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**For Immediate Release**

## **Over 9,000 People Helped Through City of LA's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Efforts**

### *Program Averts Homelessness for Many of LA's Most Vulnerable Residents*

Los Angeles, CA, February 2, 2012 – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) today announced that the City of Los Angeles' Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) has to date, served some 9,335 people, including 354 veterans who have been stably housed in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. Those served received an array of assistance, including legal advice and representation, utility and rent payments, motel and hotel vouchers, housing location and case management.

HPRP is an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funded initiative that began in September 2009 and ends in August of this year. The City of Los Angeles received \$29.5 million in HPRP funds under ARRA's \$1.5 billion dedicated to homeless programs nationwide. "During these difficult economic times, HPRP has demonstrated that it is an incredibly important and effective government intervention program helping to keep thousands of families housed in the City of Los Angeles," said Michael Arnold, Executive Director of LAHSA. "Without HPRP's assistance over the past two and a half years, many more people would be homeless and on our streets today."

In addition to partnering with other housing assistance programs like Section 8 housing choice vouchers that provide housing assistance and Shelter Plus Care, a housing program providing long-term housing support and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities and their families, HPRP also provided security deposits and move-in assistance to 7,853 of the city's most economically disadvantaged homeless residents. "The Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) and LAHSA partnered to design and successfully implement the HPRP, which has had a significant, positive impact in the community," said Douglas Guthrie, General Manager of LAHD. "These stimulus dollars support homelessness prevention and new programs to rapidly place homeless families into secure and permanent housing."

So far, the city has spent approximately \$26.8 million or 91% of its HPRP funding. New client enrollment for the program's rapid re-housing component concluded on September 30, 2011, but those enrolled prior to that date continue to receive benefits. Prevention services remain available on a limited basis to those receiving three-day eviction notices and unlawful detainers through LAHSA's collaboration with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

"HPRP has worked extremely well to assist individuals and families retain or regain stable housing. However, our homeless populations are going to increase, and the gains we have seen in reducing street homelessness are going to be lost without additional federal funding to support the continuation of this program; this is the best program we have right now for effectively fighting recession-induced homelessness," explained Arnold.

To read LAHSA's latest HPRP report and client success stories, go to <http://www.lahsa.org/hprp.asp>.

### **About the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority**

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 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. For more information, please visit [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org).

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