



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

October 7, 2026

Jason Matheny, President, CEO
RAND Corporation

via email: jmatheny@rand.org

Re: Request for Information re Status of LA LEADS Study

Dear Mr. Matheny:

We write on behalf of the Homelessness Committee (HOC) of the Westside Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (WRAC). WRAC is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in City Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Districts 4 and 10 – from Venice to South Robertson, and from Westchester/Playa del Rey to Pacific Palisades. Our Alliance collectively represents over 500,000 housed and unhoused Angelenos.

Effectively addressing the crisis of unsheltered homelessness is a top priority for our WRAC communities. See our most recent letter to the candidates for Los Angeles Mayor and City Attorney:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WRAC-Letter-Candidates-2026-2.pdf>.

As explained, WRAC's communities have had decades-long experience with homelessness, including HOC members with years of first-hand experience addressing homelessness matters in their neighborhoods, often working with government and private-sector partners to obtain services for the thousands of unhoused individuals who are present throughout the Westside. Many of our members have participated for a decade or more in the LAHSA Point-in-Time Homeless Count in their areas, and are familiar with the shortcomings of the PIT Count, including substantial undercounting of unsheltered "rough sleepers" and "vehicle dwellers."

At the same time, our HOC members individually have been impressed by the thoroughness, accuracy and professionalism of the Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Study (LA LEADS Study) conducted by RAND. We understand that accurate data, such as that achieved by the LA LEADS Study, is critical to development of strategies and distribution of funding and resources, which in turn are needed to effectively address the problem.

Unfortunately, we are now advised that going forward, funding for the LA LEADS Study has, or may have been, discontinued. While the WRAC Board has not yet taken a position specific to this issue, the WRAC HOC now writes to inquire about the status of the LA LEADS Study, in particular: 1) **whether RAND would consider restoring or continuing funding for the vital LA LEADS Study**; and 2) what, if anything, our organization and/or members could do to **assist RAND in efforts to continue the Study**.

Thank you for your courtesy and your ongoing commitment to evidence-based solutions to the crisis in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Jay Handal: Chair, WRAC HOC
Chris Spitz: Vice-Chair, WRAC HOC & Vice-Chair, WRAC
Robin Greenberg: Chair, WRAC

cc: Sarah Hunter, PhD, Senior Behavioral Scientist, RAND

via email: shunter@rand.org