

Evidence, Experience, and Pathways: A Convening on Unsheltered Homelessness in Los Angeles

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 10am - 2pm | USC City Center - 11th Floor

FEATURED PRESENTERS



Louis Abramson is an Adjunct Senior Physical Scientist at RAND and the lead author of the latest LA LEADS report. As a homelessness researcher, Louis specializes in quantitative trend analyses and forecasting. Outside RAND, he leads street outreach with and chairs the board of the SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition.

Celina Alvarez began serving people during the HIV/AIDS crisis, later working on Skid Row. She joined Housing Works in 2008, becoming Executive Director in 2015. She shifted to a trauma-informed, worker-centered model, leading services for 1,400+ people annually and advancing workforce development in homeless services statewide.



Jill Bauman is the founding CEO of the non-profit Amplifi (formerly Imagine LA). Amplifi co-designs technology tools to simplify the complex process of connecting people to needed and available resources. Amplifi is the creator of the Benefit Navigator and more recently, in response to the wildfires, the LA Disaster Relief Navigator.

Derek Christopher is an economist and research scholar at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). His research focuses on understanding the efficacy of policy interventions in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the United States, emphasizing topics of homelessness, housing, immigration, and crime. Derek received his PhD in economics from the University of California, Irvine in 2022.



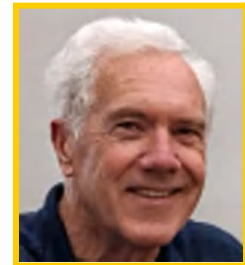
Jasper Cooper is the Director of Data Analytics and Evaluation at the recently-formed LA County Department of Homeless Services and Housing. There he leads the data engineering, data analytics, and evaluation teams, and supports the CIO in working with other stakeholders to build a regionally integrated approach to data and IT.

Mark Duggan is a Professor of Economics at Stanford whose research focuses on the economics of the health care sector and the effects of government expenditure programs. He served in 2009-10 as Senior Economist for Health Care Policy on President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers and from 2015-24 as SIEPR Director.



Carla Orendorff is a community organizer with Aetna Street Solidarity and the San Fernando Valley Homeless Union as well as a researcher with the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA. Her first book, *We Live In Public: Encampments As Resistance and Revolutionary Care in Los Angeles*, will be published this Fall 2026.

Dan Flaming is retired from the Economic Roundtable. He has worked on disaggregating people experiencing homelessness, breaking out duration of homelessness and public costs for different groups, developing predictive screening tools, and demonstrating benefits from holistic interventions that lead to employment.



David B. Grusky is Edward Ames Edmonds Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Professor of Sociology, and Director of the Center on Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University. His research aims to build new and better ways of describing, monitoring, and reducing inequality.

Benjamin Henwood is the Frances L. and Albert G. Feldman Professor of Social Policy and Health and Faculty Director of the Center for Homelessness, Housing and Health Equity Research and the Homelessness Policy Research Institute at USC, and is an expert in housing and health services research, permanent supportive housing, and care for people experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness.



Randall Kuhn is a demographer and sociologist who focuses on the social determinants of health among vulnerable populations using longitudinal research methods. He loves numbers, and did his first demographic projections when he was 9 years old. He loves LA, and maintains an LA restaurant guide.



Saba Mwine-Chang Deputy Chief Community Opportunity Officer at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). In this role, she leads strategic initiatives and fosters collaboration across LAHSA, the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and City and County partners to advance culturally informed approaches to homelessness. Her work focuses on healing-centered service models, data-driven implementation, and community support.

Seth Pickens is Managing Director of USC's Homelessness Policy Research Institute. His research interests center around holistic approaches to the prevention of homelessness and housing insecurity. Seth is an ordained pastor, serving as Spiritual Director of Guidance Church in Los Angeles.



Rafik Wahbi is a Community Health Scientist & Public Health Abolitionist who organizes with those directly impacted by American systems of oppression, through participatory action research. Rafik is an Egyptian-Angeleno and Chef and hopes to one day open a cross-cultural Café & community movement space in Los Angeles.