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Press Release

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EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR LOS ANGELES HOMELESS \$72 Million is Largest Grant to Date

(Los Angeles, CA) On Friday, December 21, 2007, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced awards for the 2007 Homeless Assistance Program to local Homeless Continuums of Care. The Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LACoC), headed by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, was the recipient of the largest award in its history, totaling \$67,553,854. The LACoC includes the City and most of the County of Los Angeles; the cities of Pasadena, Glendale and Long Beach each submit separate applications and receive separate awards.

The City and County of Los Angeles also received awards totaling over \$4.4 million in 2008 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding, bringing the total amount of money awarded to Los Angeles to \$72 million.

Taken together, this year's awards represent a 26.3% increase over last year's funding of \$57,026,460.

The grant award for the LACoC was the highest bonus award in the nation, and was exceeded in total only by New York City's. An LACoC partner, the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles, received a \$6.1 million bonus to fund permanent housing for chronically homeless people, its highest-priority project.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Yvonne Burke stated, "We are pleased to see that the work done by Los Angeles County and City is being acknowledged at the federal level, resulting in an increase of over 28% in the annual SuperNOFA Award funding. This affirmation of our commitment to work with our partners to end homelessness is an acknowledgment of the excellent work done by LAHSA and its partners to articulate and specifically address the unique needs of our local Continuum of Care."

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a Joint Powers Authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, and is responsible for completing the competitive grant application to HUD. This year's award includes:

- \$37.1 million in funding for the Supportive Housing Program, most of which is administered by LAHSA
- \$8.27 million to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, including the \$6.1 million bonus amount noted above
- \$2.63 million to the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles
- \$1.22 million to the Housing Authority of Santa Monica

The majority of projects receiving LACoC grants are one-year renewals of existing programs, all of which must re-apply each year to qualify for continued funding. This year, there were also 5 new projects funded under this grant award. The following is a list of these new projects:

- **Skid Row Housing Trust-** A project that will provide a total of 118 units of permanent housing for chronically homeless unaccompanied individuals with severe mental illness or other disability.
- **Homes for Life Foundation-** A project that will provide permanent housing for 11 homeless persons with mental illness.
- **Southern California Alcohol & Drug Programs –** A project to serve 22 homeless single-parent families with chronic substance abuse issues.
- **City of Santa Monica –** A project that will provide 15 units of housing primarily serving chronically homeless individuals.
- **A Community of Friends –** A project that will provide 41 units of housing for homeless adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses.

The Emergency Shelter Grant awards to the City and County of Los Angeles were for \$3.17 million and \$1.31 million, respectively.

“This represents a great step toward meeting the needs of our homeless population in Los Angeles City and County,” said Larry Adamson, Chair of the LAHSA Board of Commissioners. “We are particularly pleased with the ability to add significant additional housing units, and while much more needs to be done, this reflects our growing momentum in addressing homelessness within the City and County.”

Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer of LAHSA, commented, “Los Angeles has the largest homeless population in the United States. This record-setting award is critical to our ability to provide services and housing for our most vulnerable residents. The increase in funding for housing will have a major impact on our ability to end homelessness in Los Angeles.”

On a national basis, HUD’s Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grant programs will provide critically-needed funding to nearly 5,000 local programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This year, HUD is providing a total of \$1.326 billion in CoC funding through grants and will provide assistance to the hundreds of thousands of persons and families living without a home of their own.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is an independent unit of local government created in 1993 by the City and County of Los Angeles to address the problems of homelessness on a regional basis. LAHSA plans, funds and administers programs throughout Los Angeles County that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing.

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