

In March 2018, the Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) held five convenings, with one in each supervisorial district. The purpose of the convenings was to gather responses from community members to better understand specific needs of women and girls, the strengths and assets in their communities, and the potential roles of government and community-based organizations to address these needs.

On Friday, March 30, 2018, the first convening was held in **East Los Angeles in Supervisorial District 1**. A total number of 104 Participants attended, and 28 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) were represented.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT	
1) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>women</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?	2) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>girls</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?
<p>Programs/Services/Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This community needs more lighting near parks in order for women to feel safe with their children there in the evening and when walking home This community needs better grocery store options and more affordable farmers markets Homeless women need more support for hygiene needs <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase communication with the community Empower and educate community leaders about County services <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure alignment in equal opportunity practices Connect resources where possible Provide bilingual 911 dispatchers Offer teen jobs to all youth regardless of their parents' social-economic status 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the promotion of sports and programs for girls at all age levels Increase the availability of sign language services Train CBOs that are respected in the community on the availability of County services <p>Empowerment/Outreach/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the importance and impact of voting Increase availability and accessibility to mentorship programs
3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: How could government and <i>community organizations</i> work together better to meet the needs of women and girls?	
<p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer through CBOs affordable, quality childcare Work together on community-based safety issues Develop vocation workshops for K-12 Offer leadership training Provide one-stop centers in every area of the County 	<p>Special Programs for Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase gender-based responses to dealing with domestic violence at the local level <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase intentional government engagement by working together to address social issues Work from a cultural diversity and inclusion perspective

4) COMMUNITY STRENGTHS & ASSETS What are the strengths and assets in your community that could be better used to improve the lives of women and girls?	5) COMMUNITY UNMET NEEDS What organizations and services are missing in your community that government could help facilitate or provide to improve the lives of women and girls?
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents are willing to make positive changes in the community. There is a united group of resilient women and girls who attend as many community events as possible <p>Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have prominent female leaders in office at multiple levels of government East LA needs to host more townhalls to raise awareness of controversial topics like: access to daycare, housing, and cannabis science The Essie Justice Group is in East LA; they help connect women with their incarcerated loved ones The school district offers various linking services for community members 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the safety at affordable housing units <p>Education/Schools/Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a better array of workshops to make community members aware of what is going on in education Provide strength-based programs that empower and uplift women and girls <p>Workforce Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how to use technology for women who want to work from home Provide paid internships and stipends for girls Increase building the technical and leadership skills of women and girls

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On Saturday, March 24, 2018, the first convening was held in the **Willowbrook unincorporated area in Supervisorial District 2**. A total number of 40 Participants attended, and 10 Community-Based Organizations were represented.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT	
1) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>women</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?	2) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>girls</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?
<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable childcare options should be increased, especially for single mothers Increase mental health services Provide health and social services on the weekend for people who cannot take a day off from work Provide safe and affordable housing for people that are transferring out of public assistance and other social services <p>Empowerment/Outreach/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a public awareness campaign around gender-based violence <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct community outreach about existing programs utilizing technology and social media 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs designed for them should have more accountable benchmarks Girls need access to free legal services Increase the availability of safe, affordable housing needs Increase access to healthy food <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit educators, administrators, probation officers and other stakeholders to hold forums to encourage parents to get involved in their kids' lives <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a community needs assessment to find out what girls are seeking Change the language of “low income” and “victims” to something more positive Address implicit bias and cultural competency <p>Empowerment/Outreach Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage community leaders to build community networks of support Don't penalize a girl for having a father in the home

3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: How could government and community organizations work together better to meet the needs of women and girls?	
<p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure communities have the resources they need to address gentrification; new jobs should be for those who have lived there <p>Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create incentives for companies to bring jobs and training for women to South LA 	<p>Empowerment/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give women the education and training they need to be prepared for the jobs of the future and make sure that the completion of those programs is tied to jobs

4) COMMUNITY STRENGTHS & ASSETS What are the strengths and assets in your community that could be better used to improve the lives of women and girls?	5) COMMUNITY UNMET NEEDS What organizations and services are missing in your community that government could help facilitate or provide to improve the lives of women and girls?
<p>Family Service/Community Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have non-profits that bring a lot of pilot programs; fund the pilots that work Expo Center: do not take away the parking lot; we like it for sports usage on the weekend; we enjoy the family based programming and what they have for kids <p>Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the entrepreneurial spirit is very alive in South LA, there needs to be more support to ensure informal markets are not criminalized <p>Existing Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CD-Tech program at LATTC helps empower women The cadet program has given many of our youth leadership skills 	<p>Health/Behavioral Health Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All services should include trauma-informed care <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better advertisement of existing programs; focus on making it more effective <p>Programing and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase programing on financial empowerment Increase mentorship opportunities Host community forums for women and girls Increase funding for organizations doing a good job with services <p>Workforce Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation needs to be more affordable <p>Specialized Programs for Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide culturally sensitive services

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On Saturday, March 3, 2018, the first convening was held in the **San Fernando Valley in Supervisorial District 3**. A total number of 89 Participants attended, and 18 Community-Based Organizations were represented.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT	
1) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>women</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?	2) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>girls</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?
<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More counseling and mental health services should be at schools • Self-defense classes • Childhood programs to teach boys about emotions • Reinvest in successful programs • Encourage County and other employers to provide youth summer jobs • Examine existing policy for potential improvements <p>Empowerment/Outreach/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More outreach of existing programs (commercials, retail, grocery store, parks, libraries) • Encourage young girls to take on leadership positions • Talk to youth about sex trafficking <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CBOs to provide “safe space” for meetings • Provide opportunities for women mentors to connect with other women • Host more meetings like this 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More girl-specific services • Focus on life skills like financial literacy • Focus on prevention <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better coordination with County departments on what girl-centered services exist
3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: How could government and <i>community organizations</i> work together better to meet the needs of women and girls?	
<p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More access to sports as a life skill and make sure it is affordable for families with multiple children • More workforce training • Hold current programs accountable • More outreach of existing programs • Rapid re-housing should be linked to services 	<p>Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we hold a boss that mistreats women accountable? • Educate girls early on how to defend themselves <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more grants for girl-based programming • Streamline County services • Close the digital divide as it is no longer a luxury but a need

4) COMMUNITY STRENGTHS & ASSETS What are the strengths and assets in your community that could be better used to improve the lives of women and girls?	5) COMMUNITY UNMET NEEDS What organizations and services are missing in your community that government could help facilitate or provide to improve the lives of women and girls?
<p>Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have magnet schools with onsite counselors and mental health services The County should better fund mental health services <p>Domestic Violence/Sexual Harassment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches open doors to domestic violence victims Use the MTA to do a sexual harassment campaign because a lot of it goes on there <p>Sexual and Reproductive Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County should help fund free feminine hygiene products More contraceptive education <p>Family Service Centers/Care Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family service centers link you to affordable housing and services (such as diapers for babies) <p>Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a social media campaign that remind people that all women are beautiful 	<p>Health/Behavioral Health Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education programs related to impact of cannabis legalization Educate parents on how to use non-violent alternatives for discipline Teach men and boys about healthy relationships Health education mindful of gender identity self-expression More inclusive mental health services <p>Training for Providers/First Responders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach trauma informed care to police officers, EMT, and first responders Trainings on how to speak with adolescents <p>Education/Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have social workers at schools Create more empowerment programs in middle and high school Increase early education opportunities <p>Workforce Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase youth workforce training opportunities Workforce development for women Treat whole family/whole child at a one-stop shop <p>Specialized Programs for Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services for women in their first trimester of pregnancy Programs for older adult women Address needs in the LGBTQ community

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On Thursday, March 22, 2018, the first convening was held in **East Whittier in Supervisorial District 4**. A total number of 43 Participants attended, and 10 Community-Based Organizations were represented.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT	
1) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>women</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?	2) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>girls</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?
<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer life coach programming for young women and girls including but not limited to: financial literacy and computer literacy • Improve responsiveness and aftercare of mental health clients <p>Empowerment/Outreach/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate an age-lens for all policy development that includes young and retired women • All programming should incorporate an age-lens that includes young, working, ageing and retired women 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help young girls learn about the jobs of the future and how to get their foot in the door • Provide spaces for mentorship programs and support groups for women and girls • Increase life-skills programming • Improve outreach of existing County programs <p>Government Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County should work with schools to address the lack of counselors
3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: How could government and <i>community organizations</i> work together better to meet the needs of women and girls?	
<p>Outreach & Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve advertising of County resources and existing programs • Community organization should do a better job of promoting each other's programs at their own locations • Work together on community outreach and creating a space to speak with community members <p>Programs & Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better spending of County funds on women and girls issues • Both should be sensitive to LGBTQ issues • Both should be culturally sensitive 	<p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline/consolidate public service applications • Increase the use of technology to share information on resources, sharing success stories, and elevating issues • Integrate/incorporate youth voice in all policy work

4) COMMUNITY STRENGTHS & ASSETS What are the strengths and assets in your community that could be better used to improve the lives of women and girls?	5) COMMUNITY UNMET NEEDS What organizations and services are missing in your community that government could help facilitate or provide to improve the lives of women and girls?
<p>Family and Youth Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This community has many centers offering after school programming <p>Community Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County needs to strengthen community outreach Address the cultural gap Provide more family-oriented activities 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more re-entry services like free legal services, parenting classes, support groups and job training to help them transition back home Women shelters should allow for a longer stay if they need it <p>Health/Behavioral Health Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health services should focus on understanding trauma There is a need for a public awareness campaign to reduce the stigma of mental health <p>Education/Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth need more mentorship, college tours, and counseling <p>Specialized Programs for Subpopulations</p> <p>Family Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare needs to be more affordable Affordable housing needs to be improved as well as transportation options

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On Monday, March 5, 2018, the second of the five Countywide conveyings was held in the **Antelope Valley in Supervisorial District 5**. A total number of 58 Participants attended, and 11 Community-Based Organizations were represented.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT	
1) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>women</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?	2) What changes to the way that government serves/interacts with <i>girls</i> do you think would make the biggest immediate impact on their lives?
<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless shelters should be separated by gender • Find more providers for community clinics for remote areas like the Antelope Valley • Incorporate dental to medical services for families • Create more jobs that appeal to women in the Antelope Valley • Host more programs for girls • Fix the affordability of health care and childcare • Increase affordable housing opportunities all over Los Angeles, combined with rent control <p>Empowerment/Outreach/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the undocumented community that they should not fear reporting a crime <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host more neighborhood watch groups in an effort to connect the community with public-safety officials 	<p>Programs and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-care subsidies should be given directly to families • Increase programming related to creating family bonds like community-gardens, cooking classes, and parenting classes • Combine mental health services with self-care programming • Encourage women to be part of a peer-to-peer group, such as “women tribes” <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private and public facilities should begin to build on-site childcare spaces
3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION: How could government and <i>community organizations</i> work together better to meet the needs of women and girls?	
<p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBOs and government should work together to provide more seasonal youth jobs • Subsidies for child care should come from all levels of government 	<p>Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for and participation in Big Brother and Big Sister programs <p>Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education as it is the root cause of poverty • Expand statute of limitations for women who are victims of a crime • Increase awareness of and number of open forums for the general public

4) COMMUNITY STRENGTHS & ASSETS What are the strengths and assets in your community that could be better used to improve the lives of women and girls?	5) COMMUNITY UNMET NEEDS What organizations and services are missing in your community that government could help facilitate or provide to improve the lives of women and girls?
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith community is strong and the few resource agencies that we have communicate well with one another Families are very close knit and they are each other's strength <p>Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AV has good companies but they need to do a better job at reaching residents There is not enough transportation for such a big place; we have Metrolink but we'd like it to be more affordable There are good examples of women in Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) in the community <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Education is not accessible in AV; there is a big need for a campus <p>Family Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and Recreation host a diverse set of summer programming, but during the year fiscal year, there is a need for more affordable after school programs 	<p>Health/Behavioral Health Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the geographical remoteness of the AV, medical specialists are hard to recruit for this area <p>Education/Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls need mentorship -based programming <p>Workforce Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AV needs more transportation options that links residents to their jobs <p>Specialized Programs for Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund early intervention programs that will reduce domestic violence Provide empowerment programs for both women and girls Provide parenting education programming Offer community-based workshops on financial literacy

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