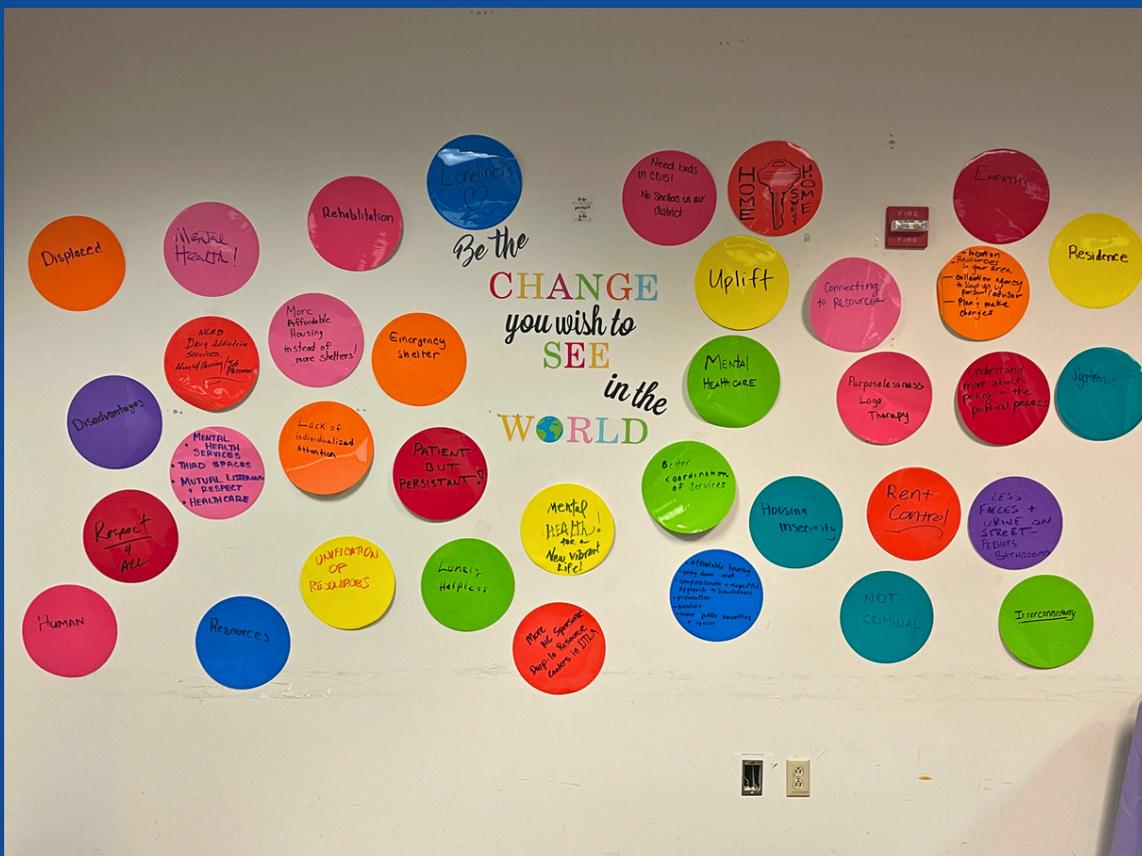


EMPOWERLA HOMELESSNESS LIAISONS IMPACT REPORT



2024



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
EMPOWER LA
Department of
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights key data, insights, challenges, and ongoing efforts from EmpowerLA's Homelessness Liaisons program for the 2024 calendar year. The Homelessness Liaisons program fosters collaboration through quarterly meetings, regional roundtables, and partnerships with essential stakeholders and leaders including representatives from Mayor Karen Bass's Inside Safe program, LA Care's Street Medicine Program and Council District Homelessness Deputies. Key findings show an increase in engagement and funding towards nonprofit homelessness-related initiatives. Neighborhood Councils allocated over \$54,000 in Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) for homelessness in 2024, more than doubling their 2022 spending of \$27,000. Additionally, Homelessness Liaisons demonstrate consistent advocacy efforts, with 63 Community Impact Statement (CIS) submissions related to supportive homelessness efforts, in 2022 and 2024. Recurring challenges include limited funding and bureaucratic delays in accessing immediate services. Looking ahead, the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires present new risks, exacerbating the homelessness crisis and adding strain to already stretched resources.

EmpowerLA will continue to support the Homelessness Liaisons by enhancing collaboration and providing necessary resources. The growing advocacy, funding, and creative solutions implemented by Neighborhood Councils and Homelessness Liaisons demonstrate that homelessness remains a top priority for Los Angeles neighborhoods, and EmpowerLA is committed to strengthening these community efforts in the years to come.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Los Angeles has embraced an unprecedented effort to address the City's growing homelessness crisis. In 2016, as a response to this crisis, now-Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson introduced a motion instructing EmpowerLA to establish a [Homeless Advocate Program](#).

Upon taking office in 2023, Mayor Karen Bass initiated a [Declaration of Local Housing and Homelessness Emergency](#) due to a critical shortage of local affordable housing and high numbers of unhoused Angelenos. In 2024, EmpowerLA reinstated its Homeless Advocate Program. Now called the Homelessness Liaisons, this program creates opportunities for Neighborhood Council board members and

stakeholders to actively participate in the ongoing efforts addressing homelessness. The 99 Neighborhood Councils were asked to appoint Homelessness Liaisons to represent their respective communities' efforts, to share best practices, challenges, and solutions both in their neighborhoods and across the city. The Homelessness Liaisons Program provides a pathway for Homelessness Liaisons to connect directly with local government, community organizations, and service providers to coordinate resources and advocate for solutions.

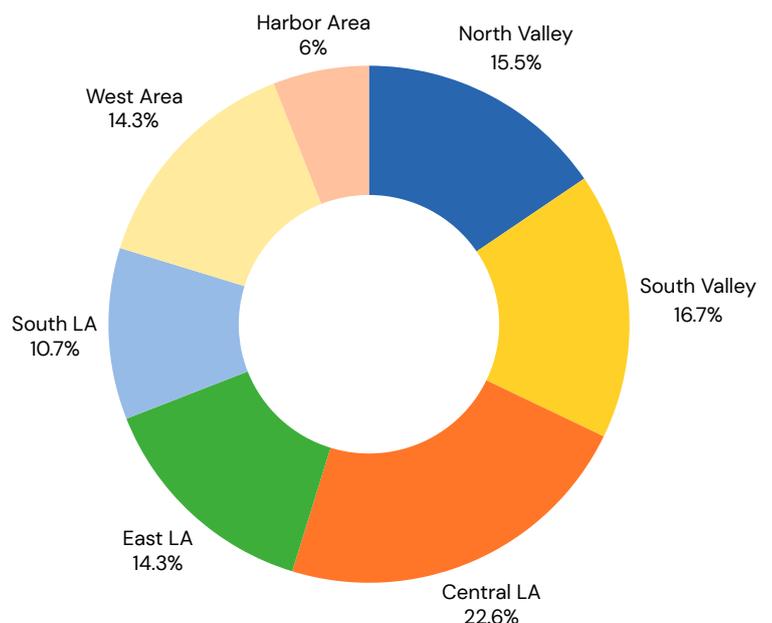
They attend quarterly gatherings, connect with regional Liaisons, familiarize themselves with unhoused population needs and take action items back to their respective Neighborhood Councils to share best strategies and policy recommendations to further the City's efforts in addressing homelessness. Homelessness Liaisons empower communities to work towards providing care, resources, guidance, and outreach services in conjunction with local government agencies, community stakeholders and nonprofit community-based organizations. They serve as the bridge between Neighborhood Councils and the broader community efforts to serve those experiencing homelessness.



HOMELESSNESS LIAISONS DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2024, EmpowerLA initiated the first call for Homelessness Liaison appointments which led to half of the Neighborhood Councils appointing liaisons. Currently, 50 of the 99 Neighborhood Councils have appointed at least one Homelessness Liaison to represent their community. In 2025, EmpowerLA will conduct another call for appointments targeted towards Neighborhood Councils who have not yet appointed a Liaison, to garner representation from all 99 Neighborhood Councils. Several Neighborhood Councils have appointed up to the maximum of 3 Homelessness Liaisons to be a part of this program. Liaisons can be board members, who are elected or appointed by the community to serve on a board, or community stakeholders, who are individuals that live, work, own or rent property within the Neighborhood Council boundaries. Additionally, Liaisons can be individuals in the community who have lived experience with homelessness as some of the Homelessness Liaisons in this program do. As of the writing of this report, there are a total of 84 appointed Homelessness Liaisons representing the seven Board of Neighborhood Commissioners service regions: North Valley, South Valley, Central LA, East LA, South LA, West LA and the Harbor. About 88% of the Liaisons are Neighborhood Council board members, while 12% of Liaisons are community stakeholders.

Commission Region	n
North Valley	13
South Valley	14
Central LA	19
East LA	12
South LA	9
West Area	12
Harbor Area	5



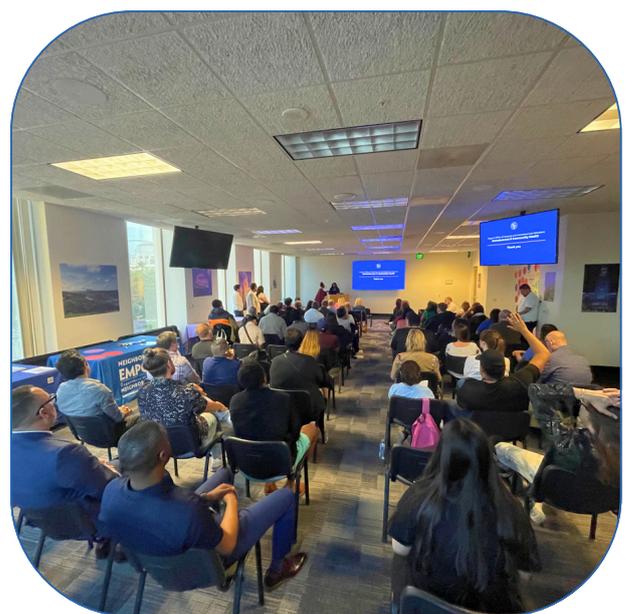
HOW ARE HOMELESSNESS LIAISONS COMING TOGETHER?

To relaunch the Homelessness Liaisons initiative, EmpowerLA hosted an in person Meet and Greet in May 2024. This gathering served as an opportunity for the Liaisons to get to know their neighbors and partners who are leading efforts to address the ongoing homelessness crisis. EmpowerLA partnered with Mayor Karen Bass's Inside Safe program team, including Dr. Etsemaye Agonafer, Deputy Mayor of Homelessness, and Community Health and City Council Homelessness Deputies to provide informational presentations and resources for the Homelessness Liaisons to share back with their communities. EmpowerLA then organized and facilitated quarterly virtual gatherings to continue engagement.

EmpowerLA also partnered with county leaders including, Dr. Michael Brodsky, L.A. Care's Medical Director for Behavioral Health and Social Services, and Charles Robinson, L.A Care's Sr. Director of Community Health, to present at Homelessness Liaison gatherings. From these partners, the Homelessness Liaisons learned about LA Care's Field Medicine Program, health care resources and programs provided for individuals struggling with homelessness, and how Neighborhood Councils and Homeless Liaisons can collaborate and support in these efforts. Furthermore, EmpowerLA facilitated opportunities for Homelessness Liaisons to connect with one another in regional roundtable discussions.

In this space, Homelessness Liaisons and community advocates shared resources, brainstormed ideas, and discussed what their community efforts in addressing homelessness have looked like.

In total, EmpowerLA hosted 3 gatherings for Homelessness Liaisons in May, August, and November of 2024. These quarterly gatherings generated shared group discussion among the Homelessness Liaisons on information and resource sharing, finding viable support and solutions among Neighborhood Councils, and providing opportunities to discuss challenges faced by communities to continue the much needed conversations on homelessness.



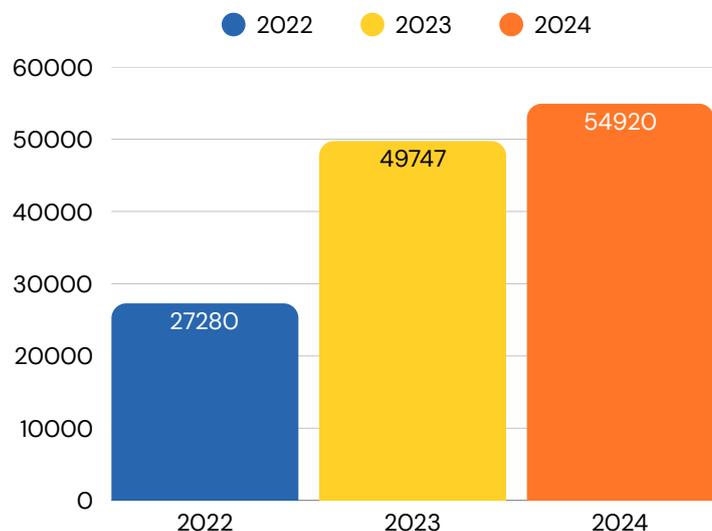
MAJOR TRENDS: HOW ARE HOMELESSNESS LIAISONS ADDRESSING THE ISSUE?

NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANTS

As the City of Los Angeles works to address homelessness, Homelessness Liaisons are effective advocates and partners in this effort. For the purposes of this report, data was derived from the Office of the City Clerk Neighborhood Council Funding Division, who oversees all Neighborhood Council spending. This report focused on the dollar amount spent on Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) across the Neighborhood Council system. NPG data was pulled from the calendar years 2022 - 2024 and filtered to showcase spending with sole correlations to homelessness initiatives, resources and grants to support unhoused populations. Examples of key terms to filter data include homeless, policy, unhoused, and housing.

In 2022, Neighborhood Councils spent \$27,280 on NPGs dedicated to unhoused populations. In 2024, NPG spending on housing and homelessness more than doubled, totaling \$54,920.19. A few NPG-funded homelessness initiative highlights include:

- [WE HOPE \(Westside Neighborhood Council\)](#): \$1,080 to provide showers and laundry facilities for the unhoused during Connect Days
- [The Center, West Valley & Harbor City Food Pantry, Eayikes \(HomeyMadeMeals Program\) \(West Adams Neighborhood Council, Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council, Harbor City Neighborhood Council\)](#): \$15,250 funding to provide essential meal services and home made meals for low income housing insecure individuals in need of food
- [Los Angeles LGBT Center \(Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council\)](#): \$2,000 to support the purchase of hygiene supplies, meals, and direct services for LGBTQ+ homeless youth and seniors



- [New Friends Homeless Center](#) (**Encino Neighborhood Council, West Hills Neighborhood Council**): \$5,000 for various NPGs to support critical resources and supplies for the homeless
- [Future Roots Inc](#) (**Los Feliz Neighborhood Council**): \$2,000 funding to sponsor the online podcast "We the Unhoused" promoting advocacy for the homeless and providing an intimate look at the unhoused experience
- [Open Arms](#) (**Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council**): \$500 to support affordable housing, emergency infant care and food security for the Veteran, Disabled and Low Income individuals throughout Los Angeles

This upward trend in NPG spending highlights that Neighborhood Councils and Homelessness Liaisons alike are empowering local organizations and nonprofits, through funding to create more localized, accessible support systems for the unhoused and providing resources at the community level. NPGs provide Neighborhood Councils with the opportunity to directly benefit their communities and build partnerships by allocating grants to local non-profit organizations such as the examples provided above. This is one of the most prominent methods through which Neighborhood Councils spread awareness and respond to priority needs in their communities such as homelessness.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS

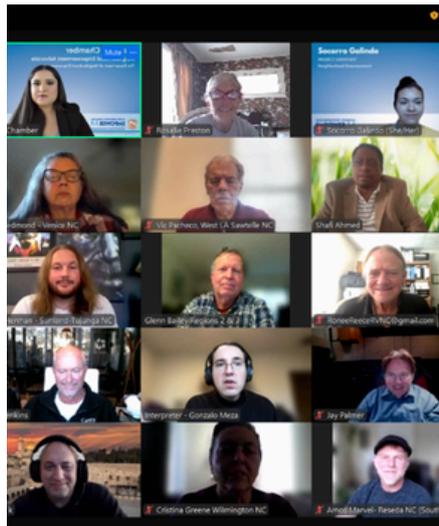
Additionally, this report examines Community Impact Statement (CIS) data from the Council File Management System (CFMS). The CFMS contains an index of Council Files, including a summary and detail of all legislation considered or acted on by City Council. Neighborhood Councils contribute to this process by submitting CISs, which serve as the official statement and positions adopted by Neighborhood Councils on issues pending before the City's decision makers. Similar to the NPG data collection methodology, CIS data was collected for calendar years 2022 - 2024 and filtered for submissions advocating for unhoused populations, policy and homelessness initiatives.

CIS data also shows a consistency in Neighborhood Council advocacy on legislation pertaining to unhoused neighbors. For example, both 2022 and 2024 data collected on CIS's show 63 submissions on supportive housing initiatives by Neighborhood Councils. Throughout the program's gatherings, the Homelessness Liaisons were able to advocate for submissions to particular Council Files including [CF 19-1020](#). This Council File proposed the creation of a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness, composed entirely of people who are currently, or have been in the recent past, homeless in Los Angeles. Some of the Homelessness Liaisons who are a part of this program are individuals who have lived experience with homelessness, therefore during roundtable discussions they advocated for Neighborhood Councils to submit CIS's in support of this. As a result, 14 Neighborhood Councils submitted CIS's supporting this motion. Some additional examples of advocacy include CIS's in support of non-violent crisis response to handle homelessness-related emergencies ([CF 22-0979](#)), and health and medical services for the Homeless including Naloxone

training and distribution for overdose prevention, along with street-based medicine services ([CF 21-1415](#)).

As Homelessness Liaisons advocate to their respective Neighborhood Councils to approve CIS initiatives for homelessness, they are empowering the community through taking action and by being connected to the City's decisions making process.

Ultimately, through CIS submissions and an upward trend in NPG spending over the last two years, Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaisons demonstrate continuous Advocacy, Legislation Engagement, and Spending on issues directly related to supporting unhoused Angelenos delineating Homelessness as community priority.



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SYSTEM'S CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Not only are Neighborhood Councils funding local nonprofits and advocating for homelessness policy initiatives via CISs, they are also actively organizing in their communities and utilizing creative solutions.

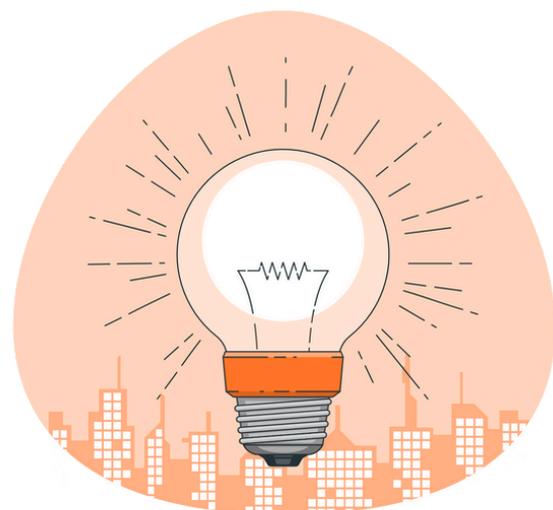
Across the City, Neighborhood Councils are leading direct service and engagement opportunities to support unhoused community members, including the following:

- **Studio City Neighborhood Council** created a spreadsheet dashboard ranking of unhoused neighbor concerns in order to prioritize their efforts.
- **Reseda Neighborhood Council** is working alongside Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to create educational materials to share with all Neighborhood Councils in their region.
- **Atwater Village Neighborhood Council** provided a laundry day service for unhoused neighbors. They also conduct monthly meetings at which their Homelessness Engagement Committee volunteers in coordination with the [SELAH](#) (Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater Village, Hollywood) Neighborhood Homeless Coalition and various state and local officials to bring coffee & conversations to their homeless neighbors, in turn creating a welcoming space for unhoused

neighbors of their community to enjoy coffee, donuts, get clothes, hygiene products, and access various public resources.

- **Hollywood United** and **Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Councils** have partnered with their Council Offices for Homelessness Outreach including hosting free Showers at select locations throughout the district.

These highlights showcase the innovative solutions, efforts, and extent of collaboration Homelessness Liaisons and their respective Neighborhood Council have within their communities. Organizing efforts as such create lasting and direct impact on their communities.



COMMON CHALLENGES



Over the course of the 2024 gatherings, Homelessness Liaisons raised a few recurring challenges. These challenges included funding concerns for Neighborhood Councils, and long wait times for immediate services and support for unhoused community members.

Neighborhood Councils are allocated \$32,000 annually to cover all Neighborhood Council expenditures, including operational expenses, community events, improvement projects and NPGs.

Given these budget constraints, Neighborhood Councils are only able to allocate a small percentage from their annual budget for NPGs. As previously outlined, the upward trend in NPG spending for homelessness illustrates this as a top priority for Neighborhood Councils. With a larger annual budget, Neighborhood Councils may be able to provide more direct and immediate support to their communities through NPGs.

Homelessness Liaisons also raised concerns about hurdles they faced when attempting to provide immediate assistance to unhoused individuals. Many Homelessness Liaisons report seeing unhoused individuals on the streets of their communities, but they are often referred to several different departments and organizations such as LAHSA or 211 LA prior to community members receiving any tangible support. Homelessness Liaisons recall wait times when attempting to support unhoused individuals via 211 LA, at times being upwards of several hours before a response is provided. Requests for a simplified, efficient and centralized process with less bureaucracy and red tape are prominent in conversations among the Homelessness Liaisons. A swift centralized process will increase Homelessness Liaisons' operational efficiency to directly support welfare initiatives for unhoused neighbors.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The Homelessness Liaisons will continue their efforts, outreach, and advocacy for our unhoused neighbors in 2025. These efforts are of utmost importance given the devastation caused by the January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires, which have destroyed homes and displaced tens of thousands of people in Los Angeles County. Angelenos who struggle to find affordable housing or remediate and rebuild their homes may face increased risks of becoming homeless. In response, several Neighborhood Councils have mobilized to contribute portions of their funding to the ongoing fire relief efforts. Homelessness Liaisons play a vital role in networking and connecting with departments, agencies and organizations providing support for displaced homeless populations in their communities as recovery and rebuilding efforts are underway.



EmpowerLA will continue to host quarterly meetings for the Homelessness Liaisons, to foster collaboration and information sharing, challenges and best practices, with leading forces such as the Mayor's office, City Council, housing experts, and those with lived experiences, to further creative ideas and solutions on both the neighborhood and Citywide level. The Department will also seek ways to fund HL gatherings and increase Neighborhood Council budgets. Furthermore, EmpowerLA will continue to support Homelessness Liaisons by providing a pathway for them to build partnerships with leading agencies and connect with other Liaisons, City Departments, and organizations engaged in enhancing government responsiveness to homelessness needs. Based on the data gathered, we anticipate Neighborhood Councils will continue to be highly engaged on the issues of housing and homelessness throughout the City. Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaisons are directly involved in addressing and finding creative solutions that work for their respective communities, and EmpowerLA will continue to provide and advocate for them with the platform, networks, education, and resources needed to support their impactful work throughout Los Angeles.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, EmpowerLA would like to thank every member of the **Homelessness Liaisons**. It is because of their tireless efforts and participation in this work that we are able to produce this report.

EmpowerLA would like to extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to the staff working group that led the Homelessness Liaisons work in 2024, analyzed the impact of the Homelessness Liaisons, and developed this report: **Dina Andrews**, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate; **Helena Doub**, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate; **Mario Hernandez**, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate; **Alfonso Manzo**, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate; **Erick Muñoz**, Commission Executive Assistant II; and **Socorro Galindo**, Project Coordinator. We would like to extend special recognition to **Prabhjot Chamber**, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate and Homelessness Liaisons Lead, as the principle author of this report.

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