

Homeless Service Work Program: Award & Graduation

*Santa Monica College
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 1, 2025*

*Dr. Patricia Ramos
Dean, Academic Affairs*

*Dr. Steven Sedky
Associate Dean, Career Education (Interim)*

Housing Works Award



Labor Market Needs in Homeless Services – Los Angeles County

Workforce Shortage

- Approximately 1,300 positions remain unfilled in LA County’s homeless services sector, representing a third of the 8,000 available jobs.

Key Vacancies

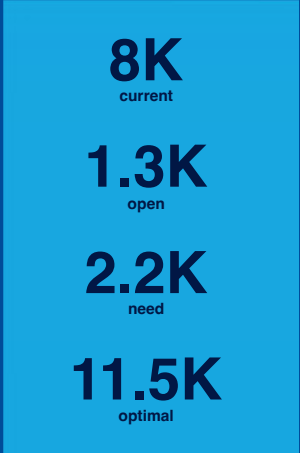
- 82% of unfilled roles are in frontline services, including case management, outreach, and housing navigation, critical for client support.

Challenges

- High turnover rates and retention challenges due to low wages and burnout.

Opportunity Areas

- Investment in workforce training and support to attract and retain talent.



Data taken from Current State Assessment Report: *Homeless Sector Workforce Analysis*, KPMG, August 2022

FALL

- Introduction to Workforce Training within the Homeless Response System (3 units)
- Promoting Health Equity, Advocacy and Human Engagement (3 units)

SPRING

- Implementing Effective Practices in the Homeless Response System (3 units)
- Internship - Experience Working in the Homeless Response System (2 units)
- Homeless Response System Capstone Class Fieldwork Reflection and Career Planning (1 unit)

Homeless Service Work Program Certificate

One-Year Program for-credit Certificate of Achievement



Graduation Celebrations!



Graduation Celebrations!





Thank You

Leadership

Dr. Nancy Greenstein,
Board Chair

Dr. Kathryn Jeffery,
Superintendent/President

Jason Beardsley,
Vice President, Academic Affairs

Dr. Patricia Ramos,
Dean, Academic Affairs

Dr. Steven Sedky,
Interim Associate Dean, CTE

Faculty

Dr. Alisa Orduña,
HSW Faculty

Leepi Shimkhada,
HSW Faculty

Celina Alvarez ,
HSW Faculty

Counseling

Dr. Susan Fila,
Interim Dean Health and
Wellness

Tia Dixon,
HSW Counselor

Talesha Payne,
HSW Counselor

Rene Robles,
HSW & Basic Needs Counselor

Workforce Team

Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins,
Interim Associate Dean, CMD

Ruth Casillas,
Interim Director, Business
Development

Lisa Lewenberg,
Project Manager

Mario Franco,
Workforce Specialist

Jenny Landa,
Program Coordinator

Jazmin Guzman
Administrative Assistant

Program Partners



Internship Placement Sites



Student Perspective
Nirika Bartley

