocks.

Referrals to permanent housing providers also showed a positive association with exits to permanent housing. Although this is largely a mechanical result, it highlights the value of the role that SPLA plays in connecting participants with relevant public services.

Housing-Related Services Are Also Associated with Reduced Exits to Unsheltered Homelessness

Compared with the findings for permanent housing, fewer services showed consistent relationships with reduced exits to unsheltered homelessness. The clearest exception was housing planning, which SPLA uses to identify barriers and map out steps, goals, and resources needed to secure permanent housing. Participants who received this service were less likely to exit to an unsheltered setting, mirroring its positive relationship with permanent housing exits. Taken together, this suggests that housing planning is a significant facilitator of stable housing for SPLA participants because it is associated both with higher likelihood of a positive housing outcome and lower likelihood of a return to unsheltered homelessness.

There is also some evidence from the LOS quartile models that hotel or motel assistance could reduce the chance of an unsheltered exit for participants with the longest stays, although this relationship is less consistent than the findings for exits to permanent housing.

Notably, direct monetary assistance alone did not show a strong or consistent relationship with reduced unsheltered exits. This suggests that financial support, as measured here, might be less closely associated with avoiding unsheltered exits than service-based supports, such as housing planning. However, the regression models do not show why this pattern appears. It might reflect higher levels of need and lower baseline probability of achieving stable housing among participants receiving greater levels of assistance, or that the timing or amount of financial support was not sufficient on its own to shift housing outcomes.

Crisis and Emergency Services Are Linked to Stabilization, Not Permanent Housing

A different set of services appears to be associated with exits to interim, temporary, or institutional settings. Because these are mixed and often short-term placements, they should be understood as transitional outcomes rather than durable housing resolutions.

The clearest associations in this area involve emergency and crisis-oriented services. Hotel or motel assistance, crisis or bridge emergency housing referrals, hygiene support, and some transportation services were more often linked to temporary or interim exits than to permanent housing. This pattern suggests that these services could play an important stabilization role when participants face acute disruptions or safety risks, helping them move into a safer short-term setting even if permanent housing is not immediately achieved.

These findings are consistent with SPLA's role as both a prevention and stabilization program. Some services might not directly move participants into permanent housing but still reduce immediate risk and create a bridge away from unsheltered homelessness.

Participant Characteristics Are Also Associated with Exit Outcomes

Several participant characteristics also show meaningful relationships with exit outcomes. Veteran status appears to be associated with a lower probability of exiting to unsheltered homelessness, suggesting a potentially protective role for veteran-specific supports or service connections. By contrast, men and Hispanic/Latino participants are more likely to exit to unsheltered homelessness in some specifications. These patterns do not by themselves explain causal mechanisms, but they indicate that participant characteristics remain important in shaping housing trajectories even after accounting for service receipt. More broadly, these control-variable patterns suggest that participants might face different structural barriers and service needs, which likely shape whether temporary shelter, permanent housing, or unsheltered exit is the more likely outcome.

Chapter 6. SPLA Delivers Broad Services at Competitive Costs

Public funding for homelessness services has tightened because of recent reductions in federal funding (HUD, 2026), cuts to LAHSA (Barajas, 2026), and declines in state funding (Davalos, 2026). Given these increasingly scarce resources, it is essential to match individuals with the interventions best suited to their specific needs. The information in this report shows that SPLA serves a population that is often experiencing homelessness for the first time, has stronger ties to employment, and might be able to stabilize their housing situation with relatively little public investment. In an optimal allocation of resources, these individuals would receive interventions that minimize further negative shocks (such as towing or vehicle breakdowns) while working toward resolving homelessness with relatively low-cost supports rather than more-expensive housing vouchers or other alternatives that they might qualify for.

We begin this chapter by considering SPLA's financial data on its costs to serve participants, and how much of this cost is borne by public reimbursements versus other sources of support. We then provide estimated costs of a selection of other interim housing programs from the limited sources of data available to contextualize SPLA among the broader array of homelessness interventions. We explore cost comparisons in terms of economic costs (actual program operational costs) and budgetary costs to public partners (what housing providers are reimbursed by government agencies). All operational costs and reimbursement rates are reported in 2025 dollars.

Direct cost comparisons across homelessness interventions are inherently difficult. Programs differ in the scope and intensity of services they provide, the populations they serve, and the outcomes they are designed to achieve. RRH subsidies, for example, are generally quantified by the monthly subsidy amount but often include additional case management or other wraparound services not reflected in those costs. Additionally, because some of SPLA's revenue is directly passed through to participants in the form of rent and security deposits, it performs a similar function to an RRH provider for some participants, further complicating clean comparisons.

The cost estimates presented in this chapter are intended to provide preliminary evidence on how SPLA's operating costs compare with other common interim housing interventions in LA. They are not intended to be precise estimates that allow apples-to-apples comparisons across programs. Rather, they offer a point of reference for understanding the relative position of safe parking in the broader portfolio of interim housing interventions, and a starting point for future research on cost-effectiveness.

SPLA Financials

SPLA has reimbursement contracts with LAHSA to provide safe parking services. Each year, LAHSA budgets $40 per space-night capacity to set a contract ceiling.[2] SPLA then requests reimbursement for allowable expenses throughout the year, up to the contract ceiling. In fiscal year 2025, reimbursements totaled $2.6 million and were sufficient to cover direct program costs (onsite sanitation, security personnel, financial assistance, and case management). However, reimbursements did not fully cover administrative overhead or fundraising expenses. To address this gap, SPLA supplemented city funding with additional resources from government and nongovernment grants and from individual donor contributions. These supplemental funds ranged from $670,000 in 2024 to $1.8 million in 2025. Table 6.1 presents government contract revenues and expenses from SPLA's 2025 fiscal year.

Table 6.1. SPLA Fiscal Year 2025 Financials

Expense/Revenue Account	Amount (Millions of 2025 Dollars)
Program	−$2.6
Administrative	−$0.6
Fundraising	−$0.4
Total expenses	−$3.6
Government reimbursements	$2.6
Net	−$1.0

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from financial statements provided by SPLA.
NOTE: This table presents the total expenses for direct program operations, administrative overhead, and fundraising activities along with total revenue from government reimbursements and the difference between total reimbursements and expenses. Values might not sum because of rounding.

The shortfall in reimbursement revenues relative to expenses highlights a reality common to many housing providers: Reimbursement revenues do not equal actual operational costs. A 2023 report by Abt Associates found that 80 percent of interim housing providers indicated that bed rates were insufficient to cover operating costs (Abt Associates, 2023). However, reimbursement rates have increased in response to the Abt report and can now fully cover operational expenses for a larger share of providers (Office of the City Administrative Officer, 2026).

[2] SPLA staff, email communications with authors, August 11, 2026.

Comparisons with Other Service Providers

Costs to deliver interim housing vary across interventions, driven by differences in the structures used for shelters, accommodations provided, staffing levels, amenities, and other factors. The 2023 Abt report estimates that beds at A Bridge Home, a median provider, and an emergency shelter cost $47 and $89 per bed night, respectively. A separate study by the A-Mark Foundation estimates that tiny home villages require $61 per night to provide services and maintain housing units, given construction costs of roughly $47,000 per unit (Benitez, Conway, and Maddern, 2024). For comparison, we estimate a cost per space-night of $55 for SPLA by dividing total program, administrative, and fundraising expenses by the total number of space-nights of capacity used to calculate the annual budget ceiling. A similar study of Bay Area safe parking programs estimated costs of $66 per household night to operate round-the-clock safe parking programs (Elvins, 2026). Table 6.2 summarizes the estimated costs of these programs, adjusted to 2025 dollars using the California Consumer Price Index.

Table 6.2. Operating Costs for Interim Housing Programs

Program Type	Cost per Bed per Night (2025 Dollars)
Emergency shelter	$89
Tiny home villages	$61
SPLA	$55
A Bridge Home	$47

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA datasets; Abt Associates, 2023; and A-Mark foundation, 2024.
NOTE: SPLA cost per bed night is derived based on the number of bed nights implied by a $40 reimbursement rate and reimbursement revenue of $2.6 million in fiscal year 2025, resulting in an estimated 65,586 spaces. Costs are adjusted to 2025 dollars based on the California Consumer Price Index.

Reimbursement rates also vary considerably across interim housing providers in LA. As of July 2, 2025, following a rate increase approved by the LA City Council, interim housing sites (a definition that applies broadly to tiny homes, A Bridge Home, safe sleeping, and other interventions) with 50 or fewer beds are reimbursed at $116 per bed night, and sites with 51 or more beds are reimbursed at $89 per bed night. Motels and hotels contracted through the Inside Safe program were reimbursed at an average nightly rate of $117 (Office of the City Administrative Officer, 2024). From a city budget perspective, SPLA is a relatively low-cost service option for individuals experiencing vehicular homelessness who might otherwise seek to use other, more costly forms of shelter or interim housing, though it should be reiterated that reimbursement rates do not fully cover SPLA's operational costs.

These programs differ in the types and intensity of wraparound services provided, living arrangements, and case management, among other factors that limit straightforward cost

comparisons. A detailed analysis of the services provided and relative costs is beyond the scope of this report. However, given that SPLA provides a broad variety of supportive services, it appears to be a relatively cost-effective shelter strategy for people experiencing vehicular homelessness—one that delivers such key benefits as personal safety, access to sanitation, and a variety of programmatic supports aimed at helping participants during their experience of homelessness and facilitating exits, most often to unsubsidized housing.

Chapter 7. Discussion

Vehicular homelessness is a growing mode of living unsheltered in LA. Over the 2016–2020 period, the number of people living in vehicles increased by 55 percent (Giamarino, Blumenberg, and Brozen, 2024). As this population grows, so does the need for interventions specifically designed to serve vehicle dwellers whose needs, circumstances, and pathways out of homelessness differ in important ways from those living in tents or on the streets. Safe parking programs are one of the few interventions explicitly oriented toward this population, yet they account for a marginal share of public investment in homelessness services.

In fiscal year 2026, LA County and the City of Los Angeles budgeted a combined $1.6 billion for homeless services, of which safe parking accounted for only $5.2 million (0.3 percent), suggesting there is little risk of this service being overprovided relative to the scale of vehicular homelessness in the region (Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, 2025; City of Los Angeles, 2026; Szabo, 2026). This equates to roughly $147 per person experiencing vehicular homelessness according to the 2025 PIT count (LAHSA, 2025).

SPLA provides a suite of supportive services specifically targeted toward a population that is meaningfully different from the broader unsheltered homeless population in LA. SPLA participants are less likely to be chronically homeless and more likely to be employed. These characteristics suggest that SPLA reaches individuals at an earlier, potentially more tractable stage of homelessness at which relatively low-cost stabilizing interventions might be sufficient to facilitate a return to stable housing.

Consistent with this interpretation, the majority of participants who exit to permanent housing do so through unsubsidized pathways, including market-rate rentals (44 percent) and living situations with family or friends (17 percent). Certain SPLA services, such as housing planning and housing search assistance, are correlated with positive housing outcomes on exiting the program.

SPLA appears to be a relatively cost-effective intervention. At an estimated $55 per space-night, SPLA operates at costs comparable with or below those of other interim housing programs while still providing a comprehensive suite of supportive services.

Without a service like SPLA, the lower-acuity population it serves would likely either seek support from other, potentially more-costly providers, or remain unsheltered on the streets with greater security concerns, reduced access to food and sanitation, and more-tenuous connections to stabilizing services and referrals. These conditions could reasonably be expected to reduce the likelihood of successful exits to housing and to increase exposure to risk factors associated with chronic homelessness. Given SPLA's relatively low cost and its focus on a population that often resolves homelessness without subsidized housing, safe parking could serve an important preventative function in the broader portfolio of homelessness interventions.

Our study is subject to several important limitations. The analysis is descriptive and does not capture causal relationships between SPLA services and participant outcomes. Without an experimental or quasi-experimental comparison group—such as individuals similarly inclined to use safe parking services who ultimately did not—we cannot isolate the effects of the program from other factors that might influence housing outcomes. Future research into the causal effects of safe parking programs would be valuable.

Despite these limitations, this study provides important and previously undocumented evidence on the role of safe parking in a comprehensive landscape of services aimed at reducing homelessness in LA. SPLA, as the region's largest provider of this service, serves a distinct and growing population at a cost lower than many other homelessness interventions while facilitating exits to stable housing through a combination of stability, service coordination, and targeted financial support.

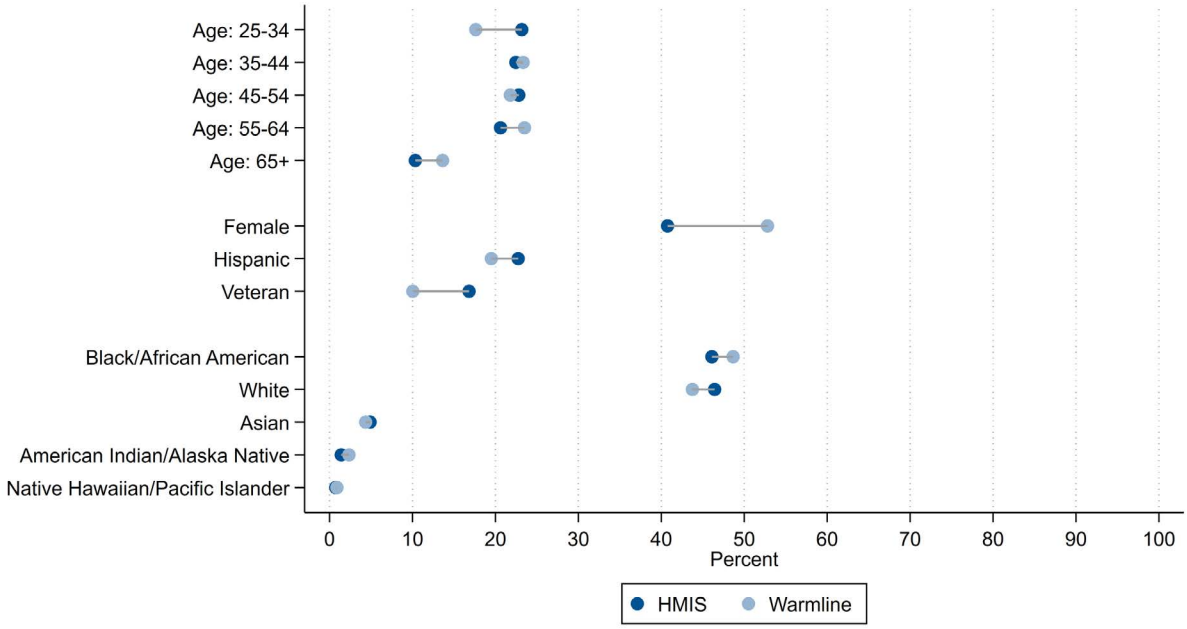
Appendix: Supplemental Data

The appendix provides full details and supplemental material for the body of this report.

Comparative Descriptive Statistics

Figure A.1 presents enrollee differences between the SPLA HMIS and Warmline datasets.

Figure A.1. Differences Between Warmline Enrollees and HMIS Participants



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and Warmline.
NOTE: Points show the share of participants in each demographic category for the HMIS participant sample and the Warmline enrollee sample. The figure is descriptive and intended to illustrate differences in observable characteristics across the two SPLA data sources. Because Warmline and HMIS records were not reliably linkable at the individual level, the two groups should not be interpreted as fully overlapping samples.

Tables A.1 and A.2 provide a detailed look at mean differences and significance tests comparing SPLA participants with LAHSA and LA LEADS participants. Table A.3. compares characteristics of veteran and nonveteran SPLA participants. Figures A.2 and A.3 present details on exit destinations.

Table A.1. Comparison of SPLA Participant Characteristics with LAHSA and LEADS Non-Vehicular Homeless Populations

Variable	SPLA Data Source	SPLA Mean (%)	LAHSA Mean (%)	LEADS Mean (%)	Diff. (SPLA–LAHSA)	*P*-value (SPLA vs LAHSA)	Diff. (SPLA–LEADS)	*P*-value (SPLA vs LEADS)
Age: 25–34	HMIS	23.2	20.9	24.5	2.3*	0.07	−1.3	0.54
Age: 35–44	HMIS	22.5	29.9	24.9	−7.4**	0.00	−2.4	0.26
Age: 45–54	HMIS	22.8	23.7	23.0	−0.9	0.52	−0.2	0.92
Age: 55–64	HMIS	20.6	18.2	20.1	2.4*	0.05	0.5	0.80
Age: 65+	HMIS	10.3	7.4	7.5	2.9**	0.00	2.8*	0.05
Female	HMIS	40.8	26.5	20.3	14.2**	0.00	20.5**	0.00
Hispanic	HMIS	22.8	41.3	25.0	−18.6**	0.00	−2.3	0.29
Veteran	HMIS	16.8	5.7	10.3	11.1**	0.00	6.5**	0.00
Chronically homeless	HMIS	19.6	46.4		−26.8**	0.00	.	
Black/African American	HMIS	45.0	47.9	44.2	−2.9	0.10	0.8	0.76
White	HMIS	45.3	45.9	26.1	−0.5	0.76	19.2**	0.00
Asian	HMIS	4.8	4.9	3.7	−0.1	0.85	1.1	0.29
American Indian/Alaska Native	HMIS	1.4	8.8	11.7	−7.4**	0.00	−10.3**	0.00
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	HMIS	0.7	1.4	4.9	−0.7*	0.07	−4.2**	0.00
Duration: <1 year	Warmline	68.9	19.4	21.0	49.5**	0.00	47.9**	0.00
Duration: 1–2 years	Warmline	10.9	12.3	15.5	−1.4	0.22	−4.6**	0.01
Duration: 2–3 years	Warmline	4.5	12.5	8.1	−8.1**	0.00	−3.6**	0.00
Duration: 3+ years	Warmline	15.7	55.7	55.4	−40.0**	0.00	−39.7**	0.00
Employed	Warmline	39.7	14.8	8.0	24.9**	0.00	31.6**	0.00
Food stamps	Warmline	7.7	51.9	66.4	−44.2**	0.00	−58.6**	0.00
General relief	Warmline	8.1	32.4	44.9	−24.3**	0.00	−36.8**	0.00
SSI/SSDI/disability	Warmline	15.1	11.4	17.0	3.7**	0.00	−1.9	0.31
Unemployment benefits	Warmline	4.9	0.3	0.9	4.6**	0.00	4.0**	0.00
VA benefits	Warmline	4.9	0.7	2.4	4.2**	0.00	2.5**	0.01
Any income	Warmline	79.0	64.0	88.1	15.0**	0.00	−9.2**	0.00

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA Warmline and HMIS; Economic Roundtable, 2025; and Abramson, 2026.

NOTE: This table compares selected characteristics of SPLA participants with corresponding estimates from LAHSA and LEADS. LAHSA and LEADS sample limited to individuals not living in a car, van, or recreational vehicle (RV). SPLA estimates are drawn from two internal sources: HMIS for demographic and housing-history variables, and Warmline records for duration of homelessness, employment, and income-related variables. Because these variables come from different SPLA data systems, they do not all refer to the same underlying sample. Differences are reported as SPLA minus the comparison group. SSDI = Social Security Disability Insurance; SSI = Supplemental Security Income, P-values are from tests of differences in means. A blank cell indicates that a comparable measure was not available. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$.

Table A.2. Comparison of SPLA Participant Characteristics with LAHSA and LEADS Vehicular Homeless Populations

Variable	SPLA Data Source	SPLA Mean (%)	LAHSA Mean (%)	LEADS Mean (%)	Diff. (SPLA–LAHSA)	*P*-value (SPLA vs LAHSA)	Diff. (SPLA–LEADS)	*P*-value (SPLA vs LEADS)
Age: 25–34	HMIS	23.2	25.4	16.0	−2.2	0.31	7.2	0.15
Age: 35–44	HMIS	22.5	25.7	24.0	−3.3	0.13	−1.5	0.76
Age: 45–54	HMIS	22.8	22.1	26.7	0.7	0.74	−3.8	0.44
Age: 55–64	HMIS	20.6	15.8	20.0	4.8**	0.02	0.6	0.90
Age: 65+	HMIS	10.3	11.0	13.3	−0.6	0.68	−3.0	0.41
Female	HMIS	40.8	41.5	22.7	−0.8	0.75	18.1**	0.00
Hispanic	HMIS	22.8	44.0	31.1	−21.2**	0.00	−8.3*	0.10
Veteran	HMIS	16.8	3.3	5.3	13.6**	0.00	11.5**	0.01
Chronically homeless	HMIS	19.6	36.7		−17.1**	0.00		
Black/African American	HMIS	45.0	52.5	32.0	−7.5**	0.02	13.0**	0.03
White	HMIS	45.3	40.7	34.7	4.7	0.13	10.7*	0.07
Asian	HMIS	4.8	4.7	2.7	0.1	0.93	2.1	0.40
American Indian/Alaska Native	HMIS	1.4	8.1	13.3	−6.7**	0.00	−12.0**	0.00
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	HMIS	0.7	0.9	2.7	−0.2	0.71	−1.9*	0.07
Duration: <1 year	Warmline	68.9	34.1	21.3	34.8**	0.00	47.6**	0.00
Duration: 1–2 years	Warmline	10.9	16.1	10.7	−5.2**	0.00	0.2	0.95
Duration: 2–3 years	Warmline	4.5	13.2	17.3	−8.8**	0.00	−12.9**	0.00
Duration: 3+ years	Warmline	15.7	36.5	50.7	−20.8**	0.00	−34.9**	0.00
Employed	Warmline	39.7	22.1	17.3	17.5**	0.00	22.3**	0.00
Food stamps	Warmline	7.7	58.3	68.0	−50.6**	0.00	−60.3**	0.00
General relief	Warmline	8.1	20.2	32.0	−12.0**	0.00	−23.9**	0.00
SSI/SSDI/disability	Warmline	15.1	15.3	21.6	−0.2	0.91	−6.5	0.13
Unemployment benefits	Warmline	4.9	0.8	0.0	4.2**	0.00	4.9*	0.05
VA benefits	Warmline	4.9	0.9	1.4	4.0**	0.00	3.6	0.16
Any income	Warmline	79.0	72.7	93.3	6.3**	0.00	−14.4**	0.00

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA Warmline and HMIS; Economic Roundtable, 2025; and Abramson, 2026.

NOTE: This table compares selected characteristics of SPLA participants with corresponding estimates from LAHSA and LEADS. LAHSA and LEADS sample is limited to vehicular homeless populations who are not participating in a safe parking program. SPLA estimates are drawn from two internal sources: HMIS for demographic and housing-history variables, and Warmline records for duration of homelessness, employment, and income-related variables. Because these variables come from different SPLA data systems, they do not all refer to the same underlying sample. Differences are reported as SPLA minus the comparison group. *P*-values are from tests of differences in means. A blank cell indicates that a comparable measure was not available. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$.

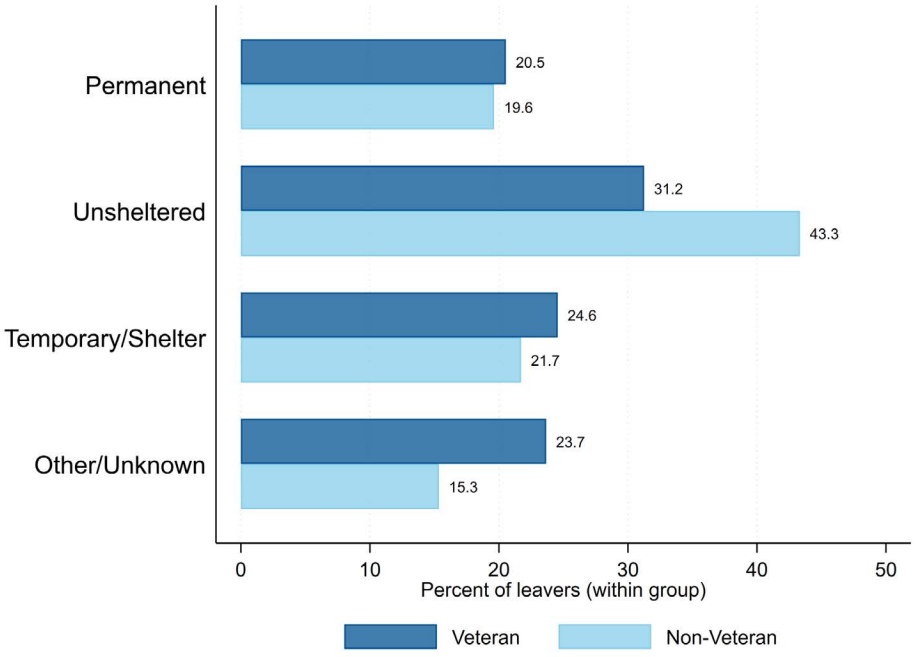
Table A.3. Characteristics of Veteran and Nonveteran SPLA Participants

	Veteran		Nonveteran	
Category	***N***	**Percentage**	***N***	**Percentage**
(Denominator)	234		1232	
Race				
Black/African American	86	37	514	42
White	106	45	466	38
Asian	8	3	54	4
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	3	11	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	1	7	1
Multiracial/other	3	1	31	3
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	50	21	270	22
Non-Hispanic	179	76	917	74
Gender				
Female	49	21	552	45
Male	185	79	662	54
Nonbinary	0	0	17	1
Age group				
Under 18	0	0	29	2
TAY (18-24)	3	1	61	5
25-34	31	13	289	23
35-44	53	23	253	21
45-54	47	20	269	22
55-64	58	25	228	19
65+	42	18	101	8
Chronically homeless				
Yes	48	21	226	18
No	186	79	892	72
Physical disability				
Yes	87	37	304	25
No	111	47	840	68
Not collected	36	15	88	7
Mental health disorder				
Yes	92	39	351	28
No	98	42	767	62
Not collected	44	19	114	9

Category	Veteran		Nonveteran	
	N	Percentage	*N*	Percentage
Substance use disorder				
Alcohol	4	2	24	2
Drug	6	3	15	1
Both	1	0	12	1
No	173	74	1065	86
Not collected	50	21	116	9
Family structure				
Head of household	231	99	1172	95
Child, spouse, or other	3	1	60	5

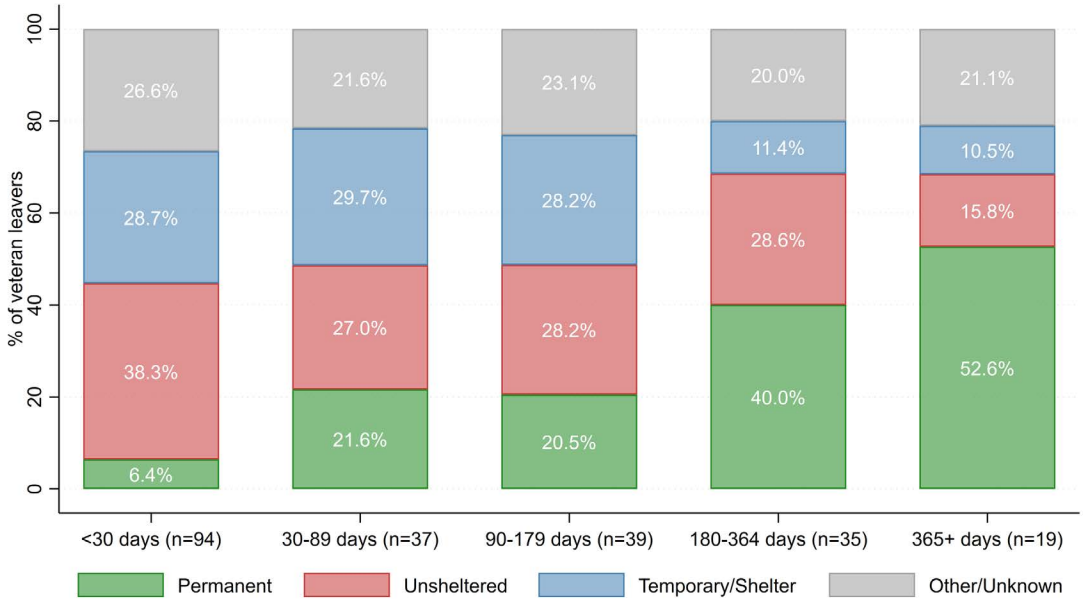
SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.
NOTE: Summary statistics count heads of household and family members. Female includes transgender females. Male includes transgender males.

Figure A.2. Exit Destination of Veteran and Nonveteran SPLA Participants



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.

Figure A.3. Exit Destinations, by Length of Stay, Among Veteran SPLA Leavers



SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS.

Regression Specifications and Full Results

Analytic Sample and Model Specifications

To examine the relationship between SPLA services and exit outcomes, we analyzed the combined HMIS and financial assistance tracker data on SPLA participants, but we restricted our data to heads of household who exited the program. We did this because data are more complete for heads of household and exit destination is defined only for those who have left the program. The resulting analytic file for this analysis contains 1,338 unique individuals.

We defined three primary binary outcomes:

1. exit to permanent housing, which includes a household head renting a unit with or without a subsidy, entering homeownership with or without subsidy, and living with family or friends with permanent tenure
2. exit to unsheltered homelessness, which includes places not meant for human habitation such as streets, vehicles, parks, or abandoned buildings; and
3. exits to temporary housing, such as motels, emergency shelters, temporary living with relatives or friends, and other interim housing

These outcomes are mutually exclusive and represent the most policy-relevant outcome variables available in our data.

The financial assistance information was drawn from two sources: SPLA's internal financial assistance tracker and the HMIS-extracted financial assistance records. The internal tracker

accounts for both monetary transactions and service-only entries (such as in-kind support and referrals), whereas the HMIS dataset focuses on monetary transactions only. Because the two datasets recorded some of the same payments, we first combined transactions into similar categories of services and dropped duplicated transactions.

The analytic dataset contained 29 different financial and nonfinancial service categories. For the regression analysis, we restricted our explanatory variables to 20 core categories. We excluded categories with (1) *sparse variation*, defined as fewer than 70 participants served, and (2) categories likely to be endogenous to a permanent housing exit, such as rental, moving, and furniture assistance. These categories were excluded because they are often provided only once a housing placement is already underway or secured, making them poor predictors of the transition itself. The retained categories contain both monetary transactions and nonmonetary forms of support.

We estimated LPMs regressing each binary exit outcome on service measures and demographic controls. Control variables were continuous LOS in 30-day units, age, gender, race/ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness status, and prior living situation (unsheltered, shelter/transitional housing, institutional settings, temporary/doubled-up, stably housed). We use LPMs because the outcomes are binary and the coefficients can be interpreted directly as percentage-point differences in outcome probabilities. Given that the analysis is descriptive and not designed to identify causal effects, we prioritized a specification that is straightforward to interpret across the multiple service measures examined here. We also estimated logit and probit models and re-estimated the specifications on a broader sample consisting of all adults age 18 and older as a robustness check. Both checks yielded the same substantive patterns in coefficient signs and statistical significance, but the results are not presented here for simplicity. All regression models were estimated using heteroscedasticity-robust standard errors.

To assess whether findings were sensitive to how we measured services, we estimated several alternative specifications. First, we used binary indicators for whether a participant ever received each service category. Second, we used counts of the total number of interactions in each service category to capture service intensity. Third, we estimated models using service rates per seven-day period, defined as the number of service interactions divided by time in the program measured in weekly units. For these rate-based models, we excluded LOS from controls because it is the denominator of the rate variable, creating mechanical endogeneity.

Fourth, we estimated service-count models separately by quartile of the LOS distribution to assess whether the relationship between services and outcomes differed for shorter-staying participants versus longer-staying ones. Finally, we estimated models using both the total dollar amount (excluding dollar amounts on the excluded categories) and category-specific dollar amounts, measured in $100 increments.

LOS quartiles (Qs) were defined as follows: Q1 consists of participants with stays of 0 to 15 days; Q2 involves stays of 16 to 63 days; Q3, stays of 64 to 174 days; and Q4, stays of 175 days or more. Quartile models were estimated separately in these groups to test whether service-

outcome relationships differed across program tenures of different lengths. Because these models are estimated on smaller subsamples of roughly 250 to 300 participants while retaining a relatively large set of service and control variables, they should be interpreted with additional caution. In particular, estimates for rare services or outcomes with limited in-quartile variation are likely to be less precise and are best viewed as exploratory.

Regression Results

Tables A.4–A.6 report LPMs estimated among heads of household who exited the program. The three tables correspond to the three modeled outcomes: exit to permanent housing, exit to unsheltered homelessness, and exit to temporary or interim housing. Each table reports results for six alternative specifications: service dummies, service counts, service rates per seven-day period, service counts stratified by LOS quartile, total financial assistance amount, and category-specific financial assistance amounts. All models control for age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness, prior living situation, and, as applicable, LOS. Rate-based models exclude LOS because it is incorporated into the denominator of the service-rate measure. All standard errors are heteroscedasticity-robust.

Table A.4. LPMs of Exit to Permanent Housing Among Heads of Household

Outcome: Exit to Permanent Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Total financial assistance amount	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.004**	—
								(0.002)	
Gas cards	−0.083**	−0.050*	−0.019	0.349***	−0.011	−0.161**	−0.034	—	−0.018
	(0.040)	(0.027)	(0.104)	(0.133)	(0.115)	(0.071)	(0.040)		(0.028)
Vehicle repair assistance	0.010	−0.002	−0.051	0.132	−0.003	−0.036	0.025	—	0.001
	(0.033)	(0.018)	(0.088)	(0.109)	(0.061)	(0.043)	(0.029)		(0.003)
Auto insurance (Including AAA)	0.008	0.003	0.029	0.015	−0.060	−0.016	−0.004	—	−0.001
	(0.036)	(0.023)	(0.171)	(0.109)	(0.088)	(0.047)	(0.040)		(0.005)
Vehicle registration	0.003	0.024	0.006	−0.175	0.072	0.004	0.046	—	0.009
	(0.048)	(0.039)	(0.255)	(0.200)	(0.133)	(0.079)	(0.064)		(0.013)
Transportation	0.030	0.040**	0.408*	0.480**	−0.043	0.025	0.040	—	0.027
	(0.047)	(0.017)	(0.223)	(0.229)	(0.084)	(0.044)	(0.026)		(0.022)
Other vehicle support (car payment, smog, impound)	−0.059	−0.036	−0.566	−0.042	−0.191	0.049	−0.064	—	0.010
	(0.058)	(0.051)	(0.565)	(0.323)	(0.198)	(0.098)	(0.086)		(0.032)
Food assistance (food cards and onsite meals)	0.028	0.023**	0.038	−0.052	0.065	0.013	0.026*	—	0.087***
	(0.035)	(0.010)	(0.052)	(0.067)	(0.042)	(0.039)	(0.014)		(0.030)
Hygiene items	0.049	0.032	−0.050	0.093**	0.005	0.040	0.007	—	—
	(0.031)	(0.020)	(0.036)	(0.047)	(0.047)	(0.045)	(0.039)		
Housing planning	0.072**	0.057***	−0.033	0.035	0.027	0.024	0.057	—	—
	(0.029)	(0.022)	(0.045)	(0.062)	(0.047)	(0.051)	(0.044)		

Outcome: Exit to Permanent Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Housing search	0.078**	0.043*	0.038	0.038	0.080	0.053	0.023	—	—
	(0.031)	(0.022)	(0.053)	(0.077)	(0.054)	(0.050)	(0.040)		
Mental health services	−0.069*	−0.054	0.008	0.060	−0.098	−0.149*	0.022	—	—
	(0.041)	(0.036)	(0.066)	(0.117)	(0.099)	(0.080)	(0.062)		
Legal services	0.048	0.031	−0.013	−0.114	0.005	0.096	−0.004	—	—
	(0.041)	(0.034)	(0.056)	(0.170)	(0.096)	(0.071)	(0.060)		
Life skills	0.047	−0.000	0.148	−0.097	0.069	0.095	−0.039	—	—
	(0.035)	(0.027)	(0.156)	(0.121)	(0.069)	(0.062)	(0.047)		
Employment services	−0.013	−0.002	0.167	−0.042	0.104	0.022	−0.056	—	0.124
	(0.038)	(0.030)	(0.313)	(0.258)	(0.093)	(0.059)	(0.051)		(0.122)
Emergency hotel/motel	−0.051	−0.033	−0.269	−0.081	−0.065	−0.079	0.006	—	0.001
	(0.052)	(0.031)	(0.278)	(0.304)	(0.128)	(0.060)	(0.054)		(0.005)
Public benefits assistance	−0.019	−0.022	−0.082	−0.068	0.064	−0.175**	0.011	—	—
	(0.042)	(0.038)	(0.314)	(0.239)	(0.102)	(0.083)	(0.064)		
Crisis/bridge/emergency housing referral	0.026	0.005	−0.156	−0.142	−0.057	0.113	−0.055	—	—
	(0.044)	(0.040)	(0.183)	(0.129)	(0.160)	(0.076)	(0.073)		
RRH referral	0.070	0.069	−0.060	−0.251*	0.861***	0.337**	−0.223	—	—
	(0.079)	(0.079)	(0.141)	(0.131)	(0.270)	(0.166)	(0.161)		
Permanent housing referral	0.153*	0.156*	1.324*	0.000	0.477***	0.143	0.005	—	—
	(0.081)	(0.082)	(0.746)	(.)	(0.159)	(0.175)	(0.153)		
Other/miscellaneous assistance	0.000	0.004	−0.104	−0.076	0.018	−0.021	0.011	—	0.022
	(0.028)	(0.017)	(0.068)	(0.064)	(0.043)	(0.037)	(0.030)		(0.022)
LOS in 30-day units (months)	0.005**	0.002	—	0.013	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.009***	0.009***
	(0.002)	(0.003)		(0.027)	(0.011)	(0.006)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Constant	0.135***	0.162***	0.203***	0.153**	0.117	0.209	0.345**	0.189***	0.201***

Outcome: Exit to Permanent Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
	(0.051)	(0.050)	(0.054)	(0.074)	(0.112)	(0.145)	(0.153)	(0.050)	(0.050)
N	1172	1172	1125	299	302	293	278	1172	1172
R-squared	0.094	0.095	0.026	0.144	0.161	0.148	0.117	0.050	0.061

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: Table reports coefficients from LPMs estimated among heads of household who exited the program. The outcome equals 1 if the participant exited to permanent housing. Only service-related variables and LOS are shown; all models also control for age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness, and prior living situation. LOS is excluded from the service-rate specification because it is incorporated into the denominator of the rate measure. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. A dash (—) indicates that the variable was not included in the corresponding specification.

Table A.5. LPMs of Exit to Unsheltered Situation Among Heads of Household

Outcome: Exit to Unsheltered Situation	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Total financial assistance amount	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.000	—
								(0.002)	
Gas cards	−0.011	0.015	0.139	−0.184	−0.190	0.116	−0.002	—	−0.015
	(0.049)	(0.033)	(0.120)	(0.243)	(0.148)	(0.080)	(0.040)		(0.034)
Vehicle repair assistance	0.038	0.032	0.086	−0.087	−0.031	0.096*	0.022	—	0.003
	(0.041)	(0.022)	(0.102)	(0.200)	(0.080)	(0.049)	(0.029)		(0.003)
Auto insurance (including AAA)	0.054	0.031	0.416**	0.295	0.109	−0.005	0.045	—	0.007
	(0.044)	(0.028)	(0.198)	(0.199)	(0.114)	(0.053)	(0.040)		(0.006)
Vehicle registration	−0.011	−0.027	−0.120	−0.167	−0.184	−0.001	−0.024	—	−0.020
	(0.059)	(0.048)	(0.295)	(0.365)	(0.172)	(0.090)	(0.064)		(0.015)
Transportation	−0.050	−0.026	−0.510**	−0.577	−0.138	−0.014	−0.017	—	−0.026
	(0.057)	(0.021)	(0.258)	(0.418)	(0.109)	(0.050)	(0.026)		(0.027)
Other vehicle support (car payment, smog, impound)	−0.025	−0.029	0.641	0.385	0.172	0.095	−0.131	—	−0.043
	(0.071)	(0.062)	(0.654)	(0.590)	(0.257)	(0.111)	(0.087)		(0.038)
Food assistance (food cards and onsite meals)	0.079*	−0.018	0.014	0.147	0.050	0.002	−0.029**	—	−0.011
	(0.043)	(0.012)	(0.060)	(0.122)	(0.054)	(0.044)	(0.014)		(0.037)
Hygiene items	−0.055	−0.020	−0.018	−0.083	−0.029	−0.009	−0.002	—	—
	(0.038)	(0.024)	(0.042)	(0.086)	(0.060)	(0.051)	(0.039)		
Housing planning	−0.076**	−0.047*	0.030	−0.088	−0.066	0.003	−0.050	—	—
	(0.036)	(0.027)	(0.052)	(0.113)	(0.061)	(0.057)	(0.045)		
Housing search	−0.028	0.007	0.078	0.068	0.068	−0.065	0.034	—	—
	(0.039)	(0.027)	(0.061)	(0.141)	(0.070)	(0.057)	(0.040)		

Outcome: Exit to Unsheltered Situation	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Mental health services	0.033	0.031	−0.036	−0.270	0.076	0.025	−0.001	—	—
	(0.051)	(0.044)	(0.077)	(0.214)	(0.128)	(0.090)	(0.062)		
Legal services	−0.027	−0.006	−0.064	0.020	0.052	0.038	−0.001	—	—
	(0.050)	(0.041)	(0.065)	(0.311)	(0.125)	(0.080)	(0.061)		
Life skills	−0.002	0.030	0.231	0.253	−0.032	−0.018	0.050	—	—
	(0.043)	(0.033)	(0.180)	(0.222)	(0.089)	(0.070)	(0.047)		
Employment services	0.016	0.007	−0.223	−0.128	−0.065	−0.072	0.109**	—	−0.162
	(0.047)	(0.036)	(0.362)	(0.471)	(0.121)	(0.067)	(0.051)		(0.148)
Emergency hotel/motel	−0.015	−0.046	0.024	0.080	0.006	0.030	−0.109**	—	−0.004
	(0.064)	(0.038)	(0.322)	(0.555)	(0.166)	(0.067)	(0.054)		(0.007)
Public benefits assistance	−0.065	−0.064	−0.578	−0.303	−0.033	−0.064	−0.071	—	—
	(0.051)	(0.047)	(0.363)	(0.437)	(0.133)	(0.094)	(0.065)		
Crisis/bridge/emergency housing referral	0.008	0.025	−0.121	−0.243	−0.017	−0.020	0.026	—	—
	(0.054)	(0.049)	(0.211)	(0.236)	(0.207)	(0.086)	(0.074)		
RRH referral	−0.103	−0.110	−0.030	−0.050	−0.458	−0.131	−0.020	—	—
	(0.097)	(0.097)	(0.164)	(0.239)	(0.349)	(0.188)	(0.162)		
Permanent housing referral	−0.129	−0.120	−0.565	0.000	−0.088	−0.294	−0.087	—	—
	(0.099)	(0.101)	(0.864)	(.)	(0.206)	(0.199)	(0.154)		
Other/miscellaneous assistance	0.055	0.045**	0.167**	0.082	0.070	0.070*	0.031	—	0.017
	(0.034)	(0.021)	(0.078)	(0.117)	(0.056)	(0.041)	(0.030)		(0.026)
LOS in 30−day units (months)	−0.002	−0.002	—	−0.063	−0.010	−0.003	0.000	−0.003	−0.003
	(0.003)	(0.003)		(0.048)	(0.014)	(0.007)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.002)

Outcome: Exit to Unsheltered Situation	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-Day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Constant	0.465***	0.461***	0.415***	0.638***	0.306**	0.453***	0.415***	0.456***	0.458***
	(0.063)	(0.062)	(0.063)	(0.136)	(0.145)	(0.165)	(0.154)	(0.061)	(0.061)
N	1172	1172	1125	299	302	293	278	1172	1172
R–squared	0.055	0.057	0.063	0.123	0.149	0.109	0.122	0.038	0.045

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: Table reports coefficients from LPMs estimated among heads of household who exited the program. The outcome equals 1 if the participant exited to unsheltered situation. Only service-related variables and LOS are shown; all models also control for age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness, and prior living situation. LOS is excluded from the service-rate specification because it is incorporated into the denominator of the rate measure. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. A dash (—) indicates that the variable was not included in the corresponding specification.

Table A.6. LPMs of Exit to Temporary Housing Among Heads of Household

Outcome: Exit to Temporary Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Total financial assistance amount	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.002	—
								(0.002)	
Gas cards	0.019	−0.017	−0.063	0.078	0.181	0.031	−0.035	—	−0.013
	(0.042)	(0.028)	(0.104)	(0.205)	(0.135)	(0.068)	(0.031)		(0.029)
Vehicle repair assistance	0.023	0.006	0.109	0.036	0.066	0.005	−0.029	—	0.002
	(0.035)	(0.019)	(0.088)	(0.168)	(0.072)	(0.042)	(0.022)		(0.003)
Auto insurance (including AAA)	−0.030	−0.021	−0.092	−0.107	0.059	0.021	−0.050	—	0.005
	(0.037)	(0.024)	(0.171)	(0.167)	(0.104)	(0.045)	(0.031)		(0.005)
Car Registration	−0.044	−0.024	−0.030	−0.126	0.154	−0.020	−0.037	—	−0.010
	(0.051)	(0.041)	(0.254)	(0.307)	(0.156)	(0.077)	(0.049)		(0.013)
Transportation	0.054	−0.001	0.373*	−0.282	0.307***	0.001	−0.006	—	0.029
	(0.049)	(0.018)	(0.223)	(0.352)	(0.099)	(0.042)	(0.020)		(0.023)
Other vehicle support (car payment, smog, impound)	0.069	0.062	−0.058	−0.262	−0.189	−0.140	0.183***	—	0.005
	(0.061)	(0.053)	(0.564)	(0.497)	(0.233)	(0.095)	(0.066)		(0.033)
Food assistance (food cards and onsite meals)	−0.059	−0.003	−0.069	−0.081	−0.081*	0.026	0.001	—	−0.042
	(0.037)	(0.010)	(0.052)	(0.103)	(0.049)	(0.038)	(0.011)		(0.031)
Hygiene items	0.052	0.031	0.068*	0.052	0.074	−0.032	0.045	—	—
	(0.032)	(0.021)	(0.036)	(0.072)	(0.055)	(0.043)	(0.030)		
Housing planning	0.010	0.013	−0.002	0.094	0.049	0.067	−0.001	—	—
	(0.031)	(0.023)	(0.045)	(0.095)	(0.055)	(0.049)	(0.034)		
Housing search	0.035	0.002	−0.059	0.020	−0.061	0.048	0.004	—	—
	(0.033)	(0.023)	(0.053)	(0.118)	(0.064)	(0.049)	(0.031)		

Outcome: Exit to Temporary Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
Mental health services	0.025	0.021	0.061	0.326*	−0.083	0.149*	−0.039	—	—
	(0.043)	(0.037)	(0.066)	(0.180)	(0.116)	(0.077)	(0.048)		
Legal services	0.004	−0.015	−0.001	−0.001	−0.035	−0.056	0.026	—	—
	(0.043)	(0.035)	(0.056)	(0.262)	(0.113)	(0.068)	(0.047)		
Life skills	−0.031	−0.007	−0.050	−0.154	0.035	−0.072	−0.023	—	—
	(0.037)	(0.028)	(0.155)	(0.187)	(0.081)	(0.060)	(0.036)		
Employment services	0.014	−0.005	0.499	0.671*	0.043	0.002	−0.049	—	−0.035
	(0.040)	(0.031)	(0.312)	(0.396)	(0.110)	(0.057)	(0.039)		(0.127)
Emergency hotel/motel	0.050	0.062*	0.210	−0.057	0.042	0.039	0.069*	—	0.006
	(0.055)	(0.033)	(0.278)	(0.467)	(0.150)	(0.058)	(0.041)		(0.006)
Public benefits assistance	0.051	0.038	0.225	−0.064	−0.064	0.202**	0.008	—	—
	(0.044)	(0.040)	(0.313)	(0.368)	(0.120)	(0.081)	(0.050)		
Crisis/bridge/emergency housing referral	−0.016	−0.010	0.424**	0.561***	0.233	−0.089	0.008	—	—
	(0.046)	(0.042)	(0.182)	(0.199)	(0.188)	(0.073)	(0.057)		
RRH referral	0.053	0.052	0.062	0.015	−0.248	−0.059	0.145	—	—
	(0.083)	(0.083)	(0.141)	(0.201)	(0.317)	(0.161)	(0.124)		
Permanent housing referral	0.047	0.053	0.141	0.000	−0.139	0.330*	0.037	—	—
	(0.085)	(0.086)	(0.744)	(.)	(0.187)	(0.170)	(0.118)		
Other/miscellaneous assistance	−0.040	−0.033*	−0.050	−0.014	−0.023	−0.058	−0.021	—	−0.016
	(0.029)	(0.018)	(0.067)	(0.098)	(0.051)	(0.035)	(0.023)		(0.022)
LOS in 30-day units (months)	−0.007***	−0.006**	—	0.019	0.004	0.002	−0.000	−0.006***	−0.005**
	(0.002)	(0.003)		(0.041)	(0.013)	(0.006)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Constant	0.139***	0.138***	0.143***	0.047	0.078	0.113	0.097	0.144***	0.144***

Outcome: Exit to Temporary Housing	Service Dummies	Service Count Intensity	Service Rate per 7-day Period	LOS Quartile—Service Counts				Total Dollar Amount of Financial Assistance (in $100s)	Dollar Amount per Service (in $100s)
				Q1 (Up to 2 Weeks)	Q2 (Up to 2 Months)	Q3 (Up to 6 Months)	Q4 (More Than 6 Months)		
	(0.054)	(0.053)	(0.054)	(0.114)	(0.131)	(0.141)	(0.118)	(0.052)	(0.052)
N	1172	1172	1125	299	302	293	278	1172	1172
R-squared	0.039	0.038	0.040	0.134	0.131	0.130	0.155	0.028	0.032

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of data from SPLA HMIS and financial assistance tracker.
NOTE: Table reports coefficients from LPMs estimated among heads of household who exited the program. The outcome equals 1 if the participant exited to temporary housing. Only service-related variables and LOS are shown; all models also control for age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic homelessness, and prior living situation. LOS is excluded from the service-rate specification because it is incorporated into the denominator of the rate measure. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$. A dash (—) indicates that the variable was not included in the corresponding specification.

Abbreviations

HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
LA	Los Angeles
LA LEADS	Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey
LAHSA	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
LOS	length of stay
LPM	linear probability model
PIT	point in time
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
RRH	Rapid Re-Housing
SPLA	Safe Parking LA
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TAY	Transition-age youth
USICH	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

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