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**For Immediate Release**

## **LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY TO CONDUCT THE NATION'S LARGEST HOMELESS COUNT**

Count Will Include Volunteers, Key Stakeholders and Elected Officials January 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> Throughout Los Angeles County in Effort to Assess Size, Scope and Nature of Homelessness

Los Angeles, CA, January 24, 2011 – The **nation's largest count** of homeless **individuals and families** will take place over a three-day period throughout Los Angeles County, from **January 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers will conduct street counts of unsheltered homeless and in other areas considered uninhabitable, as well as homeless persons living in emergency shelters and institutions such as hospitals, jails, foster care systems and mental health facilities. The effort, which will cover approximately 4,000 square miles, is conducted every two years and is headed by the **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)**, the lead agency in the county's Continuum of Care (CoC). The 2009 Count found an estimated **42,694 homeless people**, excluding the cities of Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach which administer their own Continuum of Care and conduct their own individual homeless counts.

Volunteers, key stakeholders and elected officials will be dispersed throughout Los Angeles County in key census tract areas to document the existence of homeless persons. The count will follow definitions of homelessness established by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), which include persons living in places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks and abandoned buildings; persons living in an emergency shelter; and persons living in transitional housing for homeless persons and who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.

"It's really a positive experience to see so many people from different parts of the community coming together on such an important issue and taking the initiative to do something about homelessness in Los Angeles," said Executive Director Michael Arnold. "The count is just the first step in my eyes to getting to the real goal of moving people into permanent housing and I want to acknowledge my staff, our volunteers and key partners for their contribution and role in working to reduce and end homelessness."

After the count, LAHSA will conduct a more in-depth demographic survey in the month of February in order to secure key data that helps to plan and allocate resources accordingly. The sub-population count will consist of data on gender, ethnicity,

individuals, families, chronic homeless, persons with AIDS or HIV related illness, persons with mental illnesses, veterans, persons with substance abuse problems, victims of domestic violence and unaccompanied youth.

“Many of my constituents are dealing with the harsh reality of life on the streets and no true place to call home,” said City Councilman Bill Rosendahl of Council District 11. “I’m honored to volunteer my time in collaboration with LAHSA’s effort to identify and eventually house those that are the most vulnerable among us.” Other elected officials participating in the homeless count include Councilmember Richard Alarcón, Councilmember Jan Perry, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Due to the size of Los Angeles County, LAHSA is dividing the count into its 8 Service Planning Areas (SPA’s) over the three-day period. The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (Evening), San Gabriel Valley & East Los Angeles
- Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> (Evening), West Los Angeles & South Bay Cities
- Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> (Morning), Antelope Valley
- Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> (Evening), San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Metro Los Angeles & South Los Angeles

According to the 2009 count, 67% of homeless persons counted were unsheltered, with the highest number of homeless persons located in Metro Los Angeles. Adult males represented the highest sub-population of homelessness, while African-Americans represented almost 50% of the total count. Nationally, there are an estimated 700,000 people on any given night that are homeless.

LAHSA will issue an executive summary and full report of the 2011 Homeless Count later this year. If you would like to be on our electronic mailing list, please send a message to [communications@lahsa.org](mailto:communications@lahsa.org).

Members of the media interested in being embedded with a volunteer group can RSVP by sending their request to [cfortenberry@lahsa.org](mailto:cfortenberry@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 dollars 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 visit: [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org).

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