



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
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2008-09 WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM TO BEGIN DECEMBER 1

Program amplifies City & County shelter capacity, serves thousands

(Los Angeles, CA) The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partner agencies announced today that the 2008-09 Winter Shelter Program (WSP) will begin on December 1, 2008. The program, which runs annually through March 15, increases the number of emergency shelter beds by approximately 1,700 beds at 13 locations throughout the City & County.

"The Winter Shelter Program protects those without a place to live by providing extra transportation, shelter and food during our coldest and wettest months," said Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director of LAHSA. "The additional 1,700 beds supplement the 4,440 emergency shelter beds offered by service providers on an ongoing basis throughout the year."

Access to winter shelters is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Those in need of emergency shelter can access free transportation to a winter shelter via 40 pick-up points throughout the City & County. A full listing of shelter schedules and pick-up points can be found on LAHSA's website:

http://www.lahsa.org/docs/2008-09_winter_shelter_program.pdf

The WSP is funded by the City & County of Los Angeles, with support from the California National Guard. LAHSA contracts with local service providers to administer the day-to-day operations of each program, which provides temporary emergency shelter, meals, and access to services and supportive housing. This winter, Catholic Charities, East San Gabriel Valley Coalition, EIMAGO, Inc., Long Beach Rescue Mission, MJB Recovery, People Helping People, Pomona Neighborhood Center, The Salvation Army, and the Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation will operate shelters in Bell, Burbank, Culver City, West LA, the East San Gabriel Valley, Lancaster, Long Beach, Pomona, Santa Clarita, Sylmar, Compton, Downtown LA and South LA.

"LAHSA is fortunate to partner with such capable service providers to run the Winter Shelter Program," continued Isaacs. "Our success wouldn't be possible without the local communities and agencies who step up each year to help those in need." LAHSA has administered the Winter Shelter Program since 1994. Last winter, the WSP provided emergency shelter and services to 8,617 homeless individuals and 359 homeless families. Over the course of the season, the program provided over 141,000 shelter nights and served over 282,000 meals to persons in need.

For more information about LAHSA's Winter Shelter Program, please contact Syd Peterson, LAHSA Communications Manager, at 213.689.4094 or speterson@lahsa.org.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over \$70 million annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. Additionally, LAHSA partners with the city and the county to integrate services and housing opportunities to ensure wide distribution of service and housing options. LAHSA funds agencies that address many underserved homeless populations including battered women and their children, persons struggling with chronic homelessness, veterans, youth transitioning from foster care, and individuals with mental health needs. For more information, please see <http://www.lahsa.org>