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**For Immediate Release**

## **Los Angeles Winter Shelter Program for Homeless Starts December 1**

**Cold Weather Program will Operate 16 Sites,  
Spanning 12 Cities and Communities Across LA County**

Los Angeles, CA, November 30, 2011 – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) today announced that the 2011-2012 Winter Shelter Program (WSP) will start on December 1, 2011, and run until March 14, 2012. The program will operate 1,498 beds at 16 locations throughout the City and County of Los Angeles.

Deployed during the coldest and wettest months of the year, the WSP is funded by the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, with support from the California National Guard providing shelter sites. LAHSA contracts with local nonprofit service providers to administer the day-to-day operations of each program site which provides temporary overnight shelter, meals and access to a range of supportive services. These services make the WSP an important conduit for moving individuals and families out of homelessness and into more stable living and housing opportunities.

This season, the winter shelters will be administered throughout the City and County by the following homeless service providers: Grace Resource Center (contracted by the City of Lancaster), East San Gabriel Valley Coalition, New Image Emergency Shelter, Long Beach Rescue Mission, MJB Recovery, First To Serve, Pomona Neighborhood Center, The Salvation Army Bell Shelter, LAMP Community Inc., and the Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation. These providers will operate sites in the cities and communities of Lancaster, Sylmar, Santa Clarita, Pomona, East San Gabriel Valley, Inglewood, Long Beach, Bell, Downtown Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and South Los Angeles.

Access to the shelters is available on a first-come, first-served basis for single individuals. Families seeking assistance at winter shelters will be connected to 2-1-1, the County's free information and referral service, or may call 2-1-1 directly, and will be offered appropriate shelter and linkages to regional service providers that specialize in delivering supportive services and housing assistance to families experiencing homelessness. Individuals needing emergency shelter can get free transportation to and from the shelter locations from any one of the 46 pick-up points throughout the City and County. A full listing of shelter schedules and pick-up points can be found on LAHSA's website at [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org), or by calling the Winter Shelter Hotline at 1-800-548-6047.

Last winter, the WSP provided emergency shelter and services to 11,735 homeless individuals and 605 homeless families; 441 of those individuals and 198 of those families were placed into emergency, temporary or permanent housing.

### **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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