



"The People Concern is on the frontlines serving our most vulnerable neighbors every day; although we are not surprised by the Homeless Count results, we are deeply disappointed to see an upward tick in Angelenos experiencing homelessness. We also continue to witness an overrepresentation of Black people within Los Angeles' homeless community. Black people represent only 8% of Los Angeles County's population but 34% of people experiencing homelessness in LA are Black. As our agency addresses the multifaceted challenges facing our neighbors experiencing homelessness, we recognize that systemic, institutionalized racism and historical inequities manifest themselves in every aspect of life. Racism is also a public health issue. The destabilizing, deadly effects of COVID-19 on Communities of Color, and specifically Black communities, point to disparities in social determinants of health that continue to contribute to homelessness. We need systemic change to reduce the inflow of people who are becoming homeless. We also need to expand our housing resources, while filtering everything through an equity lens. We know that the solution to ending homelessness is housing paired with individually tailored supportive services. For far too long direct service providers have been shortchanged by not covering the actual costs of providing these important housing retention services to the detriment of people experiencing homelessness. The People Concern is doubling down on our commitment to scaling sustainable housing solutions with our partner FlyawayHomes, and pursuing housing equity in every facet of our work so that housing resources are targeted to house historically marginalized communities at proportionate rates. Our agency's work has been woven into the fabric of the Los Angeles community for decades and we are proud to continue serving our most vulnerable neighbors, especially now that the need is greater than ever before. We won't stop until every Angeleno is housed, healthy and safe."

- John Maceri, CEO, The People Concern