

DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC. (DRC) STATEMENT OF NEED  
LONG BEACH MAYOR'S FUND FOR THE HOMELESS 2023

The City of Long Beach, like the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles, have announced their priorities to focus on getting the homeless off the streets. They already have shut down encampments along riverbeds and in parks. This is not only for the health, safety, and welfare of the homeless and other residents of Long Beach, but also, especially, health-wise, with the new COVID variants. In addition, Los Angeles has been chosen to be the site for the 2028 Olympics, and like other cities, they want to have the City of Los Angeles cleaned up, so visitors will feel safe and want to come in and enjoy our beautiful city.

Therefore, there should be a big surge in homeless persons wanting to find places to live, in the midst of a tremendous housing shortage, even though the city has designated funds for using motels and apartments for low-income housing. It is not hard to see that this will not come quickly enough for the needs of our over 2,000 homeless persons. This is where Disabled Resources Center, Inc. (DRC) can help. We know that most of the homeless have a disability of some sort, usually mental. This is the population that DRC counselors are working with and are best suited to serve the homeless in Long Beach. Our focus is to get them immediately off the streets and into a safe, clean environment.

To do this, we lodge them in suitable motels, with food vouchers for three meals a day. We provide them with all-day bus passes, so that they can come back and forth to the Center, and wherever they need to go. We do a follow-up with them after three days, evaluating their progress and whether they need to have extended motel stays. In the meantime, we are looking to find them transitional housing, with one of the many agencies we collaborate with here in Long Beach. The goal is transitional housing and hopefully, a permanent domicile for our consumers.

Sometimes people are right on the edge and they need that extra bit of help to get them over the top. This is not a "Band-Aid." This is a bridge.