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For Immediate Release

BATTLE TO HOUSE HOMELESS IN LOS ANGELES BOLSTERED BY FUNDING AWARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2009 Continuum of Care Awards to Bring Over 81 Million in Funding, an Increase of Over Eight Million from Previous Year

Los Angeles, CA, July 8, 2010 – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) announced today that the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) has been awarded over \$81.6 million by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) through their Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program. This year's figure includes over \$12.1 million dollars for new Permanent Supportive Housing programs and the total amount awarded under the program represents an increase of \$8.2 million dollars over the previous year. The Federal Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program is an annual national competition and funding is used to support the Shelter Plus Care, Supportive Housing and Emergency Shelter Grant Programs designed to reduce and end homelessness. LAHSA serves as the Lead Agency in the Continuum and coordinates and submits the annual competitive application.

The Los Angeles CoC received the most new funding of any CoC nationally. It also received 18% of the total national awards of funds for new programs and roughly 35% of the total new program funding awarded in the state of California.

"This award recognizes the strong permanent supportive housing providers in our Continuum of Care and is confirmation that Los Angeles can successfully compete on a national level," said Executive Director Michael Arnold. "While we still have a long way to go to ending homelessness, this funding will support much needed Permanent Supportive Housing, creating opportunities for our most vulnerable populations to realize safe, secure permanent housing."

Of the over \$12 million new program funding, \$10,149,120 will be distributed through the Shelter Plus Care rental assistance program and \$1,912,891 will be used for Supportive Housing Programs.

In addition to the \$12.1 million in new project awards, the current year award includes \$27,750,540 for renewing Shelter Plus Care Programs and \$37,339,268 for renewing Supportive Housing Programs. Additionally, the City and County of Los Angeles received a total of \$4,464,330 in Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG).

“I’ve seen firsthand the devastating effect that homelessness has on our families,” stated County Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina. “As an advocate for families and children I believe that we must provide every possible resource available and these awards are critical in helping to secure housing for those most vulnerable among us.”

The HUD announcement coincides with the federal strategic plan, “Opening Doors” announced last month by the Obama administration to end homelessness for chronically homeless, families, youth and veterans in America, outlining several strategic directions that are already in-step with the Los Angeles Continuum’s programs and objectives. The plan was mandated by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act and represents a new level of interdepartmental collaboration and action for the nineteen federal member agencies of the Council and provides a comprehensive framework and timeline for ending homelessness.

Los Angeles County has a geographic area of almost 4,000 square miles, where on any given night there are almost 50,000 homeless adults and children. According to HUD’s 2009 point-in-time count one out of every six homeless people lived in the Greater Los Angeles/Orange County area, New York City, Las Vegas or New Orleans, while only eight percent of all Americans resided in these areas.

“This is a watershed moment in LA’s effort to end homelessness,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “This major influx of federal funds is proof that when you set a goal and work with determination to address our most pressing challenges, major change and progress can occur. With this announcement, it is safe to say that LAHSA is working hard to ensure permanent supportive housing is a success in Los Angeles.”

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.

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