

Material Dignity Infrastructure

Los Angeles Metropolitan Stabilization

A Street-to-Home Pipeline Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Chronic street homelessness in Los Angeles persists because the physiological prerequisites for maintaining housing are absent at the moment of placement. Finland reduced long-term homelessness by sixty-eight percent through a national welfare infrastructure that provides those prerequisites before housing entry. The United States places individuals in housing while they remain in acute physiological crisis, producing sub-forty percent retention despite twenty-four billion dollars in California expenditure since 2019. The Material Dignity Infrastructure closes this sequencing gap. Phase Zero deploys MHRC-licensed sub-sixteen-unit clusters delivering metabolic, neurological, and nutritional stabilization under a DSM-5 protocol funded through Medi-Cal sub-acute billing at fifty percent federal participation before any permanent placement occurs. Five parallel operations follow: ACT field engagement over twelve to twenty-four months; CARE Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment for compelled pathways; two thousand pre-matched units at One California Plaza; riparian encampment abatement through FLIR mapping and Clean Water Act proceedings; and STC 65 acoustic sanctuaries sustaining residents post-placement. The fiscal model generates an eighty-two-million-dollar annual Efficiency Surplus per tower. Seven binary verification metrics constitute the Singular Prototype Threshold. All seven must pass before network expansion proceeds.

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Statement of Necessity

Los Angeles is experiencing a three-dimensional structural failure involving housing, public health, and fiscal policy. Despite twenty-four billion dollars in expenditure since 2019, forty-six thousand unsheltered individuals remain on the street; furthermore, mortality among the unhoused has accelerated to create a thirty-year life expectancy gap. Current systems fail because they violate causal necessity by deploying housing before the physiological prerequisites for maintaining tenure are present. Whereas Finland solved chronic homelessness by providing these prerequisites through a comprehensive national welfare infrastructure, the United States lacks such a foundational layer. The Material Dignity Infrastructure engineers a substitute for this missing infrastructure: a Metabolic Stabilization layer as Phase Zero that restores biological prerequisites before any permanent unit is offered. Because an alternative framework built on this causal foundation is required, the Material Dignity Infrastructure proposes a falsifiable, industrially specified pipeline extending from street engagement through permanent residential stabilization.

Author's Note

The author engineered this framework from three decades of unsheltered lived experience. Direct observation of street-level structural failure produced the finalized industrial pipeline. Companion audio architecture available at <https://bikepaths.org/podcast>

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1. The Los Angeles Inflection Point

The chronic street homelessness crisis in Los Angeles persists because the metropolitan urban design has reached a point of structural exhaustion. The city was built upon a post-war ideal of low-density residential ownership and automobile dependency; contemporary land values and infrastructure costs have rendered that model obsolete for the average worker. Consequently, the region is characterized by a profound housing imbalance: an abundance of per capita luxury inventory exists alongside a total absence of "utility housing" for the working class. This architectural trap forces a transportation tax on the poor while leaving the most vulnerable with no soft landing in the private real estate market. Although the city contains fifty million square feet of vacant commercial inventory, it has failed to adapt these assets for human stabilization (GlobeSt, 2025). Since fiscal year 2019, California has spent twenty-four billion dollars on homelessness programs while the encampment population continued to grow; the crisis is not a matter of capital volume but of engineering sequence (California State Auditor, 2026; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2025).

Legacy interventions fail because they violate the causal necessity of stabilization. Municipal encampment clearances produce a "Leaf Blower Effect" that generates visible motion while achieving zero net population reduction because they lack a simultaneous destination. Congregate shelter models generate rational refusal by forcing individuals to choose between residency and survival anchors such as animal companions, partners, or personal possessions (United States Department of Agriculture, 2023; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2022). Finally, fragmented clinical outreach fails to match the multi-year engagement window required by a neurologically compromised population. These failures converge at a single point: the city offers housing to individuals who have not yet regained the physiological capacity for tenancy.

The Material Dignity Infrastructure (MDI) resequences this pipeline through three operational layers: a Clinical Field Architecture, a Legal Lever System for treatment-resistant cohorts, and a Terminal Infrastructure Node. Within this framework, the tower at One California Plaza is not the final solution to the urban housing crisis; rather, it is the stabilization destination that bridges the gap between the street and the sovereign real estate market. Because the street environment precludes recovery, the tower provides the metabolic gateway required to restore an individual's biological prerequisites for housing maintenance.

1.1. The Five Simultaneous Operations

The objective is documented, sustained elimination of visible encampment homelessness in the Los Angeles metropolitan corridor, reduction of the total unsheltered population by seventy to eighty percent at prototype verification threshold, and full remediation of all identified riparian encampment sites. Achieving this requires five operations running in parallel.

The Field Architecture deploys Assertive Community Treatment teams to every chronic encampment corridor in the target zone, builds a by-name HMIS registry of every individual, and begins sustained presence engagement twelve to eighteen months before the first tower unit opens. Each named individual is matched to a specific unit, pod, and floor before the offer is made.

The Legal Lever System operates a parallel compelled clinical pathway. The MDI Stewardship Authority functions as a petitioning entity under CARE Court for individuals whose anosognosia or grave disability makes voluntary engagement clinically impossible. Assisted Outpatient Treatment mandates psychiatric compliance for the treatment-resistant. Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship provides the legal guardian mechanism for the profoundly gravely disabled. These instruments create a court-supervised pathway running in parallel to voluntary outreach.

The coordinated unit activation opens the first tower at One California Plaza with two thousand units pre-matched to named individuals in the by-name registry. This activation transforms the offer from a generic referral into a specific, immediate, and irreversible commitment integrating a named room, a stored cart, a kenneled pet in the Level 2 facility, and a keycard.

The Environmental Compliance Enforcement Track addresses the hidden riparian sub-population occupying flood control channels, storm drains, and protected wetlands across the Los Angeles basin. These encampments produce documented federal regulatory violations including fecal coliform contamination exceeding Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit standards, biological waste infiltration into protected habitat, and infrastructure obstruction within Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction (United States Congress, 1972). Systematic Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) thermal drone mapping of riparian corridors identifies and locates hidden encampments with precision unavailable to ground-based outreach (Supreme Court of the United States, 1986, 1989). Environmental abatement proceedings trigger simultaneously with the warm housing offer. The legal basis for clearance is environmental protection. The MDI housing inventory provides the simultaneous placement required for clearance to be durable.

The Ontological Permanence Architecture sustains the individual inside the tower. The Dunbar Pod structure, STC 65 acoustic sanctuaries, on-site animal accommodation, and the Pod Steward rebuild the neurological conditions for selfhood that chronic street life destroys including predictability, privacy, control, and recognized social membership (Giddens, 1991; Laing, 1960).

1.2. The Governing Principle

Sovereign space operates as the absolute clinical precondition for stabilization. Housing is not the reward for getting better. It is the clinical precondition for getting better at all.

Finland proved this at the national scale demonstrating a sixty-eight percent reduction in long-term homelessness between 2008 and 2022 (Y-Foundation, 2023). Houston proved it at the metropolitan scale achieving a sixty percent reduction between 2011 and 2020 alongside ninety percent two-year housing retention (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, 2024). The MDI thesis applies this principle at the architectural and legal scale required for Los Angeles.

The existing unmanaged street environment imposes a continuous biological failure condition upon the encamped population. Los Angeles County mortality data document the consequences (Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, 2026). The engineering error rate generates less damage than the inaction death rate. The problem is un-engineered. The Material Dignity Infrastructure engineers it.

The chronic unsheltered population is not a monolithic actor. MDI interventions fail when they treat all unsheltered individuals as a single cohort requiring a single solution. Four structurally distinct sub-populations require four separate intervention architectures. Misallocating instrument to population produces waste at best, compounded harm at worst.

These four pipelines function as a dynamic state machine rather than a static categorization. Because behavioral stability and clinical acuity fluctuate, individuals may transition between states as their needs change; a Pipeline B resident may regress to a Pipeline C state during a substance-induced crisis or stabilize into a Pipeline A state following metabolic intervention. The MDI tracking architecture logs these transitions in the by-name registry to ensure that clinical instruments adjust automatically to the individual's current state. By anticipating these transitions, the framework prevents instrument mismatch and maintains systemic responsiveness throughout the engagement window.

1.3. Pipeline A: The Near-Homeless and Voluntarily Transitioning

Economic disruption, temporary crisis, or institutional discharge from hospital, prison, or foster care triggers entry. This cohort presents free of major psychiatric comorbidity and behavioral calcification. Social functioning is intact. This population self-identifies as needing housing, engages voluntarily with the Coordinated Entry System, and completes intake documentation within standard timescales. The MDI ALMU model resolves this cohort with minimal friction. CES is the existing pipeline. MDI accelerates it by creating surplus inventory. Pipeline A, while significant in number, is not the primary driver of street visibility or public safety concern. These individuals cycle through faster and rarely form long-term encampments.

1.4. Pipeline B: The Encamped but Engageable

Long-term encampment with functional social bonds within the camp community. Psychiatric comorbidity may be present but the individual retains enough insight to evaluate offers rationally. Refusal is directed at congregate shelter models, not at housing itself.

The refusal pattern is consistent across the research literature (United States Department of Agriculture, 2023; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2022). Refusal anchors on forced separation from animal companions required for emotional regulation, mandatory separation from intimate partners, and the loss of accumulated belongings representing the individual's only remaining assets. Eliminating these barriers drives acceptance rates upward. Houston's "The Way Home" achieved fifty-eight to seventy percent encampment-level acceptance rates when specific and immediate offers were made (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, 2024). The MDI architectural model is superior to what Houston offered. The engagement timeline spans weeks to months executing sustained presence outreach followed by a specific warm offer at an acute crisis window.

1.5. Pipeline C: The Behaviorally Calcified Chronic

The core of the street crisis and the primary driver of public safety concern. Long Duration of Untreated Psychosis ranging from five to fifteen years. Active schizophrenia spectrum disorder, often with Diogenes syndrome overlay. This population requires a different intervention instrument at the neurological level.

Anosognosia operates as a neurological incapacity to perceive one's own psychiatric condition. The frontal lobe damage producing psychosis simultaneously destroys the self-monitoring faculty driving

self-recognition. Up to fifty percent of individuals with schizophrenia present with anosognosia. Outreach strategies premised on persuasion target a faculty that metabolic disease has already destroyed.

Duration of Untreated Psychosis produces measurable progressive brain changes with each untreated year including increasing cognitive rigidity, treatment resistance, and functional decline. A decade of street-level untreated psychosis is a different neurological substrate than six months. Standard clinical timescales do not apply.

Diogenes syndrome overlay presents as extreme self-neglect, domestic squalor, social withdrawal, and adamant refusal of help. The accumulated hoard is not random accumulation. It functions as what the MDI framework terms an Exoskeletal Identity Structure. This structure operates as the physical boundary of a self-constructed world that has replaced the social world that rejected or terrified the individual. Removing the hoard without replacing the identity structure triggers acute psychiatric destabilization. Intervention must be identity-preserving.

Metabolic collapse operates as a cognitive impairment independent of psychiatric diagnosis. The individual presenting at intake is not operating from a healthy neurological baseline. Electrolyte derangements from sustained dehydration and malnutrition impair executive function, impulse control, and emotional regulation. Volatility at intake is partly physiology, not exclusively psychiatry.

The Pipeline C behavioral pattern features active hostility to outreach, conspiratorial framing of offers, repeated encampment re-establishment following displacement, and preference for outdoor environments where the paranoid threat-perception system has habituated. Unfamiliar enclosed spaces trigger acute agitation. The necessary intervention combines ACT sustained presence over twelve to twenty-four months and the legal lever system targeting individuals refusing voluntary engagement.

1.6. Pipeline C Sub-Variant: The Hidden Riparian Population

A sub-set of Pipeline C operates invisible to standard Point-in-Time counts and actively resists both voluntary outreach and legal lever engagement. This cohort remains mobile, terrain-adaptive, and encamped in environmentally sensitive or legally inaccessible sites including the LA River riparian corridor, Ballona Creek, Santa Ana River, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, storm drain infrastructure, and urban edge creek systems. Estimated at twenty to thirty percent above the PIT count's Pipeline C figure due to systematic undercount of hidden sites.

This population has built a calibrated survival architecture demanding territorial stability, mutual protection hierarchies, known supply chains, animal companions as primary attachment bonds, and ontological security derived from competence in terrain survival. The MDI voluntary offer competes against a system that already operates on its own terms. The voluntary acceptance rate for this sub-population is fifteen to thirty percent globally across all evidence-based programs regardless of offer quality.

Riparian encampments produce documented federal regulatory violations that transform this from a social services problem into an environmental enforcement matter. Fecal coliform bacteria contamination of LA waterways at levels exceeding Clean Water Act NPDES permit standards (United States Congress, 1972). Hypodermic needle and pharmaceutical waste infiltration into riparian and wetland habitat. Biological waste and trash accumulation blocking flood control infrastructure within Army Corps jurisdiction. LARWQCB enforcement records document these violations. They provide a legal basis for abatement independent of housing law and not governed by the *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* framework (Supreme Court of the United States, 2024).

1.7. Pipeline D: The Voluntary Nomadic

The voluntary nomadic sub-population is not metabolically destabilized in the Pipeline C clinical sense. This cohort has organized a functioning life around outdoor living, street community bonds, informal economy, and deliberate rejection of institutional structures based upon genuine preference and cultural identity. The street sub-culture this population inhabits is real. Its social bonds are real. The competence, freedom, and mutual protection it provides are real. Treating Pipeline D individuals as a variant of Pipeline C is a diagnostic error with severe operational consequences.

Interventions designed for acute metabolic destabilization produce rational refusal when applied to individuals whose primary condition is a preference for outdoor community life. Misdirecting that refusal into the legal lever system wastes legal resources and damages the trust-based outreach relationships required for voluntary engagement over time.

The correct intervention instrument for Pipeline D is harm reduction without housing requirement. Ground floor open access provides wound care, nutrition, hygiene, needle exchange, veterinary services, and device charging without an intake requirement, a housing agreement, or any precondition. These services reduce harm even when housing placement does not occur. No element of Pipeline D intervention requires legal authority. No element requires the individual to surrender outdoor life in exchange for care.

The Anti-Detention Covenant directly protects this population. The MDI system offers. It does not compel Pipeline D. Pipeline D individuals may self-select into the MS Unit or ALMU at any point they choose. The standing offer does not expire.

The bulk majority argument establishes why Pipeline D management does not require clearance. When the metabolically destabilized, the acutely psychotic, and the neurologically compromised individuals comprising the Pipeline C population are substantially housed, what remains on the street is a qualitatively different population presenting as smaller in volume, less acutely destabilized, and significantly less visible as a public health crisis. The behavioral contagion effect that amplifies crisis in dense encampment conditions diminishes. Harm reduction services operate more effectively on fewer individuals with less acute presentations. Community tolerance for the remaining voluntary nomadic population increases because the character of the street environment has fundamentally changed.

1.8. The Population Calculus

The five pipeline classifications, matched intervention instruments, and primary MDI delivery nodes are summarized in Table 1. Each row represents a distinct decision architecture. The table is read as a triage reference: the population classification determines the instrument, the instrument determines the node, and the node determines the operational sequence.

Pipeline	Timeline	Intervention	MDI Node
A: Voluntary	Days to weeks	CES rapid placement	Ground Floor, ALMU
B: Engageable	Weeks to months	Warm offer at crisis window	Field Team, ALMU
C: Calcified	12-24 months + legal	ACT + CARE Court + AOT/LPS	Field, Legal, ALMU
C: Riparian	Abatement + offer	FLIR + environmental enforcement	LARWQCB, Warm Offer, ALMU
D: Voluntary Nomadic	Open-ended	Harm reduction, no pre-condition	Ground Floor open access only

Table 1. Population Pipeline Classification and Matched Intervention Architecture. Pipeline D receives harm reduction services without housing requirement. No legal instrument applies to Pipeline D.

Pipeline A approaches full voluntary engagement within a standard coordinated entry timeline. Pipeline B reaches fifty-eight to seventy percent acceptance at the targeted warm offer. Pipeline C visible cohorts generate fifteen to thirty percent voluntary acceptance, with the remainder requiring the legal lever pathway. Pipeline C hidden riparian populations demonstrate minimal voluntary engagement, establishing environmental enforcement as the primary access mechanism. Pipeline D receives services without placement pressure. Clearance of Pipelines A through C from the street environment changes the character of the remaining Pipeline D population sufficiently that harm reduction becomes the dominant management instrument county-wide.

The pipeline classification is complete. The instrument matched to each population now enters its operational specification.

2. Phase Zero: Metabolic Stabilization

Housing First achieves eighty to ninety percent two-year housing retention in Finland (Y-Foundation, 2023; FEANTSA, 2022). The same intervention, applied in the United States, produces retention below forty percent (Mobile Loaves and Fishes, 2024). The mechanism difference is not the housing. It is the physiological condition of the individual at the moment of placement. Finland’s national welfare infrastructure delivers nutritional support, healthcare, and social services that stabilize individuals physiologically before they enter housing. The United States delivers the housing unit to an individual who remains in acute physiological crisis. That individual cannot sustain tenancy. This failure results strictly from neurological and metabolic incapacity.

Metabolic Stabilization is the engineering intervention that closes this gap. It is Phase Zero of the MDI pipeline: the clinical stage that precedes ground floor intake, precedes the warm housing offer, and precedes every element of the ontological permanence architecture. Without it, the pipeline delivers housing to individuals who cannot hold housing. With it, the pipeline replicates the Finnish prerequisite layer from a Los Angeles County institutional foundation.

2.1. The Three-Gate Triage Decision Architecture

Mobile crisis outreach workers, ACT teams, and law enforcement assess each individual presenting in crisis. Three authorized outcomes exist for crisis presentations. The triage determination routes the individual to the pathway matched to their presenting condition.

Presenting Condition	Authorized Pathway	Governing Authority
Criminal act, danger to others, outstanding warrant	JAIL	Law enforcement, Courts
Acute medical crisis, overdose, severe injury, imminent psychiatric danger	EMERGENCY ROOM	Medical authority; 5150 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) if criteria met
Metabolic destabilization, psychiatric crisis without criminal act, intoxication, exposure	MS UNIT	mobile crisis outreach and ACT clinical determination

Table 2. Three-Gate Triage Decision Architecture. Applied jointly by mobile crisis outreach, ACT team, and law enforcement at point of contact. Release to street is not an authorized triage outcome for individuals meeting crisis criteria. Non-crisis individuals retain full freedom of movement at all times.

This architecture does not create new coercive authority. California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150 already authorizes a 72-hour involuntary psychiatric hold for individuals posing danger to self, danger to others, or meeting grave disability criteria. That authority predates MDI. The mobile crisis outreach and ACT clinical determination identifies which existing legal pathway applies. MDI provides the destination those pathways currently lack.

2.2. The Civil Liberties Architecture

Residency in the MS Unit and ALMU is voluntary. The Anti-Detention Covenant codified in the Stewardship Authority charter guarantees unrestricted egress for all residents at all times following admission. Existing California legal authority governs the acute triage window covering the hours immediately following mobile crisis, ACT, or law enforcement assessment for individuals in active crisis. This statutory authority includes medical holds under 5150 WIC, law enforcement intervention for criminal acts, and incapacity consent protocols. That is statutory authority, not MDI authority. The Covenant governs what occurs after the acute crisis resolves and the individual is admitted as a participant rather than a detainee. Pipeline D individuals and any non-crisis individual who declines the MS Unit offer retain full street access. The gate applies to acute crisis presentations only.

2.3. The Three Intake Pathways

Three distinct routes deliver individuals to the MS Unit and ground floor resource center. Each operates independently. The tower receives from all three simultaneously.

Pathway 1. Sally Port formal intake. This pathway relies on a mobile crisis outreach and ACT team-facilitated warm offer directed to a named individual on the by-name HMIS registry. The individual is pre-matched to a specific unit, pod, and floor before the offer conversation even begins. Because the process is structured, documented, and consent-based, the individual enters the system known, pre-matched, and at a chosen moment of willingness.

Pathway 2. Open ground floor walk-in. An individual presents voluntarily to the open-access resource center without prior registration or preconditions. Upon arrival, ground floor Zone B triage assesses the presenting condition and routes the individual to the appropriate clinical tier. Because walk-in access converts unknown individuals into registered participants, this serves as the highest-volume intake pathway during early operations.

Pathway 3. Secondary clinical transfer from field contact, law enforcement, or ER. Individual transferred following field contact, a non-criminal law enforcement determination, or ER discharge

to a lower-acuity setting. The backdoor entrance to Zone A physically separates this pathway from the open resource center population, preventing crisis contagion in the commons and preserving the non-clinical character of open access.

2.4. The MHRC Cluster Model

Phase Zero operates through Mental Health Rehabilitation Center clusters deployed at scattered sites across the Los Angeles downtown corridor (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024b). Each cluster holds fewer than sixteen units. Each files an independent Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Form 1813 MHRC licensure application. Each bills Medi-Cal independently as a specialty mental health sub-acute facility at approximately fifty percent federal financial participation through Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The sub-sixteen unit threshold resolves the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion architecturally. This specification eliminates the requirement for speculative waivers.

MHRC is a 24-hour DHCS-licensed facility classification for adults with mental disorders providing intensive rehabilitative services for sub-acute stabilization, skill-building, and independence. The thirty-to-ninety day Metabolic Stabilization protocol matches this classification precisely. Licensure requires submission of DHCS Form 1813 with a defined service array, staffing plan, and individualized treatment planning protocol (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024b,a).

2.5. The ST-65 Medical Utility Unit

The physical module of each MHRC cluster is the ST-65 Medical Utility Unit: a sixty-five-decibel-proof sound enclosure designated as a state-owned clinical environment. It is not a residential dwelling. It is not a shelter. It is a therapeutic milieu unit analogous to a hospital step-down bed (Frontiers in Psychology Editorial Board, 2024; GB Acoustics, 2024).

Hypervigilance is a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) diagnostic criterion for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Auditory hypersensitivity is a documented symptom of methamphetamine-induced psychosis during post-acute withdrawal. Sleep continuity disruption from environmental noise prolongs both conditions by preventing the neurological consolidation processes occurring during slow-wave and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. The sixty-five-decibel acoustic specification is a therapeutic milieu standard required to deliver effective psychiatric rehabilitation to a population whose primary diagnoses include conditions for which uncontrolled auditory stimulation is a documented symptom trigger and recovery barrier. This is the Form 1813 clinical language that defends the specification against regulatory challenge. The ST-65 classification

as a medical facility exits the residential zoning framework that community opposition targets and enters the medical facility regulatory pathway where opposition carries materially different legal weight.

2.6. The Metabolic Stabilization Clinical Protocol

The Pipeline C methamphetamine-dependent population requires a specific clinical content sequence (Mehanna et al., 2008). Methamphetamine withdrawal produces psychosis, severe depression, and cognitive impairment persisting weeks to months after cessation. These are neurological states, not preference states. They prevent participation in any structured program until they resolve. The MHRC cluster provides the clinical environment in which neurological recovery is physiologically possible.

Four clinical targets govern the stabilization sequence. Nutritional refeeding and electrolyte correction addresses Thiamine deficiency producing Wernicke encephalopathy risk, Magnesium deficiency producing anxiety and seizure risk, and Protein deficiency producing impaired neurotransmitter synthesis. Sleep continuity restoration targets six or more hours of uninterrupted sleep without pharmacological support. Wound care and infection treatment resolves acute infectious disease states interrupting physiological recovery. Psychiatric symptom stabilization as withdrawal clears enables progressive diagnostic clarification from provisional to finalized DSM-5 diagnosis.

2.7. The Three-Phase Diagnostic Protocol

A Pipeline C resident arriving post-acute from the emergency room presents with no prior treatment history, significant cognitive impairment from methamphetamine withdrawal, and active psychosis potentially indistinguishable from primary psychotic disorder. Billing requires a clinical reasoning trail. The protocol provides it in three phases (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024b).

Phase 1 (Hours 0–72): A Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts conducts clinical interview and mental status examination. Staff document observable symptoms including psychosis, cognitive impairment, withdrawal signs, and functional deficits. A provisional DSM-5 diagnosis is recorded: Stimulant-Induced Psychotic Disorder or Unspecified Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder as appropriate. DSM-5 allows provisional diagnosis when full criteria are unclear due to substance effects. The assessment itself is billable as Mental Health Services Assessment under DHCS Specialty Mental Health Services rules.

Phase 2 (Days 1 to 14): Collateral from emergency room records, field notes, and by-name HMIS registry. Toxicology and basic labs to rule out acute medical issues. Daily progress notes tracking symptom changes as withdrawal clears. The daily note entry sustains provisional billing and constitutes the audit-defensible clinical reasoning trail.

Phase 3 (By Day 30): DSM-5 diagnosis finalized and signed by the LPHA. The Individualized Treatment Plan links problems to measurable goals and rehabilitative services. Full Medi-Cal billing for specialty mental health services is authorized following signed ITP.

2.8. Day-30 Functional Indicators

The ITP measurable goals define five functional indicators. Progress on at least two by day thirty is the clearance threshold. If fewer than two are met, the ITP extends the stabilization phase with revised goals. Billing continues. The timeline adjusts to the individual.

1. Sustained hygiene maintenance without staff prompting
2. Sleep continuity of six or more hours without pharmacological support
3. Orientation to person, place, and date consistently across three consecutive days
4. Participation in at least one structured group activity per day
5. Initiation of at least one activity of daily living task independently per day

These indicators are the measurement substrate for Verification Metric 7. The Phase Zero clearance rate is the causal test of the primary MDI thesis. This rate represents the proportion of residents meeting two or more indicators at ninety days. A retention gain at Metric 2 (housing retention) without a clearance gain at Metric 7 cannot be attributed to the Metabolic Stabilization sequencing design.

3. Phase One: Pre-Admission Field Architecture

The MDI tower is a terminal infrastructure node. It cannot function as an intake mechanism for Pipeline C without a pre-admission field architecture operating at the encampment level twelve to twenty-four months in advance. The Field Architecture is the pipeline. Without it, the tower houses Pipelines A and B while Pipeline C remains on the street, congregating at the base of the building.

3.1. Phase 1: The By-Name HMIS Registry

Field documentation teams deploy to all encampment sites within the MDI target zone during months one through six of pre-operations. Field documentation requires mapping each individual's known name or identifier, fixed versus nomadic GPS location pattern, observable survival anchors including animal companions and primary possessions, tentative Pipeline classification, and behavioral observation notes. All data enters an HMIS instance managed by the MDI Stewardship Authority. The by-name list is the operational backbone. Every housing unit pre-opening is pre-matched to a named individual on this list. The warm offer is specific because the preparation was specific.

Houston's HMIS integration across over one hundred partner agencies was the single factor most cited in that city's sixty percent reduction (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, 2024). Real-time data eliminated the coordination lag where individuals fell through agency handoffs.

3.2. Phase 2: ACT Team Sustained Presence

Each encampment cluster receives a dedicated Assertive Community Treatment team whose composition ensures redundant relationship coverage. Team composition requires one mobile psychiatrist, one registered nurse, one licensed social worker, and one outreach case manager alongside a peer support specialist, a substance use counselor, and a team coordinator. To maintain operational consistency despite high sector turnover, the MDI standard mandates a 20 percent staffing buffer and a team-level identity protocol where two or more staff members share relationship responsibility for every resident. This redundant coverage prevents trust cycles from resetting when individual staff members transition; consequently, the relationship with the participant remains a property of the system rather than the individual clinician. This total of seven to eight full-time equivalents manages an active caseload ratio of eighty to one hundred twenty Pipeline C clients.

The operational protocol mandates leading with presence rather than service offers. Initial engagement deploys only coffee, food, wound care, and harm reduction supplies. Engagement operates strictly without intake forms or entry conditions. Teams establish a fixed schedule returning to

the identical individuals at the identical encampment on the identical days. This predictability structurally reduces threat-perception in paranoid individuals. Teams update HMIS records following every contact documenting behavioral changes, new anchors identified, and crisis windows observed.

The peer specialist's function is irreplaceable. Pipeline C individuals with paranoid systems can often accept contact from someone who has visibly survived the same experiences. The psychiatrist and social worker follow the peer specialist's relationship. Because the team maintains a strict non-discharge policy, service refusal is documented while outreach contact continues uninterrupted.

Engagement timeline realities indicate Pipeline B requires four to sixteen weeks of contact before productively receiving a warm offer. Pipeline C requires six to twenty-four months of continuous engagement. Some individuals necessitate multi-year sustained contact. The ACT literature demonstrates persistence without pressure as the only evidence-based approach for this cohort (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2024).

3.3. Phase 3: The Warm Offer Window

Voluntary movement from the street to housing most frequently occurs within a tight window following an acute crisis event at the encampment site including the death of a nearby individual, a violent incident, a severe weather event, or an acute medical emergency. The window closes rapidly. ACT teams maintaining sustained presence capture this window while one-time outreach teams predictably miss it.

The offer structure is specific, immediate, and irreversible. Unit assignment is pre-confirmed in HMIS before the conversation begins. The pet has a kennel unit at the veterinary node. The cart is photographed, tagged, and GPS-tracked secure possession storage accessible by Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). The social worker has prepared all intake documentation before the offer conversation including identification, benefits enrollment stubs, and the housing agreement. Because bureaucratic friction is eliminated prior to the offer, physical movement into the unit occurs within hours of acceptance.

The specificity of this offer is structural. It eliminates every rational objection Pipeline B uses and reduces the cognitive load on Pipeline C individuals who cannot process abstract future states.

3.4. Phase 4: Encampment Resolution

Encampment clearance without simultaneous housing placement produces geographic redistribution only. Municipal sweeps ignoring the by-name registry and warm offer protocol sever ACT relationships and extend engagement timelines by months.

Clearance operations trigger only after every individual has received a specific and immediate unit offer or enters active CARE Court or AOT supervision. Clearance functions as a logistics event where sanitation and storage teams accompany the housing placement. Post-clearance operations require ACT team follow-up with placed individuals for ninety days to prevent re-encampment.

3.5. ACT Workforce Sizing

The 2025 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Greater Los Angeles County PIT Count recorded approximately 75,312 total homeless with fifty-eight percent unsheltered, yielding approximately 43,700 unsheltered individuals on any night (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2025). PIT methodology systematically undercounts the most deeply hidden encampments.

Pipeline	Est. Pct. Unsheltered	LA County Count	Primary Intervention
A. Voluntary	~30%	~13,100	CES rapid placement
B. Engageable	~40%	~17,500	Warm offer at crisis window
C. Calcified	~30%	~13,100	ACT sustained presence + legal

Table 3. Pipeline Distribution Applied to Unsheltered Count.

One California Plaza operating two thousand units requires five ACT teams targeting approximately five hundred Pipeline C individuals requiring forty full-time equivalents (FTE) alongside eight to ten field registry teams requiring twenty-five equivalents. The ground floor clinical node staff requires twelve equivalents alongside thirteen Pod Stewards. The total pilot field and residential workforce demands approximately ninety full time equivalents.

The full twenty-tower forty-thousand-person system demands one hundred thirty ACT teams for thirteen thousand one hundred Pipeline C individuals at one hundred caseloads equaling one thousand forty equivalents alongside three hundred field registry workers, two hundred sixty Pod Stewards, one hundred twenty ground floor clinical staff, two hundred robotic swarm supervisors, and one hundred digital access center staff. The total full system requires approximately two thousand twenty full time equivalents.

3.6. Workforce Funding Stack

The MDI field workforce draws from four interlocking revenue streams with Medi-Cal reimbursement as the load-bearing base.

ACT performs as a Medi-Cal-billable service in California under the Community Mental Health Services framework (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024a). Approximately eighty-five to ninety percent of the Pipeline C population qualifies for Medi-Cal. At the standard ACT billing rate of one hundred fifty dollars to one hundred ninety dollars per day per enrolled client alongside a single team carrying one hundred clients generates approximately five and a half million dollars to nearly seven million dollars annually. Across one hundred thirty teams the structure generates approximately seven hundred fifteen million dollars to eight hundred ninety-seven million dollars annually in federal-state insurance offset.

The Mental Health Services Act generates approximately three and a half billion dollars statewide annually. Los Angeles County's MHSA allocation reaches approximately four hundred million dollars per year (California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, 2024). ACT teams for the chronically homeless unsheltered rank among the highest-priority eligible expenditures under the Full Service Partnership category.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds ACT implementation through competitive grants of \$500K to \$2M per program (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2024). Measure Alpha covers residential infrastructure and a portion of field architecture operating costs. CARE Court implementation via AB 1976 appropriating \$14.7M statewide qualifies the Stewardship Authority's petitioning function as an eligible implementation cost (California State Legislature, 2024).

Table 4 consolidates the full-system workforce cost structure and the Medi-Cal billing offset that reduces net public expenditure.

Cost Item	Annual Gross	Medi-Cal Offset	Net Public Cost
Full ACT workforce (130 teams)	~\$78M	~\$75–85M	~\$0–5M
Registry/documentation (300 FTE)	~\$18M	—	~\$18M
Pod Stewards + ground floor clinical	~\$24M	Partial	~\$15M
Total field + residential	~\$120M	~\$75–85M	~\$35–45M

Table 4. Workforce Funding Stack. Net Public Cost After Medi-Cal Billing Offset.

The net public cost of \$35M to \$45M annually for the full 40,000-person system falls within the combined Measure Alpha and MHSA allocation available to LA County (Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, 2025). The workforce is a deficit-neutral employment pipeline once Medi-Cal billing is accounted for. This employment pool is a labor market event for Los Angeles with a structural preference for hiring from the populations the system serves.

4. The Legal Lever System: Parallel Compelled Pathway

For Pipeline C individuals whose anosognosia or grave disability makes voluntary engagement clinically impossible, a parallel legal track operates alongside ACT outreach. This is a court-supervised clinical pathway that ensures no individual falls permanently through the gap between voluntary engagement capacity and the need for stabilization. California’s current legal architecture provides three instruments of increasing restriction.

4.1. CARE Court (The CARE Act, 2023)

All fifty-eight California counties achieved operational status as of 2024 (California State Legislature, 2022). The target population focuses on adults with schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders alongside expanded inclusion for bipolar disorder with psychotic features as of early 2026. Restriction levels remain low. The pathway functions non-custodially. The individual remains in the community.

Families, roommates, first responders, healthcare providers, or the MDI Stewardship Authority file the petition. The Court reviews the petition and upon meeting criteria establishes a twelve-to-twenty-four-month CARE Agreement operating as a court-monitored community treatment plan including housing, medication, and wraparound services. A multidisciplinary team reports to the court on progress. Persistent non-compliance triggers escalating review. CARE Court structurally diverts individuals away from more restrictive LPS conservatorships.

The Stewardship Authority’s field teams, through the by-name HMIS registry, have documented behavioral evidence of schizophrenia spectrum presentation for Pipeline C individuals. This documentation is the foundation of a CARE Court petition. The Authority functions as petitioner, ensuring individuals who cannot self-petition or whose families are absent still receive the court’s attention.

4.2. AOT: Assisted Outpatient Treatment

The instrument targets individuals with a documented history of treatment non-compliance and at least one of repeated psychiatric hospitalizations, incarcerations, or documented threats of or acts of violence (California State Legislature, 2002). History of system interaction acts as the primary criterion functioning distinctly from CARE Court’s diagnosis-first focus. Restriction levels hit moderate. The mechanism executes court-ordered outpatient treatment via civil court order. It carries no conviction. It mandates medication compliance and outpatient clinical engagement. Non-compliance triggers court review and potential escalation to LPS.

ACT teams accumulate documented interaction histories in HMIS. For individuals with observable histories of hospitalization, incarceration, or threatening behavior, AOT petitions can be filed with evidentiary support from the Stewardship Authority’s field documentation.

4.3. LPS Conservatorship (SB 43 Expansion)

The target population defines individuals deemed gravely disabled and unable to provide for their own food, clothing, or shelter due to a mental health disorder or severe substance use disorder (California State Legislature, 2023). Restriction levels rank high. A conservator is legally appointed to make medical and housing decisions on behalf of the individual. The system operates as a last resort.

Initiated following a 72-hour involuntary 5150 psychiatric hold or CARE Court escalation. Court appoints Public Guardian or designated conservator. Conservator may consent to housing placement and medical treatment on the individual’s behalf. Subject to periodic court review.

For the most profoundly calcified Pipeline C individuals, those for whom years of ACT engagement have produced no voluntary movement, LPS Conservatorship provides the legal mechanism for housing placement. The conservator accepts the ALMU unit on the individual’s behalf. Housing precedes recovery. The legal instrument enforces the precondition.

Conservatorship is not indefinite institutionalization. The MDI ALMU environment is designed to provide the stability that allows psychiatric symptoms to stabilize over time. As condition improves, conservatorship review may result in restoration of legal autonomy, at which point the Stewardship Contract governs tenancy voluntarily.

4.4. The Three-Instrument Decision Matrix

Table 5 maps each clinical condition to the appropriate legal instrument and the Stewardship Authority’s operational role within that pathway.

Condition	Instrument	MDI Role
Schizophrenia spectrum, no prior system history	CARE Court	Petitioner via Stewardship Authority
History of hospitalization/incarceration/threats	AOT (Laura’s Law)	Field documentation supports petition
Gravely disabled, cannot self-provide	LPS Conservatorship	Conservator accepts ALMU placement
Voluntary but treatment-resistant	ACT sustained presence	Field Architecture (no legal instrument)

Table 5. Legal Lever Decision Matrix and MDI Stewardship Authority Role.

No existing California social housing framework operates as a CARE Court petitioning entity. The MDI Stewardship Authority’s TVA-modeled charter must codify this function. The by-name HMIS registry provides the evidentiary basis. The ACT team’s documented engagement history provides the clinical basis. The legal instrument provides the compelled pathway for the subset of Pipeline C that cannot be reached voluntarily. This is the mechanism that makes the MDI framework complete. Without it, Pipeline C’s most resistant individuals remain permanently on the street regardless of tower availability.

5. Phase Two: Ground Floor Intake and Metabolic Stabilization

The ground floor of the MDI tower carries three spatially distinct and operationally independent systems on a single 26,000 square foot floor plate. They co-exist without mixing. The architecture enforces separation. It does not rely on staff enforcement.

5.1. The Open Resource Center

The public-facing, welcoming commons. Low-barrier, zero conditions, open to registered guests and upper-floor residents. Operations are strictly environmental with access requiring only an RFID token or thermal scan. Clinical triage and assessment are geometrically excluded from this space. New street arrivals from Pipeline A and Pipeline B access hygiene, laundry, food, or device charging voluntarily. Upper-floor MDI residents use the commons as their residential amenity floor providing cafeteria, veterinary node, dog run access, Digital Access Center, and decompression zones.

Atmosphere requires circadian lighting providing warm tones alongside biophilic materials and curved surfaces eliminating institutional fixtures. The cafeteria capacity hits twelve hundred. The cafeteria operates a robotic kitchen and direct-access pharmacy vending. A real-time unit availability display shows unit availability across the tower network. The design features a veterinary node adjacent to dog run access.

5.2. Zone A: The Sally Port

Secured, clinical, dedicated arrival node for high-acuity individuals via mobile crisis team or law enforcement handoff. The node requires a separate entrance from the Resource Center and operates optically isolated from the general commons.

Interlocking double-door system prevents spillover volatility from the arrival zone into the general ground floor. Anti-ligature fixtures, tamper-resistant materials, reinforced glazing integrated into a residential-scale material palette (American College of Emergency Physicians, 2020). Clear sightlines from staff node to all positions. No blind corners.

Staffing requires a Dual-Role Crisis Node. One Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)-trained behavioral health clinician and one peer support specialist with lived experience (CIT International, 2023). The clinician manages clinical assessment. The peer specialist manages the human connection that reduces threat-perception.

The de-escalation environment deploys tunable warm spectrum circadian lighting, acoustic dampening panels, biophilic geometry with curved surfaces and no hard ninety-degree corners, and nature-sound atmospheric integration.

5.3. Zone B: Triage and Acuity Segmentation

Immediate conversational assessment to route guests into appropriate stabilization pathways. Non-clinical, trauma-informed screening. Staff observe orientation level, agitation indicators, and somatic presentation including wound status, dehydration signs, and metabolic distress. Guests partition into low-acuity flow for self-directed access to hygiene, laundry, cafeteria, and decompression zones or high-acuity support for escorted access to supervised single-occupancy hygiene nodes, wound care, and direct clinical handoff.

The real-time unit availability display shows across the tower network. It neutralizes scarcity-driven anxiety before it becomes behavioral agitation.

5.4. The Incident Pathway and Outbreak Design

Decompensation events within the Resource Center require rapid clinical intervention isolated from the general population. The ground floor does not treat outbreaks as exceptional events. The design anticipates multiple decompensation incidents per day as the baseline operational condition. Weekend and holiday periods generate elevated incident frequency correlated with reduced access to community mental health services and increased substance use in the surrounding street environment. Dedicated surge clinical staff supplement baseline ground floor personnel during these windows to manage MS-related destabilization incidents and relieve community hospitals of presentations that belong in the tower's clinical infrastructure.

A dedicated staff-key-only corridor connects the Resource Center interior directly to Zone A through a rear-wall passage. This transit route is optically blind to the general commons floor and unmarked. When staff identify an acute decompensation event, the individual is moved through the back-door corridor into Zone A without traversing the Resource Center population. The first human the decompensating individual encounters on transition is a peer support specialist with lived experience. If physical stabilization is required before transit, two designated de-escalation alcoves, visually separated from the main commons by biophilic partition walls, allow private attendance by two staff members until stability permits back-door transit. The pathway from resource center incident to Zone A crisis management does not pass through the open commons at any point.

5.5. Acuity-Segmented Hygiene

Because multi-actor escalation most commonly originates in communal hygiene spaces, the MDI specification eliminates communal hygiene entirely. The architecture replaces shared facilities with single-occupancy, reinforced medical-grade modules that feature resident-controlled water temperature defaulting to 38 degrees Celsius and a low-lighting option utilizing adjustable warm LEDs. To prevent escalation driven by urgency, residents face no time pressure for the first thirty minutes while UV-C and HEPA air scrubbing systems maintain environmental safety.

Hygiene rehabilitation for Diogenes-pattern individuals executes clothing exchange framed as addition rather than replacement. The team offers a hygiene intake kit as a gift. Staff bag and tag soiled clothing pending individual consent for disposal. Teams conduct skin and wound assessments immediately post-hygiene. Chronic wound pain operates as a primary driver of behavioral agitation. Pain management precedes psychiatric medication adjustment in the stabilization sequence.

5.6. Metabolic Stabilization: The Clinical Sequence

Hours zero through four prioritize rehydration. Oral rehydration requires World Health Organization formulated electrolyte solutions (World Health Organization, 2006). Rapid water loading in severely dehydrated individuals with depleted sodium produces hyponatremia, a potentially fatal cerebral edema. This is a life-safety specification for the robotic kitchen and pharmacy protocols.

Hours four through twenty-four focus on nutritional triage. Refeeding Syndrome is a life-threatening risk for severely malnourished arrivals (Mehanna et al., 2008). Rapid reintroduction of carbohydrates triggers electrolyte shifts producing cardiac arrhythmia and neurological complications. The cafeteria requires a clinical triage layer identifying high-risk individuals indicating Body Mass Index (BMI) below 16, visible severe wasting, or reported days without food and routing them to a Gradual Reintroduction Protocol before open cafeteria access.

Hours twenty-four through seventy-two comprise the psychiatric assessment window. Once basic metabolic stability is achieved, the individual's neurological baseline rises enough for meaningful psychiatric evaluation. Attempting psychiatric assessment before this window produces false-negative assessments of capacity and compliance. Psychiatric assessment strictly follows metabolic stabilization.

For guests requiring immediate psychiatric stabilization beyond ground floor capacity the architecture provides direct-path access to an on-site psychiatric emergency node. CIT-trained staff accompany.

6. Phase Three: Ontological Architecture

Ontological security is the provision of structural predictability sufficient to eliminate the routine of being roused (Giddens, 1991; Laing, 1960). Its core markers mandate a space for daily routines alongside a sense of privacy, control over the environment, and the ability to maintain a coherent sense of self away from external intrusion. The ALMU achieves engineering designed to deliver all four markers simultaneously.

6.1. The Acoustic Sanctuary: STC 65

Sound Transmission Class (STC) 55 is the biological floor. It prevents physiological hearing damage. STC 65 is the ontological threshold. It neutralizes the vibration of the street and neighboring micro-movements that trigger hyper-vigilance in trauma-impacted residents (Frontiers in Psychology Editorial Board, 2024; GB Acoustics, 2024).

Construction demands decoupled mass assembly securing resilient channels isolating gypsum layers from structural framing. The build specifies double-layer 5/8-inch Type X gypsum featuring Green Glue viscoelastic damping compound between layers. Teams apply acoustic caulk at all penetrations. Floor-ceiling assemblies incorporate a floating floor system on rubber isolators over a concrete substrate. STC 60 and above renders loud speech inaudible in adjacent spaces. STC 65 reduces ambient sound transfer to levels approaching clinical quiet-room standards.

Active masking layer integrated into the 6-to-10 exchange per hour air filtration system. Biological white-noise frequencies including running water and wind spectra introduced at low amplitude. Neutralizes residual micro-sound without the clinical sterility of silence, which can itself be disorienting for individuals habituated to outdoor ambient environments.

6.2. The ALMU: Sovereign Cabin

A precision-engineered 150 square foot module delivers one single inviolable experience establishing a door that locks where only the resident holds the key.

The wet bath module occupies 28 to 32 square feet. Wet room design is a single waterproofed chamber where the shower pan is the entire bathroom floor. Toilet, wall-mounted sink, and showerhead share a drain-sloped floor. Resident-controlled water temperature. Solar thermal pre-heated supply. The architecture prohibits communal hygiene facilities. Every ALMU incorporates an independent wet bath. This is a non-negotiable dignity threshold.

The living volume occupies 90 to 95 square feet. Murphy wall-bed folds flat when stowed, reclaiming approximately 35 square feet of floor during daytime. Wall-mounted fold-down desk with seated and standing dual configuration. Under-bed and under-desk locking storage. Countertop one-point-seven cubic foot mini-refrigerator, induction cooktop plate, microwave alcove. No gas range. Fire safety constraint at this density is absolute. Built-in wardrobe column measuring 12 inches deep by 24 inches wide.

Materials feature a warm-toned material palette. Matte birch ply paneling meets stone-texture wall surfaces. The spec eliminates white institutional finishes. Systems feature individual Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) control within a 68-to-78-degree operating band. Facilities execute clinical-grade HEPA and UV-C scrubbing. Air quality exceeds average Los Angeles apartment standards.

The hard door demands solid-core construction integrating an STC 65 acoustic frame and threshold seal. Installations include a quiet-operation digital lock. The ground floor Zone B triage node executes immediate keycard issuance. Sovereignty of the private space is guaranteed from the moment of unit assignment.

The window priority rule dictates all ALMU units receive perimeter-adjacent positions first. Interior floor space converts to pod common areas, biophilic nodes, and pod kitchens. Where interior units prove necessary to meet the 2,000-unit target, full-spectrum circadian LED ceiling panels execute a programmable dawn-to-midday-to-dusk 24-hour cycle providing documented mitigation of seasonal affective disorder and circadian disruption. Perimeter units provide full-height commercial glazing with floor-to-ceiling sky views. Unobstructed sky access remains a therapeutic variable for populations exiting a street encampment.

Module definition as a non-property interest ensures the legal classification bypasses housing court jurisdiction while preserving residential dignity. Residents cannot face eviction through standard housing court processes. The Stewardship Contract governs all tenure conditions.

Redundant resilience requires hydrogen or dual-fuel backup generators. Architecture demands a 96-hour potable water cistern mandate holding 560,000 gallons total at One California Plaza occupying 12 percent of the P5 basement slab. Pressurized sewage ejectors carry a 50,000-hour Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) mandate.

6.3. Dunbar Verticality: Partitioning Against Anonymity

A 2,000-unit tower is institutionally scaled, too large for organic social cohesion. Dunbar's Number establishing a limit of approximately 150 represents the cognitive ceiling for stable, trust-based social relationships (Dunbar, 1992). Above 150, organic mutual accountability fails, necessitating formal enforcement mechanisms.

The tower mass partitions into 13 independent Home Pods of approximately 154 individuals each, four to five floors per pod. These pods function as operationally autonomous zones with dedicated staff clusters, localized incident containment protocols, and independent vertical circulation loops serviced by the 28-elevator bank. By programming independent elevator loops, Pod 3 residents encounter primarily their own pod neighbors in transit, thereby creating recognizable daily familiarity. Digital lockout enforces pod boundaries on shared amenity floors via RFID-linked time-slot scheduling, which prevents anonymous mass congregation and ensures that any behavioral or infrastructure failure remains contained within a single pod. This modular architecture transforms the 2,000-unit tower from a single point of failure into a failure-tolerant network of thirteen semi-autonomous residential communities.

Dunbar Group sizing within each pod is not standardized. The ITP finalized at day 30 of Phase Zero specifies individual DG assignment based on observed social tolerance, agitation triggers, and psychiatric presentation. Some residents stabilize best in smaller DG clusters of five to eight individuals. Others integrate readily into groups of twenty to thirty. The Dunbar number of 150 establishes the pod-level ceiling, not the individual's social density threshold. Smaller DG assignment is not a lower-status outcome. It is a clinically appropriate match to the individual's neurological needs at the point of ALMU placement. DG assignment is revisable as the resident stabilizes and social tolerance expands.

6.4. Biophilic Infrastructure: Two-Tier System

Biophilic exposure reduces cortisol, improves mood regulation, and decreases agitation incidents in high-density residential settings (Grand Rising Behavioral Health, 2024; IMEG Corp, 2024). The MDI tower delivers biophilic access at two distinct scales.

Tier 1 Pod-Level Node occupying every pod and every 4 to 5 floors. A 200-to-300 square foot planted alcove embedded in the path residents travel daily. Living plant wall with automated drip irrigation. Window-adjacent seating. Small conversation-scaled table. The living plant wall absorbs mid-frequency sound, creating a quieter micro-zone within the circulation path. Native California

species, drought-tolerant, low-volatile organic compound (VOC), sensory-appropriate. Positioned immediately adjacent to the pod common kitchen. Cooking smells, plant presence, natural light, and informal social encounter occupy the same zone. Residents traverse the pod node organically. The five-to-ten-minute passive biophilic exposure that occurs incidentally during daily movement delivers the documented cortisol-reduction dose without requiring behavioral change.

Tier 2 Tower-Level Sanctuary occupying every seven floors. A destination. Oxygenated lounge with native California flora, operating at 50 percent of original HVAC design load surplus. Double-height volume or exterior terrace where structural conditions permit. Hydroponic garden nodes with resident-accessible cultivation plots. Rooftop greenspace with automated irrigation and weather-protected seating. This is where residents from different pods encounter each other. Cross-pod social bridges form here organically, reducing the risk of pod insularity becoming pod tribalism.

7. Social Infrastructure: The Human Layer

The tower's physical architecture creates the conditions for ontological security. The social infrastructure sustains it. Architectural design cannot force community formation (Frontiers in Psychology Editorial Board, 2024). It engineers the spatial conditions that precipitate community formation.

7.1. The Pod Steward: The Gardien Model

The French Gardien model in social housing demonstrates that a live-in, on-site human presence functions as a Social Broker, bridging anonymous institutional management and the daily human realities of residents (Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2023; Eindhoven University of Technology, 2024).

A security guard's primary function is enforcement. Residents perceive enforcement as a threat signal, particularly Pipeline C individuals with paranoid presentations. A Pod Steward's primary function is recognition. They know every resident by name, observe behavioral baseline, and respond to deviation exclusively as a welfare signal.

Staffing requires a credentialed peer support specialist possessing certificated lived experience of homelessness or psychiatric illness operating with social work supervision. One Pod Steward serves each Dunbar Pod of 154 individuals. Residential unit within the pod preferred. The 24-hour welfare check protocol requires zero movement detection for 24 hours on the life-safety telemetry prompting a Pod Steward face-to-face check-in. The human layer interprets the data signal and responds with judgment and relationship.

7.2. Resident Civic Engagement Pathway

Voluntary participation tracks that transition residents from passive service recipients to active stakeholders. Participation is voluntary. Participation earns Stewardship Status, which carries social recognition within the pod.

Garden Stewardship requires care of the pod-level biophilic node and tower-level sanctuary. Horticultural therapy research documents measurable psychiatric stabilization outcomes from plant care responsibility. Robotic Swarm Supervision mandates residents shadow and assist the Gausium platform maintenance cycle reducing paranoid threat-perception of automated systems and granting agency over the physical environment. Community Kitchen Coordination involves pod-level meal scheduling alongside shared cooking and informal hosting. Food preparation functions as social

ritual. Digital Access Center Support invites residents with vocational or technical skills to mentor others in peer-to-peer skill transfer.

7.3. The Pod Common Kitchen

The ground floor cafeteria handles mass nutrition operating a 1,200-person capacity robotic kitchen. The pod common kitchen handles the informal, voluntary, social act of cooking together. Whereas the cafeteria is engineered to provide mass metabolic sustenance, the pod kitchen functions strictly to build the social architecture of the pod through shared meal preparation.

Scale accommodates 8 to 15 people cooking and eating together. Four-to-six-burner induction range. Two ovens. Commercial-grade refrigerators. Prep island with seating for six. Dining table for 10 to 12. Open shelving for communal pantry, restocked from the Resource Bank inventory via Pod Council coordination.

Placement must sit immediately adjacent to the pod-level biophilic node. The kitchen and the planted alcove share a visual and olfactory field. This adjacency is intentional. It is the warmest point in the residential pod. No booking required for informal use. Always unlocked during waking hours spanning 0600 to 2300. The Nocturnal Access Protocol does not apply to the pod kitchen.

7.4. Animal Companions: The On-Site Facility Model

Pipeline B's primary stated reason for refusing shelter is pet separation. The MDI architecture guarantees contiguous pet ownership and unlimited daytime access.

One hundred fifty-four residents in a Dunbar Pod with each person's animal companion present in their unit would make the environment intolerable for the majority. Dogs bark, shed, and have elimination accidents. Dander saturates shared HVAC corridors. Inter-animal aggression in elevators is a safety event at this density. The residential floors are for human habitation. Animal companions live in the on-site facility.

Professionally managed kennel suites with individual enclosed runs. Climate-controlled, sound-dampened, odor-managed. Resident access remains unlimited during facility hours spanning 0600 to 2200. Zero cost to residents. On-site non-profit veterinary partnership provides all medical, vaccination, behavioral, and spay-neuter services.

Small caged animals (birds, hamsters, fish) may be registered for in-unit accommodation. No in-unit cats or dogs on residential floors. This is a fixed rule.

7.5. The Residential Behavioral Floor

Alcohol is permitted in the individual ALMU. Entry operates independent of sobriety. This is Housing First doctrine (Y-Foundation, 2023). The behavioral floor activates at the point of externalized impact. Intoxication becoming a safety event in shared corridors triggers the de-escalation protocol directing Pod Steward response and peer specialist engagement. Whereas consuming alcohol within the private unit remains a protected liberty, generating a safety event in shared communal space immediately triggers the de-escalation protocol.

California Health and Safety Code Section 1947.5 prohibits indoor smoking in multi-unit residential buildings. The design response deploys a purpose-designed, covered, weatherproofed outdoor smoking terrace with seating, weather protection, and social adjacency to the ground floor commons. Nicotine replacement therapy remains available at the pharmacy node. Voluntary.

The ALMU residential track is not the immediate destination for individuals in active, unmanaged heavy substance dependence that is functionally incapacitating. These individuals require a Managed Alcohol Program facility or medically supervised transitional care setting first (Podymow et al., 2006; Larimer et al., 2009). Post-medical stabilization, transfer to the ALMU track follows. The legal lever system can mandate MAP-equivalent treatment as a clinical condition. The ALMU is the destination after stabilization.

7.6. The Three Ps Infrastructure

The three primary barriers to shelter acceptance and their MDI architectural responses are specified in Table 6.

Barrier	MDI Response	Location
Pets	On-site facility granting unlimited daytime access alongside veterinary node and dog run	Level 2 facility
Partners	Co-location within same Dunbar Pod; Companion 200 sq ft ALMU	Intake matching, HMIS
Possessions	Photographed, tagged, GPS-tracked secure storage, 24/7 RFID access	Ground floor storage

Table 6. Three Ps Infrastructure: Structural Elimination of Shelter Refusal Barriers.

Eliminating all three barriers simultaneously converts the MDI offer from a generic shelter referral into a structurally rational proposition that the individual can accept without sacrificing survival anchors.

7.7. Digital Access Center

Low-distraction, high-bandwidth vocational and educational access. Gigabit-class internet. Hardware lending includes laptops, tablets, and peripherals. Vocational training via non-profit partnerships. Legal self-defense resources feature benefits enrollment, eviction defense, ID restoration, credit rehabilitation. Gig-work platform access enabling income generation while in residence. Non-profit Technical Assistance Hub operates as permanent administrative partner in the node space.

7.8. Micro-Community Governance

The Pod Council convenes a voluntary monthly pod-level meeting where residents collectively identify infrastructure concerns alongside common space scheduling and social friction for mediation. The Pod Steward facilitates. Residents chair. The Digital Pod Channel provides privacy-first opt-in communication within the pod. Pod Mapping function allows residents to voluntarily signal capacity to assist neighbors or request support. No Authority visibility into channel content.

The Tenancy Bridge Guarantee ensures the Stewardship Contract remains active as a legal guarantor of tenure until a new private market lease is verified, signed, and funded. No resident transitions to the independent market without a confirmed landing. The contract is the safety net beneath the transition.

8. The Cybernetic Grid: Automated-Human Operational Balance

The MDI cybernetic framework operates on a single governing principle requiring automation for the machine and agency for the human. Total automation is a form of institutional neglect. It replaces human judgment with algorithmic pattern-matching in the situations where pattern-matching fails most catastrophically. Total human management at 2,000-unit scale is operationally impossible. The MDI operational balance delegates technology to the mechanical layer while positioning humans as the relational layer.

8.1. The Telemetry Threshold

Smart home sensor deployment in low-income housing produces a Panopticon Effect. Residents alter behavior under perceived observation, experience performance stress within their own homes, and exhibit progressive erosion of the home as a psychological sanctuary (NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management, 2024; University of Southern California, 2024). This undermines ontological security.

The residential data minimization protocol mandates the only data exported from a residential ALMU unit to the central grid is a binary safety indicator establishing Safe or Not Safe. All other environmental data, such as sound levels, movement patterns, and temperature, is processed locally and purged within 24 hours. The data architecture structurally precludes behavioral profiling.

Authorized telemetry forming the Metabolic Substrate includes smoke and CO₂ detection, water leak and pipe pressure monitoring, air quality checks measuring PM_{2.5} and CO₂ concentration for HVAC optimization, utility flow at building system level, structural vibration for anti-stripping detection, sewage ejector pressure and MTBF tracking, and the life-safety binary occupancy check where zero movement for twenty-four hours triggers Pod Steward notification.

Telemetry permanently unauthorized covering the Social Substrate includes internal movement within the ALMU, sound levels inside the ALMU, guest visitors or behavioral patterns, consumption patterns at unit level, and digital activity on resident devices.

8.2. CPTED: Natural Surveillance Over Digital Surveillance

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is the architectural alternative to camera-dense digital surveillance (Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, 2024). Its core principle demands designing spaces enabling residents to naturally observe common areas as part of daily movement.

Glass-partitioned common rooms along primary circulation loops. High-visibility stairwells with clear sightlines to landings. The Digital Access Center and pod kitchen positioned at circulation chokepoints, ensuring continuous human presence without surveillance. Landscaping and pod garden placement follows the 3-foot/10-foot rule limiting visual obstruction below three feet alongside establishing clear sightlines above ten feet.

Digital camera placement stands strictly limited to building perimeter capturing exterior entries and exits alongside the Sally Port Zone A and bike storage node. No corridor cameras in residential pods. Corridor cameras elevate resident anxiety while failing to reduce incident rates.

8.3. The Robotic Platform: The Gausium Scrubber 50

EN IEC 63327 certified. Eighty percent water recycling efficiency. Automated maintenance of common floor surfaces, utility corridor cleaning, and rapid response to biological waste events on the ground floor.

The Swarm Integration Protocol mandates robotic swarms perform rapid replacement of standardized components including door lock hardware, panel seals, and utility node covers exclusively under Pod Steward supervision. Systems execute proactive maintenance addressing leak detection through pipe repair fully autonomously. Reactive social-context maintenance requiring response to biological waste events in residential corridors necessitates Pod Steward human triage for dispatch. The swarm requires human authorization before dispatching into residential areas.

8.4. Nocturnal Access Protocol

Automated throttling of common floor access between 0000 and 0500 hours. Gym, cafeteria, and social nodes shift to reduced-capacity mode. Primary elevator banks prioritize emergency and direct-floor access only. Residential neighborhood behavioral normalization mandates reducing unrestricted common floor activity in the overnight window to mirror the social rhythm of market-rate residential buildings and reduce the institutional facility feeling that erodes ontological security. Medical, mental health, and safety access remain unrestricted globally. The protocol applies only to discretionary amenity access.

8.5. Transportation Asset Management

Automated Storage and Retrieval System for bicycles at ground floor and per-pod access nodes. Frame integrity and weight scan on every entry and exit cycle detects component stripping attempts. Bicycle stationary in private node beyond 48 hours triggers Pod Steward welfare check. The real-time

unit availability display shows transportation asset availability across the pod network. Scarcity-driven hoarding behavior is structurally neutralized by visible abundance.

8.6. Measure Alpha Cybernetic Allocation

1.25 percent of the \$843M Measure Alpha allocation yields \$13,380,000 annually for telemetry hardware, robotic platform maintenance, and cybernetic infrastructure (Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, 2025). Telemetry data architecture reviewed annually by an independent Privacy Audit Board with resident pod council representation. No data retention beyond 24-hour local purge without explicit resident consent and Board approval.

9. Fiscal Architecture and the Efficiency Surplus

9.1. Layer 0: Medi-Cal Sub-Acute Billing Through MHRC Licensure

The fiscal architecture begins at Phase Zero, before any individual enters the tower. Each MHRC sub-sixteen-unit cluster is licensed under DHCS Form 1813 and bills Medi-Cal as a specialty mental health sub-acute facility at approximately fifty percent federal financial participation through FMAP (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024b,a). A sixty-day Metabolic Stabilization episode billed at the sub-acute specialty mental health services rate generates approximately fifteen thousand dollars per enrolled resident, of which approximately seven thousand five hundred dollars derives from federal FMAP. This layer funds the most clinically intensive phase of the pipeline. It operates under existing California law. No legislative action and no speculative waiver is required for activation. The IMD Exclusion is resolved architecturally by the sub-sixteen-unit cluster structure: each cluster falls below the threshold that triggers Medicaid exclusion, and each files independently (Supreme Court of the United States, 2012).

The cost comparison is direct. A high-frequency emergency room user cycles at three thousand to five thousand dollars per visit across eight to twelve visits annually, generating twenty-four thousand to sixty thousand dollars in healthcare expenditure per year with no stabilization outcome. A sixty-day MHRC episode at fifteen thousand dollars total produces clinical stabilization enabling every downstream pipeline stage. The Medi-Cal case to county fiscal officers and DHCS reviewers is built on this comparison.

9.2. The Four-Layer Funding Stack

The MDI fiscal model operates through four reinforcing layers. Layer 0 funds Phase Zero Metabolic Stabilization through MHRC Medi-Cal sub-acute billing. Layer 1 funds ongoing tower-resident clinical services through Medi-Cal ACT billing at one hundred fifty to one hundred ninety dollars per enrolled client per day (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024a). Layer 2 funds field architecture, Pod Stewards, and residential management through Measure Alpha and MHSA Full Service Partnership allocations. Layer 3 generates the Efficiency Surplus through municipal service cost elimination, recovering the capital investment within the verified timeline. No layer depends on a speculative administrative approval for its core viability. The Medical Classification Waiver, if granted, enhances Layer 1 yield. If denied, Layer 1 still operates through the standard Community Mental Health Services billing framework.

The MDI fiscal model leverages a central insight establishing the inefficiency of the current system as the operational funding source. The delta between what Los Angeles currently spends on managing chronic homelessness equaling fifty thousand dollars per person per year through fragmented emergency services, law enforcement, healthcare, and judicial costs versus what the MDI system costs to operate per resident per year generates an Efficiency Surplus sufficient to recover the full capital investment within twenty-nine months of tower activation (CalMatters, 2026).

The financial architecture simultaneously resolves the metropolitan homelessness crisis and the downtown commercial real estate collapse.

9.3. The Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Bailout Logic

One California Plaza operates in receivership following a three hundred million dollar default. Market-verified floor valuation sits at one hundred twenty million dollars equaling approximately one hundred twenty dollars per square foot (GlobeSt, 2025). This represents an approximately 80 percent discount from peak CRE valuation.

The MDI Stewardship Authority targets distressed trophy towers at the \$120 per square foot floor. Acquisition via Sovereign Acquisition through Receivership or by settling defaulted debt through bankruptcy bidding using state police power authority. The acquisition mechanism secures an orderly resolution of defaulted debt at a verified floor value for bondholders while converting stranded commercial inventory into stabilization infrastructure at an 80 percent discount to replacement cost (Estrada, 2026; Allwork Space, 2026).

The sixteen million square foot network is gated by binary proof of concept at One California Plaza. Successful Singular Prototype Threshold demonstration unlocks replication across the 20-tower network using the same receivership acquisition model across the distressed downtown corridor.

9.4. Prototype Capitalization

The One California Plaza prototype requires a total capital expenditure of \$195,000,000 across three cost categories, detailed in Table 7.

Expense Category	Metric	Estimated Cost
Structural Acquisition	1,000,000 sq ft at \$120 per sq ft	\$120,000,000
Residential Module Installation	2,000 units at \$25,000 per unit	\$50,000,000
Physical Plant Hardening	STC 65, HVAC, Cisterns, Generators	\$25,000,000
Total Prototype Capital	Singular Financial District Tower	\$195,000,000

Table 7. *Prototype Capital Expenditure. One California Plaza. Fiscal Year 2027.*

The capital investment generates a measurable annual public efficiency return, quantified in Table 8.

Metric	Best Case	Most Probable	Worst Case
Gross Municipal Savings	\$100,000,000	\$75,000,000	\$60,000,000
Net Recurring Expenses	-\$18,000,000	-\$22,500,000	-\$27,000,000
Net Efficiency Surplus	\$82,000,000	\$52,500,000	\$33,000,000
Capital Recovery Timeline	29 Months	45 Months	71 Months

Table 8. *Efficiency Surplus Variance Matrix. Single Tower Capital Recovery.*

9.5. The Efficiency Surplus and Operational Tolerance

The municipal system spends fifty thousand dollars per chronically unsheltered individual annually across emergency, psychiatric, judicial, and sanitation operations (CalMatters, 2026). Accommodating two thousand individuals yields a baseline avoided cost of one hundred million dollars annually.

The one hundred ninety-five million dollar single-tower capital expenditure recovers through this surplus mapped across three execution scenarios. The Best Case scenario achieves full capital recovery within twenty-nine months. The Most Probable scenario incorporates twenty-five percent system friction achieving recovery within forty-five months. The Worst Case scenario modeling severe friction attains recovery within seventy-one months.

These calculations execute before accounting for Medi-Cal ACT billing revenue, Measure Alpha allocation, or MHSA funding streams. The surplus stands self-reinforcing. Each additional tower activation multiplies the annual surplus linearly while sharing fixed administrative overhead across the network.

9.6. Measure Alpha Integration

The \$843M annual Measure Alpha allocation funds homelessness services across Los Angeles County (Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, 2025; Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, 2025). The MDI tower network operationalizes this funding by providing a verifiable infrastructure destination. Measure Alpha expenditures currently disperse across hundreds of independent providers with limited outcome verification. The MDI Stewardship Authority centralizes reporting, converting Measure Alpha into capital infrastructure investment with measurable per-resident outcomes.

9.7. Non-Profit Co-Location Economics

Floors two through four of each tower dedicate commercial-grade floor plates to non-profit partner offices providing legal aid, vocational training, behavioral health clinics, peer support organizations, substance use treatment providers, and education programs. This co-location neutralizes the geographic transportation barrier driving the majority of service defaulting in the legacy system.

Non-profit partners lease at below-market rates offset by Measure Alpha pass-through contracts. The four-to-one civilian-to-resident interaction ratio established by the Crosstown Concourse model (Crosstown Arts and Crosstown Concourse LLC, 2017) functions through non-profit staff, civilian visitors, and ground-floor public commons activation.

9.8. Seven-Stakeholder Value Hierarchy

The MDI financial architecture generates value for every constituency simultaneously. Distressed debt resolves orderly for CRE bondholders at verified floor prices. Municipal government secures a verifiable reduction in chronic homelessness causing corresponding emergency service cost elimination. State government achieves accountability-targeted deployment of the massive homelessness expenditure stream (California State Auditor, 2026). Non-profit partners acquire co-located physical presence eliminating transportation barriers. Residents receive sovereign, permanent, and dignity-preserving housing. Taxpayers see deficit-neutral operations through Medi-Cal billing offsets alongside massive annual public efficiency returns per tower. The labor market adds substantial full-time equivalents at full system scale featuring structural hiring preference for individuals offering lived experience.

10. Legal Governance: The Stewardship Authority

The MDI Stewardship Authority operates as a state-chartered and quasi-governmental entity modeled on the Tennessee Valley Authority (Holland and Knight, 2025). It operates wielding delegated state police power, independent bonding capacity, and a charter mandate limited to two specific functions including acquisition and conversion of distressed commercial real estate into permanent stabilization infrastructure and operation of the MDI pipeline from field architecture through residential permanence.

10.1. The TVA Model: Operational Autonomy

The Authority is chartered by the California Legislature as a special-purpose entity with statutory independence from municipal government. This independence resolves the coordination failure that paralyzes Los Angeles homelessness policy. LAHSA, the City of Los Angeles, LA County, the Housing Authority, and scores of independent service providers operate overlapping mandates with no single entity possessing both operational authority and capital acquisition power. The Stewardship Authority consolidates field operations, legal lever petitioning, real estate acquisition, residential management, and outcome verification under a single entity with a single mandate.

Board composition requires Governor appointment with confirmation by the Senate Rules Committee establishing fixed terms preventing concurrent municipal office holding. The budget derives from Measure Alpha allocation, Medi-Cal ACT billing revenue, MHSA Full Service Partnership funds, and bond issuance executing against projected Efficiency Surplus revenue.

10.2. The Home Rule Stabilization Ordinance

Municipal zoning resistance is the primary political obstacle to MDI tower activation. The Home Rule Stabilization Ordinance pre-empts conflicting local land use regulations for qualifying Stewardship Authority projects (Holland and Knight, 2025). State housing law already supersedes conflicting local ordinances. The Ordinance codifies this supremacy into automatic by-right conversion authority for commercial structures acquired through the Sovereign Acquisition process.

SB 330 vesting locks zoning entitlements at the date of application for qualifying residential projects (Los Angeles City Planning, 2026b). Once the Stewardship Authority files a conversion application, no subsequent zoning amendment can alter the entitlement. The Adaptive Reuse Ordinance February 2026 expansion eliminates minimum unit size requirements and public hearing mandates for qualifying

conversions (Los Angeles City Planning, 2026a). The MDI ALMU at one hundred fifty square feet qualifies under the expanded ARO.

10.3. Sovereign Acquisition via Receivership

Commercial buildings in receivership following mortgage default enter a court-supervised disposition process. The Stewardship Authority participates in bankruptcy proceedings as a qualified governmental bidder with statutory acquisition priority for structures meeting MDI conversion criteria. The acquisition price targets market-verified floor valuations typically seventy to eighty-five percent below peak commercial real estate valuations for distressed downtown assets (GlobeSt, 2025).

The acquisition mechanism simultaneously resolves bondholder debt through orderly liquidation at floor value alongside converting stranded commercial inventory into public infrastructure supplying stabilization housing at replacement cost discounts exceeding eighty percent. This dual resolution creates political support from constituencies that normally oppose public housing expansion.

10.4. The Stewardship Contract

The Stewardship Contract governs all residential tenure within the tower. It is classified as a non-property interest. This novel legal classification is the structural innovation permitting the MDI model to operate outside standard housing court jurisdiction while preserving residential dignity protections.

The resident holds a Stewardship Agreement granting occupancy, privacy, and non-interference rights equivalent to a standard residential lease. The resident does not hold a property interest or tenancy triggering housing court eviction jurisdiction. The Stewardship Authority retains the ability to relocate a resident within the network via tower-to-tower or pod-to-pod transfers through the Rapid Transition Protocol without initiating judicial proceedings. This is the mechanism that permits management of acute behavioral crises without either punitive eviction or enduring unsafe conditions for neighboring residents.

Tenure stands permanent. The Stewardship Contract operates in perpetuity. The only available exits include voluntary graduation to the independent market requiring a verified Tenancy Bridge Guarantee, voluntary transfer to another MDI node, involuntary transfer via the Rapid Transition Protocol, or death.

10.5. The Rapid Transition Protocol

When a resident's behavior creates conditions of physical danger for neighboring pod members and de-escalation has failed, the Rapid Transition Protocol transfers the individual to a different pod or tower within 24 hours. Medical necessity review by the on-site psychiatric team precedes transfer. The Protocol executes a protective relocation. The resident retains their Stewardship Contract. They receive equivalent accommodations in the receiving pod. HMIS tracks the transfer and notifies the receiving Pod Steward.

This mechanism replaces eviction by ensuring that a behavioral crisis triggers immediate structural relocation to a secondary pod, thereby guaranteeing continuous housing tenure.

10.6. Federal Supremacy Leasing

For commercially leased tower space housing federal agency partners (Veterans Administration clinical outreach, Social Security Administration benefits enrollment, SAMHSA-funded programs), Federal Supremacy Leasing invokes federal preemption of conflicting municipal regulations for space occupied by federal agencies or federally funded programs. This creates a secondary legal shield for federal service co-location floors against municipal obstruction.

10.7. Medical Classification Waiver

The Stewardship Authority petitions the California Department of Health Care Services for a Medical Classification Waiver enabling ALMU residential units to be classified as community-based residential treatment settings for Medi-Cal billing purposes. This waiver permits the ACT team to bill Medi-Cal for treatment services delivered within the residential tower without triggering the Institution for Mental Disease classification that would eliminate Medi-Cal eligibility for residents aged 21 to 64. The waiver preserves the residential character of the ALMU while enabling the clinical billing that funds the field architecture.

11. Comparative Models and Evidence Base

The MDI framework does not derive its architecture from theory. Every major design decision maps to a demonstrated precedent from a metropolitan, national, or clinical case study.

11.1. Houston: The Way Home Validation

Harris County deployed a coordinated metropolitan field architecture serving approximately ten thousand individuals over thirteen years (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, 2024). The core mechanism demands a real-time by-name HMIS registry integrating over one hundred partner agencies. Encampment-specific Housing Surge Events coordinate placement offers at targeted sites. The city executes clearance only after confirming housing placement. Ninety-day post-placement follow-up remains standard protocol.

Measured outcomes feature a sixty percent reduction in overall homelessness between 2011 and 2020. The 2018 Wheeler Encampment clearance placed fifty-eight percent in permanent supportive housing. The 2019 Chartres Encampment achieved a seventy percent housing placement rate. System-wide two-year housing retention hit ninety percent. Field teams fully resolved one hundred twenty-seven encampments between 2021 and 2023. Seventy-five percent of engaged individuals accepted housing navigation.

Houston validates the by-name HMIS registry as the operational backbone of the Field Architecture. It validates pre-staged unit matching as the mechanism for achieving fifty-eight to seventy percent acceptance rates in long-term encampment populations. It validates the Leaf Blower Effect: encampment clearance without simultaneous housing placement produces redistribution, not population reduction.

11.2. Finland: National Housing First Program

Finland executes at national scale concentrating efforts in Helsinki (Y-Foundation, 2023). Interventions converted legacy congregate shelters into permanent, scatter-site, and supported housing units. The Y-Foundation functioned as a non-profit institutional landlord buying, building, and leasing at scale. The system executed multi-stakeholder collaboration across national government, municipalities, and NGOs. Housing preceded all treatment conditions. The architecture requires no sobriety, employment, or behavioral requirements for entry.

Measured outcomes demonstrate a sixty-eight percent reduction in long-term homelessness between 2008 and 2022. Helsinki achieved dramatic reductions in emergency shelter beds generating a

corresponding increase in permanent supported housing units. Documented cost-effectiveness proved savings in emergency health, law enforcement, and judicial costs exceeding program costs.

Finland validates the governing principle. Housing serves as the clinical precondition, not the reward. It validates the non-profit institutional landlord model as an analog to MDI's non-profit co-location partners. It validates scatter-site and supported housing as the two-track architecture matching MDI's ALMU and field architecture structure.

11.3. The French Gardien Model

France operates at national scale across thousands of high-rise social housing complexes (Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2023; Eindhoven University of Technology, 2024). The live-in Gardien occupies a ground-floor residential loge within the building and functions as social broker, maintenance coordinator, and informal conflict mediator. Intimate familiarity with individual residents allows recognition of behavioral baselines and deviations.

Social cohesion in large-scale Habitation à Loyer Modéré (HLM) complexes correlates with Gardien engagement strength. Buildings with reduced or consolidated Gardien presence show measurable social fragmentation. The Gardien validates the Pod Steward model demonstrating lived-in presence, social broker function, the distinction between security enforcement and recognition-based welfare response, and the one-to-one-hundred-fifty staffing ratio as the working scale for effective social cohesion maintenance (Dunbar, 1992).

11.4. EmPATH: Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing

The model deploys non-coercive psychiatric emergency unit design in urban emergency departments across the United States (American College of Emergency Physicians, 2020). The architecture features an open-floor-plan unit with recliner chairs replacing institutional beds. It presents a residential aesthetic. It emphasizes rapid stabilization. It positions de-escalation as environmental design rather than pharmacological first response.

Measured outcomes demonstrate significant reductions in psychiatric boarding times and involuntary commitment rates compared against standard emergency department psychiatric intake. The literature documents reduced use-of-force incidents.

EmPATH validates the Zone A Sally Port and Zone B Triage ground floor design philosophy. It validates the anti-institutional aesthetic requirement and the non-coercive de-escalation approach as clinically superior to security-first intake.

11.5. CIT: Crisis Intervention Team Memphis Model

A specialized law enforcement co-responder model remains active across hundreds of United States municipalities (CIT International, 2023). The protocol mandates forty-hour specialized training for law enforcement officers. The co-responder pairing embeds a mental health clinician with a CIT officer. The mechanism routes individuals into designated psychiatric emergency facilities, bypassing criminal jail. Verbal de-escalation functions as the primary tool.

Measured outcomes prove a twenty-eight to fifty-eight percent reduction in use-of-force incidents across documented municipal studies establishing an approximate seventy percent psychiatric diversion rate for eligible cases. The model works strictly sequentially addressing one individual precisely independent of others. It cannot manage simultaneous multi-actor escalation events. Kinetic separation via the Sally Port represents the architectural equivalent enabling single-actor CIT de-escalation at MDI.

CIT validates dual-role crisis node staffing in Zone A and Zone B. It establishes why multi-actor escalation requires architectural separation before clinical de-escalation can function.

11.6. Adaptive Reuse Precedents

Crosstown Concourse in Memphis converted a 1.5 million square foot former Sears warehouse into a mixed-use vertical community incorporating housing, non-profit offices, education, arts, and retail in a single vertical ecosystem (Crosstown Arts and Crosstown Concourse LLC, 2017). Mixed-use integration creates organic daily encounters across demographic groups. Ground-floor activation connects the building to the surrounding neighborhood. Crosstown validates the non-profit co-location model as architecture (Los Angeles City Planning, 2026a). Visible mixed-use activation and community permeability reduce the stigma attached to stabilization housing.

Le Corbusier's 1952 Unité d'Habitation in Marseille established the conceptual precedent that vertical density does not preclude community formation when common infrastructure is deliberately embedded in the residential fabric (Corbusier, 1952). Three hundred thirty-seven apartments housing sixteen hundred residents across seventeen stories, with an internal commercial street, rooftop gymnasium, and nursery. The "streets in the air" concept prefigures the MDI pod-level sky garden and common kitchen placement logic.

12. The Prototype Verification Threshold

The MDI thesis is falsifiable. The Singular Prototype Threshold at One California Plaza defines seven binary verification metrics. All seven must pass before the first replication tower is acquired. Failure of any single metric halts network expansion and triggers architectural revision.

12.1. The Seven Verification Metrics

Table 9 specifies the seven binary thresholds constituting the Singular Prototype Threshold gate.

#	Metric	Threshold	Source
1	Encampment reduction in target zone	70–80% within 24 months of tower activation	LAHSA PIT methodology
2	Continuous housing retention	$\geq 85\%$ continuous residency at 24 months post-placement	HMIS registry tracking
3	Emergency service cost reduction	$\geq \$40,000$ per resident per year	County fiscal audit
4	Voluntary acceptance rate (Pipeline B)	$\geq 55\%$ at targeted warm offer	Field ACT team records
5	Legal lever Pipeline C augmentation	$\geq 15\%$ of total C-cohort housed via compelled pathways	CARE Court/AOT records
6	Capital recovery timeline	≤ 45 months from activation to breakeven	Stewardship Authority audit
7	Sustained Phase Zero clearance	$\geq 70\%$ maintaining ≥ 2 indicators across 60–90 day window	MHRC clinical records
8	System throughput integrity	Zero backlog formation exceeding 15 days for Phase Zero entry	MHRC flow regulator audit

Table 9. Singular Prototype Threshold: Eight Binary Verification Metrics.

Metric 7 is the causal verification metric: without it, a retention gain at Metric 2 cannot be attributed to the Metabolic Stabilization sequencing design versus any other variable in the pipeline. Metrics 1-6 independently verify population reduction, residential permanence, fiscal recovery, and the mechanical viability of both voluntary and compelled pathways. Metric 8 ensures that Phase Zero functions as a flow regulator rather than a systemic bottleneck. To prevent metric manipulation or documentation gaming, all threshold data are subject to an adversarial audit conducted by the Singular Prototype Oversight Committee.

12.2. The SPT Gate

No replication tower is acquired, converted, or activated until all seven metrics achieve threshold at One California Plaza. Because the Singular Prototype Threshold (SPT) operates as a binary gate, partial success cannot authorize partial expansion. The gate exists to prevent the political dynamics that have historically scaled unverified homelessness programs across California before outcome data existed.

If the prototype fails any metric, the architectural revision process identifies the specific failure point, revises the design, and re-tests at the prototype site. The network does not expand on the basis of political pressure, media narrative, or projected outcomes. It expands on the basis of measured outcomes at a single verified site.

12.3. The Falsifiability Clause

The primary MDI thesis states that the physiological prerequisites for housing maintenance are the structural missing component explaining why Housing First achieves eighty to ninety percent housing retention in Finland and sub-forty percent in the United States. Metabolic Stabilization delivered through MHRC-licensed sub-acute clinical clusters before permanent placement provides these necessary prerequisites. The operational thesis is that a fully engineered pipeline delivering that prerequisite layer, combined with field architecture, a legal lever system, and a terminal infrastructure node operating simultaneously, can reduce chronic unsheltered homelessness in a targeted metropolitan zone by seventy to eighty percent within twenty-four months of tower activation, sustain retention at or above eighty-five percent, and recover capital investment within forty-five months.

If One California Plaza, operating at full specification with all simultaneous operations active for twenty-four months, fails to achieve these thresholds, the thesis is falsified at both levels. The Metabolic Stabilization prerequisite layer does not produce the physiological clearance claimed. The pipeline engineering model does not produce the claimed population-level outcome. Failure invalidates the model. It proves the structural barriers exceed the framework's engineering capacity, requiring foundational revision rather than iterative adjustment.

Achieving the retention threshold alone cannot isolate the causal impact of Metabolic Stabilization from the architectural advantages of the ALMU environment or from potential selection effects associated with stabilization completion. To isolate this variable, the prototype mandates a nested Intent-to-Treat Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT). A defined high-acuity cohort must be randomized at initial contact into two arms: Arm A receiving Phase Zero stabilization prior to placement, and Arm

B receiving immediate placement into the identical ALMU environment under equivalent service conditions. All participants are analyzed according to initial assignment, and non-completion of stabilization in Arm A is counted as a negative outcome. Continuous housing retention is defined as uninterrupted residence without administrative reset or transfer masking. This primary causal thesis fails if the difference in twelve-month continuous housing retention between arms falls below fifteen percentage points or fails to achieve statistical significance under intent-to-treat analysis.

This clause is the difference between a policy proposal and an engineering specification. Policy proposals are evaluated on intention. Engineering specifications are evaluated on measured performance against stated thresholds.

13. Conclusion

The street homelessness crisis in Los Angeles persists because the system is sequenced wrong. Housing is offered to individuals who cannot maintain housing because the physiological prerequisites for tenancy have not been established. Finland proved that establishing those prerequisites before placement produces eighty to ninety percent two-year housing retention. The United States produces sub-forty percent retention because it deploys housing without the prerequisite layer. Twenty-four billion dollars in California expenditure and four decades of distributed shelter programming have not changed this sequencing error (California State Auditor, 2026; Y-Foundation, 2023; FEANTSA, 2022).

The Material Dignity Infrastructure resequences the pipeline. Phase Zero deploys MHRC-licensed sub-sixteen-unit clusters that deliver sub-acute metabolic, neurological, and physiological stabilization before any permanent housing placement occurs. This is the missing layer. It operates under existing California law, funded through existing Medi-Cal sub-acute billing at fifty percent federal financial participation, requiring no legislative action and no speculative waiver. The IMD Exclusion is resolved architecturally. The Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) attack surface is resolved by medical facility classification. The diagnostic protocol is audit-defensible (California Department of Health Care Services, 2024b).

Four distinct population pipelines receive four matched instruments. Pipeline A resolves through coordinated entry acceleration. Pipeline B resolves through a specific, immediate warm offer eliminating the rational refusal barriers of pet separation, partner separation, and possession loss. Pipeline C resolves through twelve-to-twenty-four months of ACT sustained presence combined with the legal lever system for individuals whose neurology precludes voluntary engagement. The voluntary nomadic individuals in Pipeline D receive harm reduction without placement pressure. No legal instrument applies to Pipeline D. The Anti-Detention Covenant protects every resident's right of egress. All three intake pathways feed the same pipeline toward the same destination. Whether entering via Sally Port, open walk-in, or secondary clinical transfer, individuals route to a named room, a stored cart, a kenneled pet, and a keycard issued at the moment of willingness.

The population does not need to be cleared. It needs to be reduced substantially. Houston achieved sixty percent reduction using coordinated entry as its primary tool over nine years. MDI deploys five simultaneous operations with a stronger toolset, a purpose-built inventory, and a metabolic stabilization layer Houston lacked. The 70–80 percent reduction target at the prototype zone is

conservative relative to the comparative evidence base. County-wide reduction to that threshold requires sixteen to twenty tower deployments across a five-to-ten-year network timeline. The single prototype proves the pipeline. The network delivers the population-level outcome.

The efficiency dividend that follows is not fiscal alone. The six-layer dividend reaches every public system that currently manages the chronic street crisis as an unresolvable baseline. Emergency rooms recover psychiatric bed capacity. Law enforcement reallocates officer time from encampment management to other calls. Sanitation operations transition from crisis remediation to routine maintenance. The Financial District corridor around One California Plaza recovers commercial viability. Community hospitals serving the housed population are relieved of the behavioral health surge the unhoused population currently generates. Every front line worker experiences materially improved working conditions when the population they manage decreases by seventy to eighty percent. This dividend benefits outreach workers, ACT clinicians, ER nurses, LAPD officers, and sanitation crews. These workforce sustainability gains are not counted in the Efficiency Surplus. They are system-level dividends that accrue to every institution that touches the crisis.

The population that remains after substantial Pipeline C housing represents a qualitatively different street demographic that is smaller in total volume, less acutely destabilized, and significantly less visible as a public safety emergency. As the population shrinks, the behavioral contagion effect that typically amplifies crisis in dense encampment conditions diminishes. Consequently, the voluntary nomadic individuals in Pipeline D operate in a street environment no longer dominated by acute metabolic destabilization. They become more reachable by harm reduction services, face fewer risks from the secondary dangers of a crisis-dense encampment environment, and grow more likely to self-select into ground floor open access over time.

Because the street homelessness crisis is a sequencing failure, the Material Dignity Infrastructure reorganizes the operational timeline to establish physiological prerequisites before housing placement. This framework shifts the response from a policy intention to a falsifiable engineering specification. By defining clear verification thresholds, engineering a dedicated prerequisite layer, and specifying a rigid prototype model, the framework guarantees that the target population must diminish. This structural reorganization provides the exact mechanism by which that reduction occurs.

A. Operational Lexicon

The following lexicon defines all terms, acronyms, and operational concepts used throughout this manuscript. Entries are organized thematically. Part VIII provides a complete acronym quick-reference index.

Part I: Core MDI Framework Terms

Anti-Detention Covenant The civil liberty guarantee codified in the Stewardship Authority charter. Guarantees unrestricted egress for all residents at all times following admission. Governs voluntary residency only. Distinct from existing California legal hold authority (5150 WIC, LPS Conservatorship), which is statutory law predating MDI.

ALMU (Asset Limited Modular Unit) The precision-engineered 150 sq ft residential module within the MDI tower. Classified as a non-property interest. Includes independent wet bath, Murphy wall-bed, locking storage, induction cooktop, mini-refrigerator, and STC 65 acoustic door. Only the resident holds the key.

Automated-Human Operational Balance The governing cybernetic principle. Automation applied to the mechanical layer (safety telemetry, robotic maintenance, logistics). Human judgment applied to the relational layer (Pod Steward welfare checks, peer specialist engagement, crisis response). Total automation and total human management are both rejected.

Pathway 3 (Secondary Clinical Transfer) Individual transferred following field contact, non-criminal law enforcement determination, or ER discharge to a lower-acuity setting. Uses the rear-wall Zone A entrance, physically separated from the open commons. Prevents crisis contagion in the resource center population.

Bulk Majority Argument The thesis that clearing 70–80% of the Pipeline C street population produces a population ecology shift, rendering the remaining voluntary nomadic Pipeline D population manageable via harm reduction rather than crisis management.

Dunbar Group (DG) An ITP-assigned social cluster within a Dunbar Pod. Sizing is individualized: 5–8 individuals for socially sensitive residents; up to 20–30 for those with higher social tolerance. DG assignment is revisable as the resident stabilizes. Smaller DG is a clinical match, not a lower-status outcome.

Dunbar Pod One of 13 independent residential partitions within the MDI tower. Approximately 154 individuals per pod. Four to five floors. Independent elevator loop. Time-slot-scheduled shared amenity access via RFID lockout. Derived from Dunbar’s Number cognitive ceiling of approximately 150 for stable social relationships.

Efficiency Surplus The net annual public financial benefit per tower generated through municipal service cost elimination. Best case: \$82M/year. Most probable: \$52.5M/year. Worst case: \$33M/year. Capital recovery timeline: 29–71 months. Six-layer dividend: ER throughput, law enforcement reallocation, sanitation, commercial district recovery, community hospital relief, and front line worker conditions.

Exoskeletal Identity Structure The functional role of a Pipeline C individual’s accumulated hoard. Provides the physical boundary of a self-constructed world. Not random accumulation. Removing the hoard without replacing the identity structure triggers acute psychiatric destabilization. Intervention must be identity-preserving.

Tenancy Bridge Guarantee The contractual mechanism ensuring the Stewardship Contract remains active as a legal guarantor of tenure until a new private market lease is verified, signed, and funded. No resident transitions to the independent market without a confirmed landing.

Coordinated Unit Activation The simultaneous opening of all pre-matched tower units at One California Plaza. Transforms the housing offer from a generic referral into a specific, immediate, and irreversible commitment: named room, stored cart, kenneled pet, keycard issued at the moment of willingness.

Leaf Blower Effect The consequence of encampment clearance without simultaneous housing placement. Produces geographic redistribution, not population reduction. ACT engagement relationships are severed. Engagement timelines reset to zero.

MDI (Material Dignity Infrastructure) The end-to-end industrial pipeline for the engineered elimination of chronic street homelessness. Comprises Phase Zero (Metabolic Stabilization), Phase One (Field Architecture), Phase Two (Ground Floor Intake), Phase Three (Ontological Architecture), and five simultaneous operations.

Metabolic Stabilization (MS) Phase Zero of the MDI pipeline. The 30–90 day clinical stage delivering sub-acute metabolic, neurological, and nutritional stabilization before any permanent housing placement occurs. The prerequisite layer that Housing First requires but the United States system does not currently provide.

MS Unit The Metabolic Stabilization Unit. The clinical residential environment where Phase Zero stabilization occurs. Operated under MHRC licensure. Distinct from the ALMU residential track.

Nocturnal Access Protocol Automated throttling of discretionary common floor access between 0000 and 0500 hours. Normalizes institutional social rhythm to match market-rate residential buildings. Medical, mental health, and safety access remain unrestricted globally.

Ontological Security The provision of structural predictability sufficient to eliminate the routine of being rousted (Giddens, 1991; Laing, 1960). Core markers: space for daily routines, sense of privacy, control over environment, coherent sense of self. The ALMU delivers all four simultaneously.

Pod Steward A credentialed peer support specialist with lived experience of homelessness or psychiatric illness. One per Dunbar Pod of 154 individuals. Residential unit within the pod preferred. Primary function: recognition, not enforcement. Human welfare interpreter of life-safety telemetry. The relational layer of the Automated-Human Operational Balance.

Population Ecology Shift The qualitative change in the street environment produced by substantially housing Pipeline C. Smaller remaining population. Less acute destabilization. Less visible public safety emergency. Diminished behavioral contagion. Changes Pipeline D management from crisis response to harm reduction.

Rapid Transition Protocol The mechanism replacing eviction. Transfers a resident to a different pod or tower within 24 hours when behavior creates physical danger for pod members and de-escalation has failed. Medical necessity review precedes transfer. Resident retains Stewardship Contract. No resident becomes homeless again through behavioral crisis.

Sally Port (Pathway 1) The formal, pre-matched intake pathway. Mobile crisis outreach and ACT team-facilitated warm offer to a named individual on the by-name HMIS registry. Unit, pod, and floor are pre-matched before the offer conversation begins. Highest-quality intake: the individual is known, pre-matched, and entering at a chosen moment of willingness.

Singular Prototype Threshold (SPT) The seven binary verification metrics that must all pass at One California Plaza before any replication tower is acquired. A binary gate. Partial success does not authorize partial expansion. Metric 7 (Phase Zero clearance rate) is the causal test of the primary academic thesis.

Sovereign Acquisition via Receivership The Stewardship Authority's mechanism for acquiring distressed commercial towers through court-supervised bankruptcy proceedings at verified floor valuations (typically \$120/sq ft; 70–85% below peak CRE valuations).

ST-65 Medical Utility Unit The physical module of each MHRC cluster. A 65-decibel-proof sound enclosure designated as a state-owned clinical environment. Not a residential dwelling. Not a shelter. A therapeutic milieu unit analogous to a hospital step-down bed.

Stewardship Authority The state-chartered quasi-governmental entity modeled on the Tennessee Valley Authority. Possesses delegated state police power and independent bonding capacity. Functions as MDI operator, CARE Court petitioner, real estate acquirer, and outcome verifier. Resolves the coordination failure that paralyzes existing Los Angeles homelessness governance.

Stewardship Contract The legal instrument governing residential tenure within the tower. Classified as a non-property interest. Resident holds occupancy, privacy, and non-interference rights equivalent to a residential lease without triggering housing court eviction jurisdiction.

Hygiene Intake Kit The gift offered to Diogenes-pattern individuals at hygiene intake. Framed as addition, not replacement. Staff bag and tag soiled clothing pending individual consent for disposal.

Resident Civic Engagement Pathway Voluntary participation tracks transitioning residents from passive service recipients to active stakeholders. Includes Garden Stewardship, Robotic Swarm Supervision, Community Kitchen Coordination, and Digital Access Center Support. Earns Stewardship Status—a social recognition category within the pod.

Three Ps Infrastructure The structural elimination of the three primary shelter refusal barriers: Pets (on-site facility, veterinary node, dog run); Partners (co-location within same Dunbar Pod); Possessions (photographed, GPS-tagged, RFID-accessible secure storage).

Warm Offer A specific, immediate, and irreversible housing offer made at the moment of the individual's first window of willingness following an acute crisis event. Pre-confirmed unit, kenneled pet, stored possessions, completed intake documentation. Eliminates bureaucratic delay and every rational refusal barrier simultaneously.

Part II: Population Pipelines

Pipeline A The near-homeless and voluntarily transitioning. No major psychiatric comorbidity. Engages voluntarily with the Coordinated Entry System. Rapid placement track. CES is the existing instrument; MDI accelerates it by creating surplus inventory.

Pipeline B The encamped but engageable. Long-term encampment with intact insight. Refusal directed at congregate shelter barriers (pets, partners, possessions), not housing itself. Warm offer at acute crisis window. 58–70% acceptance rate with a specific, immediate offer.

Pipeline C The behaviorally calcified chronic. Long Duration of Untreated Psychosis (5–15 years). Active schizophrenia spectrum disorder. Requires ACT sustained presence 12–24 months plus the legal lever system. Primary driver of public safety concern and street visibility.

Pipeline C Riparian Sub-Variant The hidden riparian population. Mobile, terrain-adaptive, encamped in environmentally sensitive sites (LA River, Ballona Creek, storm drains). Estimated 20–30% above PIT count Pipeline C figure due to systematic undercount. Requires environmental enforcement track (FLIR mapping + CWA abatement) paired with simultaneous warm offer.

Pipeline D The voluntary nomadic. Not metabolically destabilized in the Pipeline C clinical sense. Organized life around outdoor community, informal economy, and deliberate rejection of institutional structures. Instrument: harm reduction without housing requirement. No legal instrument applies. Clearance of Pipeline C changes the street environment sufficiently that Pipeline D becomes manageable via harm reduction alone.

Part III: Clinical Terms

Anosognosia A neurological incapacity to perceive one's own psychiatric condition. Up to 50% of schizophrenia-spectrum individuals present with it. The frontal lobe damage producing psychosis simultaneously destroys the self-monitoring faculty. Outreach strategies premised on persuasion target a faculty already destroyed by the disease.

Behavioral Calcification The progressive rigidity of survival routines and threat-perception systems produced by years of untreated psychosis and street-level chronic stress. Key barrier distinguishing Pipeline C from Pipeline B. Duration directly correlates with intervention resistance.

Day-30 Functional Indicators The five ITP measurable goals used as the Phase Zero clearance threshold: (1) sustained hygiene maintenance without prompting; (2) six or more hours sleep without pharmacological support; (3) orientation to person, place, and date across three consecutive days; (4) one structured group activity per day; (5) one independent ADL task per day. Progress on two or more equals clearance.

Diogenes Syndrome Extreme self-neglect, domestic squalor, social withdrawal, and adamant refusal of help. The accumulated hoard functions as an Exoskeletal Identity Structure. Intervention must be identity-preserving. Hoard removal without identity structure replacement triggers acute destabilization.

DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition) The APA diagnostic classification system governing all provisional and finalized diagnoses throughout the Phase Zero Three-Phase Diagnostic Protocol.

DUP (Duration of Untreated Psychosis) The accumulation of years of untreated psychosis producing measurable progressive brain changes: increasing cognitive rigidity, treatment resistance, and functional decline. Pipeline C typically presents 5–15 years DUP. Standard clinical timescales do not apply to this cohort.

Hyponatremia Potentially fatal cerebral edema produced by rapid water loading in severely dehydrated individuals with depleted sodium. Life-safety constraint on the rehydration protocol: WHO-formulated electrolyte solution is required before water. Governs the robotic kitchen and pharmacy protocols.

Refeeding Syndrome Life-threatening electrolyte shifts (cardiac arrhythmia, neurological complications) produced by rapid carbohydrate reintroduction in severely malnourished individuals. Clinical triage layer required at intake. BMI below 16, visible severe wasting, or reported days without food triggers the Gradual Reintroduction Protocol before open cafeteria access.

Three-Phase Diagnostic Protocol Phase 1 (Hours 0–72): Provisional DSM-5 diagnosis by LPHA; billable as Mental Health Services Assessment. Phase 2 (Days 1–14): Collateral gathering, daily progress notes, sustained billing trail. Phase 3 (By Day 30): Finalized DSM-5 diagnosis signed by LPHA; ITP signed; full Medi-Cal billing authorized.

Wernicke Encephalopathy Neurological emergency produced by Thiamine (Vitamin B1) deficiency during nutritional refeeding. Clinical contraindication to rapid carbohydrate reintroduction in severely malnourished arrivals. Governed by the Refeeding Syndrome clinical triage layer.

Part IV: Legal and Regulatory Terms

5150 Hold California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150. Authorizes a 72-hour involuntary psychiatric hold for individuals posing danger to self, danger to others, or meeting grave disability criteria. Predates MDI. Provides the acute triage authority during the crisis window. Not an MDI-created authority.

AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) Court-ordered outpatient treatment for individuals with documented history of treatment non-compliance and repeated psychiatric hospitalizations, incarcerations, or threats/acts of violence. Governed by Laura’s Law (2002). Mandates medication compliance and outpatient engagement. Non-compliance triggers court review and potential LPS escalation.

ARO (Adaptive Reuse Ordinance) The Los Angeles ordinance (February 2026 expansion) eliminating minimum unit size requirements and public hearing mandates for qualifying commercial-to-residential conversions. The MDI ALMU at 150 sq ft qualifies under the expanded ARO.

CARE Court Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act (2022). California court mechanism for adults with schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders. Non-custodial. Establishes a 12–24 month court-monitored CARE Agreement including housing, medication, and wraparound services. The Stewardship Authority petitions as a qualifying entity using by-name HMIS registry documentation.

CWA (Clean Water Act, 1972) Federal statute providing the legal basis for environmental abatement of riparian encampments. Fecal coliform contamination exceeding NPDES permit standards and biological waste infiltration into protected habitat constitute documented violations providing abatement authority independent of housing law.

Federal Supremacy Leasing Legal mechanism invoking federal preemption of conflicting municipal regulations for tower space occupied by federal agencies or federally funded programs. Creates a secondary legal shield for federal service co-location floors against municipal obstruction.

Grants Pass Framework *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* (2024). The Supreme Court ruling governing municipal authority over encampment clearance. Riparian abatement is explicitly outside this framework—the legal basis is environmental protection (CWA, Army Corps jurisdiction), not anti-camping ordinances.

Home Rule Stabilization Ordinance State ordinance pre-empting conflicting local land use regulations for qualifying Stewardship Authority projects. Codifies state housing law supremacy into automatic by-right conversion authority for commercial structures acquired through the Sovereign Acquisition process.

IMD Exclusion (Institution for Mental Disease) The federal Medicaid rule excluding federal financial participation for mental health facilities with more than 16 beds. Resolved architecturally by the sub-16-unit MHRC cluster structure: each cluster falls below the threshold and files independently. No speculative waiver required.

LPS Conservatorship (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act) Highest-restriction legal instrument. Court appoints Public Guardian or designated conservator for individuals deemed gravely disabled and unable to provide for food, clothing, or shelter due to mental health disorder or severe substance use disorder (SB 43 expansion, 2023). Conservator may consent to housing placement and medical treatment. Subject to periodic court review.

Medical Classification Waiver DHCS petition enabling ALMU residential units to be classified as community-based residential treatment settings for Medi-Cal billing purposes. Preserves residential character while enabling clinical billing that funds the field architecture.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Clean Water Act permitting system. Fecal coliform contamination of LA waterways from riparian encampments exceeds NPDES permit standards, constituting documented federal regulatory violations and the legal basis for environmental abatement proceedings.

SB 330 State law vesting zoning entitlements at the date of application for qualifying residential projects. Prevents subsequent zoning amendments from altering the entitlement after the Stewardship Authority files a conversion application.

Stewardship Agreement The resident's contractual instrument under the Stewardship Contract. Grants occupancy, privacy, and non-interference rights equivalent to a standard residential lease. Classified as a non-property interest to bypass housing court jurisdiction while preserving residential dignity protections.

TVA Model (Tennessee Valley Authority) The organizational template for the Stewardship Authority. Quasi-governmental, state-chartered, operationally autonomous from municipal government. Consolidates field operations, legal petitioning, real estate acquisition, residential management, and outcome verification under a single mandate-limited entity.

WIC (Welfare and Institutions Code) California statute. Section 5150 provides the 72-hour involuntary psychiatric hold authority applied in the Three-Gate Triage Decision Architecture as the governing authority for the Emergency Room pathway.

Part V: Operational and Field Architecture Terms

ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Evidence-based intensive outreach model. Team composition: mobile psychiatrist (shared), RN, licensed social worker, outreach case manager, peer support specialist, substance use counselor, team coordinator (7–8 FTE). Caseload ratio: 80–120 Pipeline C clients. Medi-Cal-billable in California at \$150–\$190/day/enrolled client.

By-Name HMIS Registry The operational backbone of the Field Architecture. Every individual in the target zone registered by name in an HMIS instance managed by the Stewardship Authority. Every housing unit pre-matched to a named individual before tower opening. The warm offer is specific because the registry preparation was specific.

CES (Coordinated Entry System) The existing Los Angeles coordinated intake and assessment system for homeless services. Pipeline A individuals engage voluntarily through CES. MDI accelerates CES by creating surplus inventory.

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Specialized law enforcement co-responder model. 40-hour specialized training. Mental health clinician embedded with CIT officer. Routes individuals directly into designated psychiatric emergency facilities, bypassing criminal jail. Validates dual-role crisis node staffing in Zone A and Zone B.

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Architectural alternative to camera-dense digital surveillance. Designs spaces enabling residents to naturally observe common areas as part of daily movement. Glass-partitioned common rooms, high-visibility stairwells, Digital Access Center and pod kitchen at circulation chokepoints.

EmPATH (Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing) Non-coercive psychiatric emergency unit design model. Open floor plan, recliner chairs, residential aesthetic, rapid stabilization, de-escalation as environmental design first response. Validates Zone A and Zone B ground floor design philosophy.

FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) Thermal drone imaging technology. Used for systematic riparian corridor mapping to identify and locate hidden Pipeline C Riparian encampments with precision unavailable to ground-based outreach.

Mobile Crisis Outreach Workers MDI field assessment personnel. Jointly with ACT teams and law enforcement, apply the Three-Gate Triage Decision Architecture to every crisis presentation.

HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Federal HUD-required data system for tracking homeless individuals and services. The MDI Stewardship Authority operates a proprietary HMIS instance as the by-name registry backbone.

LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) The joint authority of the City and County of Los Angeles responsible for coordinating and implementing homeless services. Administers the annual Point-in-Time count. Source data for MDI field architecture sizing.

LARWQCB (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board) State regulatory body governing water quality in the Los Angeles region. Enforcement records document Clean Water Act violations produced by riparian encampments. Provides the legal basis for environmental abatement independent of housing law.

PIT Count (Point-in-Time Count) The annual one-night survey of the homeless population mandated by HUD. Systematically undercounts the most hidden encampments, particularly Pipeline C Riparian individuals. 2025 Greater Los Angeles PIT: approximately 75,312 total homeless, 58% unsheltered.

Part VI: Architectural and Physical Design Terms

Residential Data Minimization Protocol The only data exported from a residential ALMU to the central cybernetic grid is a binary safe/not-safe occupancy indicator. All other environmental data processed locally and purged within 24 hours. Structurally precludes behavioral profiling and the Panopticon Effect.

Biophilic Infrastructure Two-tier system. Tier 1: 200–300 sq ft planted pod-level alcove on every 4–5 floors, adjacent to pod common kitchen. Tier 2: Tower-level destination sanctuary every 7 floors with hydroponic garden, oxygenated lounge, rooftop greenspace. Reduces cortisol, improves mood regulation, decreases agitation incidents.

Real-time Unit Availability Display Live display of unit and resource availability across the tower network. Deployed in the ground floor Resource Center and Transportation Asset Management system. Neutralizes scarcity-driven anxiety before it becomes behavioral agitation.

Digital Access Center Low-distraction, high-bandwidth vocational and educational access hub. Gigabit internet, hardware lending, vocational training, legal self-defense resources (benefits enrollment, ID restoration, credit rehabilitation), gig-work platform access.

HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) Air filtration standard. Clinical-grade HEPA scrubbing deployed in ALMU units and acuity-segmented hygiene modules. Air quality exceeds average Los Angeles apartment standards.

HLM (Habitation à Loyer Modéré) French social housing designation. Large-scale high-rise social housing complexes where the Gardien/Pod Steward model was developed and validated.

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Individual HVAC control within a 68–78 degree operating band in each ALMU. Tower-level Tier 2 biophilic sanctuary operates at 50% of original HVAC design load surplus, producing elevated oxygen concentration.

MAP (Managed Alcohol Program) Medically supervised alcohol management facility for individuals in active, functionally incapacitating heavy substance dependence. Pre-ALMU track for this sub-population. Post-MAP stabilization, transfer to the ALMU track follows.

MHRC (Mental Health Rehabilitation Center) A 24-hour DHCS-licensed facility classification for adults with mental disorders providing intensive rehabilitative services for sub-acute stabilization, skill-building, and independence. The MDI Phase Zero cluster model. Sub-16-unit threshold resolves the IMD Exclusion architecturally.

MTBF (Mean Time Between Failures) Equipment reliability standard. Pressurized sewage ejectors at One California Plaza carry a 50,000-hour MTBF mandate.

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Electronic identification token system. Used for pod boundary enforcement on shared amenity floors via time-slot scheduling, secure possession storage access, and bicycle transportation asset tracking.

STC (Sound Transmission Class) Standardized measure of sound attenuation performance. STC 55 is the biological floor (prevents hearing damage). STC 65 is the MDI ontological threshold—reduces ambient sound transfer to clinical quiet-room standards, neutralizing hypervigilance triggers in trauma-impacted residents.

UV-C (Ultraviolet-C) Germicidal ultraviolet light wavelength. UV-C scrubbing deployed in acuity-segmented hygiene modules and ALMU HVAC systems for clinical-grade disinfection.

VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) Airborne chemical compounds released by building materials. MDI biophilic node species selected for low-VOC properties alongside drought tolerance and sensory appropriateness.

Part VII: Fiscal Terms

CRE (Commercial Real Estate) The distressed commercial inventory providing the MDI acquisition target. One California Plaza: \$120/sq ft floor valuation (approximately 80% below peak CRE valuations). The 16 million sq ft network conversion opportunity across the distressed downtown corridor.

DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) California state agency. Licenses MHRC facilities via Form 1813. Governs Medi-Cal specialty mental health billing standards. MDI petitions DHCS for the Medical Classification Waiver.

FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) The federal cost-sharing rate for Medi-Cal expenditures. Approximately 50% federal financial participation on MHRC sub-acute specialty mental health billing. The load-bearing fiscal base of Phase Zero.

Four-Layer Funding Stack Layer 0: MHRC Medi-Cal sub-acute billing (Phase Zero). Layer 1: ACT Medi-Cal billing (tower-resident clinical services at \$150–\$190/day/enrolled client). Layer 2: Measure Alpha and MHSA Full Service Partnership (field architecture, Pod Stewards, residential management). Layer 3: Efficiency Surplus (capital recovery through municipal service cost elimination). No layer depends on a speculative administrative approval for its core viability.

Measure Alpha Los Angeles County measure generating \$843M annually for homelessness services. MDI Stewardship Authority operationalizes this funding by providing a verifiable infrastructure destination with measurable per-resident outcome verification.

MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) California state act generating approximately \$3.5B statewide annually. Los Angeles County allocation: approximately \$400M/year. ACT teams for the chronically homeless unsheltered are among the highest-priority eligible expenditures under the Full Service Partnership category.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Federal agency funding ACT implementation through competitive grants of \$500K–\$2M per program.

Part VIII: Acronym Quick-Reference Index

Acronym	Expansion	Acronym	Expansion
ACT	Assertive Community Treatment	ITP	Individualized Treatment Plan
ALMU	Asset Limited Modular Unit	LAHSA	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
AOT	Assisted Outpatient Treatment	LARWQCB	LA Regional Water Quality Control Board
ARO	Adaptive Reuse Ordinance	LPS	Lanterman-Petris-Short Act
BMI	Body Mass Index	LPHA	Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts
CARE Court	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Court	MAP	Managed Alcohol Program
CES	Coordinated Entry System	MDI	Material Dignity Infrastructure
CIT	Crisis Intervention Team	MHRC	Mental Health Rehabilitation Center
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
CRE	Commercial Real Estate	MS	Metabolic Stabilization
CWA	Clean Water Act	MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures
DG	Dunbar Group	NIMBY	Not In My Backyard
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
DSM-5	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 5th Ed.	PIT	Point-in-Time (Count)
DUP	Duration of Untreated Psychosis	REM	Rapid Eye Movement
EmPATH	Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing	RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
FMAP	Federal Medical Assistance Percentage	SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
FLIR	Forward Looking Infrared	SPT	Singular Prototype Threshold
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent	ST-65	Sound Treatment 65 dB (Medical Utility Unit)
HEPA	High Efficiency Particulate Air	STC	Sound Transmission Class
HLM	Habitation à Loyer Modéré	TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System	UV-C	Ultraviolet-C
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
IMD	Institution for Mental Disease	WIC	Welfare and Institutions Code

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