About the CDC

In 1982, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors consolidated three County entities - the Housing Authority, the Community Development Department, and the Redevelopment Agency - to form the Community Development Commission (CDC).

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors currently serves as the Commissioners of the CDC -- which includes serving as the Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) -- setting policy for the agency. HACoLA also has a Housing Commission, which is composed of twelve advisory Commissioners. The five appointees by the Board of Supervisors are joined by six “tenant” Commissioners who live in the CDC’s public housing sites or are Section 8 renters. Further, as a grantee of the Shelter + Care Program, we must obtain input from a person who is homeless or formerly homeless. To satisfy this requirement, one additional member was added to the Housing Commission.

The CDC's wide-ranging programs benefit residents and business owners in the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas and in various incorporated cities that participate in different CDC programs (these cities are called “participating cities”). Approximately one million of the County's ten million residents live in unincorporated areas.

The agency's four main activity areas are affordable housing, housing development and preservation, community development, and economic development.

We Build Better Lives & Better Neighborhoods
On September 24, 2009, The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) held a grand opening for the La Esperanza Senior Housing complex. HACoLA provided $1.25 million in City of Industry funds to be used primarily for site acquisition with the balance for predevelopment costs. Additional funds were received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Pomona to assist with the construction of the 70-unit project. The 69 one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom manager's unit range in size from 540-700 sq. ft. Amongst some of the amenities offered at La Esperanza are a library, laundry room, and arts and crafts room. La Esperanza will assist seniors at 30% Area Median Income with rents starting at $441. La Esperanza is located in the City of Pomona.

On July 7, 2009, HACoLA presented a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Section 8 program's annual reexaminations to the Board of Supervisors. The CAP proposed a strategy to guide the Section 8 Program toward its goal of achieving "high performer" status under HUD's Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2012.

The strategy includes implementing new technology, providing more staff training, hiring new staff, and making procedural changes designed to reduce the time needed to complete a reexamination from 4 hours to 2.5 hours. Streamlining the process will also enable HACoLA to significantly lessen the number of overtime hours needed to complete nearly 2,000 reexaminations every month.

Most significantly, the CAP realigns staff with critical case management functions, including lease-up, inspections, case management, and quality control. In the first quarter of the FY, HACoLA began hiring more case managers to ensure timely completion of these case management functions. To further these efforts, HACoLA will begin hiring specialized staff to review applicant eligibility, complete the monthly Housing Quality Standards inspections, and perform quality control reviews required by SEMAP.
In the first quarter of FY 2009-10, the Florence Firestone Service Center hit one of its major milestones, reaching the 80% completion mark. Continuing on this pace will ensure that the project is 100% complete by its goal of January 2010. The 34-year old Florence Firestone Service Center is being completely renovated using funds from the First and Second Supervisorial Districts. Renovations on the two-story 15,000 square foot County building include adding a colorful steel canopy announcing the new entrance and allowing for direct circulation from the parking area into the building. The design provides a generous lobby, new reception areas, a staff lunchroom, a conference room, and a remodeled kitchen.

The new building layout, designed by the CDC’s Senior Architect, Jeffrey Biben, repositions the offices allowing for maximum efficiency. Additionally, a 1,376 square foot single-story addition has been included to provide a new exercise room and lounge for seniors. The building is being equipped with features such as:

- Energy efficient HVAC equipment;
- Water conserving plumbing fixtures;
- Updated lighting;
- New telecommunications systems; and
- New furnishings.

Building finishes have been selected that include recycled content and natural materials. Water collection barrels have been placed to capture rainwater to be used for landscape irrigation.

An important element of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is its focus on public services that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. Participating cities and agencies across Los Angeles County help support this effort by using their CDBG funds to provide services to youth, seniors, and the homeless, such as health care and job training. On July 1, 2009, the CDC launched its CDBG Public Service Module designed to help participating cities and agencies in reporting their accomplishments.

The new module allows users to identify targeted clientele, track CDBG project accomplishments, and upload client data to the CDC’s reporting system. As agencies enter data into the new CDBG Public Service Module, the system will create a database for each participating agency. The database allows them to add, delete, and deactivate clients, as well as allowing them to run searches and sort client data.

Before launching the CDBG Public Service Module, a focus group comprised of participating cities, County departments, and community-based organizations took part in the brainstorming and testing phases of the module's development. CDBG used the group's comments to address potential problems before the official launch in July.

The CDBG Public Service Module will allow for more accurate reporting to HUD, thus resulting in the continued funding for agencies that provide essential services to thousands of residents in Los Angeles County.
RESIDENT SERVICES
Back-To-School-Jams

In August 2009, HACoLA’s Resident Services Program held its annual “Back-To-School-Jams” and community fairs at the Carmelitos, Nueva Maravilla, Harbor Hills, and South Scattered Sites housing communities. These annual events promote education and motivate youth returning to school by highlighting the array of educational services that are available onsite and in the community.

Each Back-to-School-Jam featured information booths, free backpacks filled with school supplies, books, food, music, and motivational speakers. Parents, caregivers, and their children attended the event together and completed enrollment applications for the various after-school programs. The Resident Services Program staff looks forward to partnering with public housing youth and their families to make this another successful and educational school year!

For more information about the Resident Services program, please contact Shelly Thompson, Resident Services Supervisor, at (323) 890-7073.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH
CDC Program Information in Spanish

On July 20, 2009, the CDC launched a new Spanish section of its website. The website now provides translated information on its Section 8, Public Housing, and First-Time Homebuyer programs.

The initial phase of the project, which began in July 2008, included issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a Spanish Translation Consultant. Once the Consultant was on board, CDC staff used site analytics to identify the top most visited sections of the website and worked with the Consultant to translate and post the information. Since its launch, the Spanish section of the website has received approximately 3,500 visitors.

The CDC will continue evaluating the website to determine which additional program information will be translated into Spanish. Please visit the Spanish section of our website at: www.lacdc.org/cdcwebsite/Espanol.aspx.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS - CDC Applies for Federal Funding

President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law on February 17, 2009. ARRA made over $16 billion available to public housing organizations such as the CDC by increasing funding for existing programs, as well as making funding available for new services. To date, the CDC has submitted 18 proposals seeking over $114.3 million through various ARRA funding opportunities. The proposals sought funding for projects such as security improvements, energy efficiency work measures, preventive maintenance, and general improvements at 12 public housing developments. In addition, the CDC applied for more funding for its Neighborhood Stabilization and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act programs.

In the first quarter of 2009, the CDC was awarded over $13.9 million in ARRA funding. The addition of this new funding brings the total funds awarded to the CDC from ARRA to over $33 million.