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For Immediate Release

Winter Shelter Homeless Program Begins December 1

Program Increases Shelter Capacity for Homeless Persons by 33% during the Winter Months

LOS ANGELES, November 27, 2009 – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) announced today that the 2009-10 Winter Shelter Program (WSP) will begin on December 1, 2009. The program runs annually from December 1 through March 15, and increases the number of emergency shelter beds by approximately 1,642 beds at 14 locations throughout the City & County during the coldest and wettest months of the year.

The WSP is funded by the City & County of Los Angeles, with support from the California National Guard. LAHSA contracts with local service providers to administer the day-to-day operations of each program, which provides temporary overnight shelter, meals, and access to services. The WSP often serves as an entry point into the Continuum of services provided in the Los Angeles area – this allows clients to access additional help in transitioning out of homelessness. This winter, Catholic Charities, East San Gabriel Valley Coalition, EIMAGO, Inc., Long Beach Rescue Mission, MJB Recovery, People Helping People, Pomona Neighborhood Center, The Salvation Army, and the Santa Clarita Community Development Corporation will operate shelters in Bell, Compton, Culver City, Downtown LA, the East San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Lancaster, Long Beach, Pomona, Santa Clarita, Sylmar, South LA and West LA.

Last winter, the WSP provided emergency shelter and services to 8,605 homeless individuals and 620 homeless families. Over the course of the season, the program provided over 154,000 nights of shelter and served over 308,000 meals to people in need.

Access to winter shelters is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Those in need of emergency shelter can access free transportation to a winter shelter via many pick-up points throughout the City & County. A full listing of shelter schedules and pick-up points can be found on LAHSA's website, www.lahsa.org, or by calling the Year Round Shelter Hotline at 1-800-548-6047.

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 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 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 survivors of domestic violence and their children, persons struggling with chronic homelessness, veterans, youth transitioning from foster care, and individuals with mental health needs. For more information, please see www.lahsa.org

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