ELECTED OFFICIALS SUPPORT PUBLIC HOUSING YOUTH AT ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL JAMS

Over 1,400 Public Housing Youth Receive Backpacks, School Supplies, and Haircuts to Prepare Them for the First Day of School

Los Angeles County, August 2014 - The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) hosted its annual series of Back to School Jams at the Carmelitos, Harbor Hills, Nueva Maravilla, and South County (scattered sites) public housing developments. These annual events first began in 2000, and have become a welcomed tradition by public housing youth and their families eager to make the upcoming school year a success!

HACoLA was honored to have Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard at the Nueva Maravilla event in East Los Angeles, as well as Congressman Alan Lowenthal at the Carmelitos event in Long Beach, and staff from the Office of Congresswoman Maxine Waters at the Harbor Hills event in Lomita. Each representative spent time visiting with the residents, thanking vendors for their participation and the resources they provide to families, and handing out backpacks to the students.
Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, “HACoLA is proud to leverage every dollar we receive to provide the most benefit to our residents. Having our elected officials come out to meet the residents and tour our facilities during these events allows them to see the extent of support we receive from our community partners. I join them in wishing each student a fun and productive school year.”

During the Back to School Jams, over 60 exhibitors provided educational and health-related resources and information to some 800 families. A partial list of participating agencies include: Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles County Work Source Centers, East LA Womens Center, St. Mary’s Hospital, Wilmington Community Clinic, and California State University, Long Beach, as well as local businesses.

Over 1,400 public housing youth were treated to entertainment, food, dance, and raffles. However, the highlight of each Back to School Jam was the distribution of backpacks stocked with age-appropriate school supplies, and free haircuts for each public housing youth attending grades K-12. These gifts were made possible through the generous support of Target Stores, and Shelter Partnership, a local non-profit organization which provides resources and housing through its S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank.

For additional information on HACoLA, please visit www.hacola.org. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.