

Introduction

The *Los Angeles Urban County 2007-2008 One-Year Action Plan* contains the County's one-year plan to carry out housing and community development activities funded by Federal formula grant funds received in the 2007–2008 program year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds are from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), which includes the American Dream Downpayment Initiative; and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs.

The Community Development Commission (CDC) submits the Annual Action Plan as a requirement for participation in HUD's Urban County Program. This Action Plan covers the fifth of the five program years covered by the *2003-2008 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the Los Angeles Urban County* (Consolidated Plan).

Urban County Program Description

HUD awards CDBG, HOME, and ESG program funds annually to entitlement jurisdictions such as the Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles Urban County Program includes the unincorporated areas of the County and small cities under 50,000 in population, which participate in the program.

The CDC is the lead agency for the Consolidated Plan. It administers the County's CDBG, and HOME programs and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) administers the ESG program for the CDC.

FUNDING DECISIONS

Funding decisions for the Urban County 2007–2008 Program are based on the needs and strategies discussed in the *2003-2008 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the Los Angeles Urban County*.

Funds are distributed among the 47 participating cities and the unincorporated areas within the five Supervisorial Districts. The distribution of funds among these entities utilizes the HUD formula as adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1975. The formula is based on a combination of 2000 census data and the most recent population estimates provided by HUD.

Participating cities retain local control by designing and operating eligible CDBG projects based on local needs. The CDC works with each individual Board Office to identify and develop viable projects in the unincorporated areas of the County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The CDBG program was initiated by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Although the Act has been amended in recent years, the primary objective continues to be the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income.

Each year the Urban County program is designed to achieve this primary objective. Regulations governing the program also require that each activity undertaken with CDBG funds meet one of three broad national objectives as follows:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income persons.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight.
- Meet other community development needs having a particular urgency.

CDBG Geographic Distribution

For the purposes of the County’s CDBG Program, the Los Angeles Urban County consists of cities with populations under 50,000 that have signed Cooperation Agreements with the County and all of the County’s unincorporated areas. The 47 participating cities are:

**Figure 1-1
Urban County Program Participating Cities**

1. Agoura Hills	18. Hawaiian Gardens	35. San Dimas
2. Arcadia	19. Hermosa Beach	36. San Fernando
3. Azusa	20. Irwindale	37. San Gabriel
4. Bell	21. La Canada Flintridge	38. San Marino
5. Bell Gardens	22. La Habra Heights	39. Santa Fe Springs
6. Beverly Hills	23. La Mirada	40. Sierra Madre
7. Bradbury	24. La Puente	41. Signal Hill
8. Calabasas	25. La Verne	42. South El Monte
9. Cerritos	26. Lawndale	43. South Pasadena
10. Claremont	27. Lomita	44. Temple City
11. Commerce	28. Malibu	45. Walnut
12. Covina	29. Manhattan Beach	46. West Hollywood
13. Cudahy	30. Maywood	47. Westlake Village
14. Culver City	31. Monrovia	
15. Diamond Bar	32. Rancho Palos Verdes	
16. Duarte	33. Rolling Hills	
17. El Segundo	34. Rolling Hills Estates	

Most of these cities operate their own CDBG programs, and a few trade their funds for other types of program monies. Forty-four cities have populations of less than 50,000. The Cities of Cerritos, Arcadia and Diamond Bar, with populations in

excess of 50,000, exercise their option to participate in the Urban County CDBG Program.

CDBG Allocation

HUD allocates CDBG funds to entitlement jurisdictions across the Nation based on a formula, which takes into account population, the extent of overcrowded housing, and the extent of poverty. In 1975, the Board of Supervisors adopted HUD's allocation formula to equitably distribute CDBG funds among the participating cities and Supervisorial Districts. All the Supervisorial Districts use their funds to support activities in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Total CDBG funds available in 2007–2008 is \$55,332,835, comprised of \$30,734,718 in new allocation, \$6,000,000 in program income, \$18,201,849 in prior year's funds, and \$396,268 in funds allocated to the City of Cerritos. The City of Cerritos is a voluntary joint applicant with the County of Los Angeles for Urban County funding. In the past, the City has exchanged its funding with another jurisdiction participating in the Urban County program and, as a result, has not used its funds.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

On November 28, 1990, the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act was enacted (P.L. 101-625). The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program was created as a result of this legislation. This program provides federal funds for the development and rehabilitation of affordable rental and homeownership housing, replacing a series of programs previously funded by HUD. HUD allocates funds to qualifying "Participating Jurisdictions" (PJs), such as the County of Los Angeles, based upon a variety of demographic and housing factors. With the exception of a waiver granted for disaster-related funding, HOME funds are subject to a 25 percent match of non-federal funds or in-kind contributions.

HOME Geographic Distribution

Following HUD's approval of the grant agreement with the County, HOME funds become available. The CDC follows a distribution method approved by the Board of Supervisors for HOME funding whereby one-half of available development and rehabilitation funds are reserved for activities within participating cities, for a period of six months, and the remaining funds are allocated for use in the unincorporated areas. Following the six-month reserve period, HOME funds not committed for projects in participating cities become available for use in both the County's unincorporated areas and the participating cities. A portion of HOME funds and all ADDI-HOME funds are allocated to the First-Time Homebuyers Program.

HOME Allocation

The 2007-2008 HOME allocation totals \$12,972,460, consisting of \$12,814,611 in HOME Program funds and \$157,849 in ADDI-HOME Program funds.

HOMELESS SERVICES PROGRAMS (INCLUDING ESG PROGRAM)

The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program began on November 7, 1989, as part of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The program is designed to improve the quality of existing emergency shelters, make available additional emergency shelters, assist in meeting the cost of operating emergency shelters, and provide essential social services to homeless individuals. The program is also intended to reduce homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities.

ESG Geographic Distribution

On December 17, 1993, the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles entered into a joint exercise of powers agreement to create the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide coordinated homeless services. Programs initially assigned to LAHSA by the County and City of Los Angeles include the ESG Program and the Cold/Wet Weather Emergency Shelter Program, funded in part with CDBG funds, as well as other homeless services programs already being provided by the County and City.

LAHSA is the agency designated by the County and all participating cities within the County except Pasadena, Glendale, and Long Beach, to annually apply for Stewart B. McKinney funds through the SuperNOFA process. All funds administered by LAHSA are apportioned according to need and in keeping with the Continuum of Care, described in Section 5 of the Consolidated Plan.

ESG Allocation

The 2007–2008 ESG allocation is \$1,320,346.

SUMMARY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROCESS

To encourage citizen participation in the preparation of the 2007-2008 Action Plan, the CDC took the following actions in accordance with its Citizen Participation Plan:

- Provided sufficient advance notice of community meetings at the beginning of the planning process and the public hearing by advertising the times and locations of each meeting in a number of widely circulated, as well as, targeted limited-distribution newspapers. These meetings were also noticed on the CDC's web site.

- Conducted four (4) community meetings throughout the Urban County.
- Made the Action Plan available at 29 public libraries and posted it on the CDC website at <http://www.lacdc.org/resources/library/Index.shtm>, giving County residents at least 30 calendar days to review and comment on it.
- Will conduct a public hearing on May 22, 2007 to consider approval of the Action Plan.
- Will receive and record oral and written comments at the meetings and public hearing.

Community Meetings in the Unincorporated Areas of the County

Introduction

The CDC held four (4) community meetings throughout the unincorporated areas to receive input. The meetings were held as follows::

1st District

Location: Centro Estrella
Child Development Center
Date: September 12, 2006
Number of Attendees: 26

4th District

Location: South Whittier
Community Resource Center
Date: September 29, 2006
Number of Attendees: 30

2nd District

Location: Bethune Park
Date: September 14, 2006
Number of Attendees: 35

5th District

Location: Pamela Park
Date: September 26, 2006
Number of Attendees: 67

Residents Survey

A Residents Survey was administered at each of meetings so that the participants could prioritize needs. The results of the survey were then forwarded to each Los Angeles County Supervisor so that they could use this information when making funding decisions for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

The survey consisted of a variety of housing and community development needs organized into the following categories: Businesses & Jobs, Community Services, Infrastructure, Community Facilities, Housing, Neighborhood Services, and Special Needs Services. Resident ranked every item listed in order of need, from 1 to 4,

with 1 indicating the lowest need and 4 indicating the highest need. Please see Appendix B for all the survey results.

Top Five Needs Identified on the Survey

Countywide-overall (154 surveys)

Anti-Crime Programs:	3.61
Graffiti Removal:	3.53
Job Creation/Retention:	3.53
Employment Training:	3.53
Youth Centers:	3.40

1st District (26 surveys)

Graffiti Removal:	3.36
Code Enforcement:	3.29
Child Care Center:	3.29
Homeless Shelter/Services:	3.13
Youth/Childcare Services:	3.12

4th District (30 surveys)

Job Creation/Retention:	3.79
Small Business Assistance:	3.77
Anti-Crime Programs:	3.71
Employment Training:	3.70
Graffiti Removal:	3.68

2nd District (32 surveys)

Job Creation/Retention:	3.61
Employment Training:	3.59
Anti-Crime Programs:	3.59
Youth Centers:	3.55
Graffiti Removal:	3.55

5th District (66 surveys)

Anti-Crime Programs:	3.63
Street Lighting:	3.52
Employment Training:	3.49
Youth Centers:	3.44
Job Creation/Retention:	3.42

Citizen Participation in the Participating Cities

Each participating city gives its constituency the opportunity to provide citizen input on housing and community development needs at a community meeting or public hearing by:

- Holding one or more community meetings or conducting one public hearing with a minimum 14 calendar day notification period;
- Soliciting citizen participation through an advertisement published in a local newspaper whose primary circulation is within the city; or
- Soliciting citizen participation through notices posted in public buildings within the city and at least 14 calendar days prior to the meeting date.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL

A 30-day public notice will be published on April 20, 2007, in the legal section of the *Los Angeles Times* advertising a public hearing on May 22, 2007, on the draft 2007–2008 Action Plan. The notice will be published in several newspapers with daily or weekly circulation within the week following April 20, 2007.

Resources

The CDC enlists a variety of public and private resources to provide decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities for its residents. Recognizing that no one resource can build communities, the CDC uses a variety of resources, not only to implement its strategic plan but also to link CDC strategies. This allows the CDC to reinforce coordination of activities between and among agencies and to leverage additional resources. For FY 2007–2008, CDBG funds are leveraging \$63,135,077 in other funding.

Outcome Performance Measurement System

On March 7, 2006, HUD issued a notice entitled, “Notice on Outcome Performance Measurement System for Community Planning and Development Formula Grants Programs.” The notice requires that grantees implement HUD’s Outcome Performance Measurement System (OPMS). Therefore, the CDC has included the OPMS within the Action Plan to ensure that it is in compliance with the new requirements.

The OPMS is intended to provide HUD and grantees with a standardized methodology to demonstrate the outcomes of the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs. The OPMS has three main components: Objectives, Outcomes, and Outcome Indicators. Each activity is assigned an objective and outcome. In addition, each activity will report on the outcome indicators throughout the year.

Objectives

There are three objectives that originate from the statutory purposes of the formula grant programs. They are as follows:

Creating a suitable living environment. In general, this objective relates to activities that are designed to benefit communities, families, or individuals by addressing issues in their living environment.

Provide decent affordable housing. The activities that typically would be found under this objective are designed to cover a wide range of housing possibilities under HOME, CDBG, HOPWA, or ESG.

Creating economic opportunities. This objective applies to the types of activities related to economic development, commercial revitalization, or job creation.

Outcomes

There are three outcomes that reflect what the grantee seeks to achieve by the funded activity. The Los Angeles Urban County associates the National Objectives to these Outcomes. The three outcomes and their associated national objectives are as follows:

Availability/Accessibility. This outcome category applies to activities which make services, infrastructure, housing, or shelter available or accessible to low-income people. In this category, accessibility does not only refers to physical barriers, but also making the affordable basics of daily living available and accessible to low- and moderate- income people where they live. *The national objectives that apply to this outcome are Low- and Moderate-Income Limited Clientele and Low- and Moderate-Income Jobs.*

Affordability. This outcome category applies to activities which provide affordability in a variety of ways in the lives of low- and moderate- income people. It can include the creation or maintenance of affordable housing, basic infrastructure hook-ups, or services such as transportation or day care. *The national objective that applies to this outcome is Low- and Moderate-Income Housing.*

Sustainability. Promoting Livable or Viable Communities. This outcome applies to projects where the activity or activities are aimed at improving a neighborhood by helping make it more livable or viable for principally low- and moderate-income people through multiple activities, or by providing services that sustain communities or sections of communities. *The national objectives that apply to this outcome are Addressing Slums or Blight on an Area Basis, Addressing Slums and Blight on a Spot Basis, and Urgent Need.*

The objectives and outcomes are included on the individual project pages in Volume II. The outcome indicators will be reported for each activity in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report that is submitted to HUD at the end of each fiscal year.

The CDC must also ensure that its HUD-funded activities carried out under the Consolidated Plan meet its priority needs. Each priority need is ranked as *High, Medium, Low* or *No Such Need*, to describe the relative need for assistance in each category. All priority needs were found to be high based on the Consolidated Plan's need assessment and resources available to address these needs.

The following indicates the planned accomplished for 2007-2008 relative to the Priority Needs.

2007-2008 Planned Accomplishments

Priority Need	Planned Accomplishments
Housing	46 households 2,245 housing units 25,000 persons
Homeless & HIV/AIDS	252,678 persons
Anti-Crime	15,670 persons
Public Services	187,972 persons
Senior Programs	5,586 seniors 1 senior center
Special Needs Non-Homeless	27,714 persons
Youth Programs	7,728 youth
Public Facilities	5 public facilities
Economic Development	203 businesses 2 households 27 jobs
Infrastructure	41,265 persons
Other Activities	4,000 housing units 648,852 persons

HUD requires that grantees provide an evaluation of past performance in the Executive Summary. Since the current year, 2006-2007, is still in progress, the following is a summary of actual accomplishments as reported in the 2005-2006 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

2005-2006 Goals and Accomplishments

Priority Needs	One-Year Planned Accomplishments (2005-2006)	One-Year Actual Accomplishments (2005-2006)	Performance Ratio (2005-2006)
Housing	5,331 housing units	2,459 housing units	46%
Homeless & HIV/AIDS	87,855 persons	88,077 persons	100%
Anti-Crime	169,068 persons	169,266 persons	100%
Public Services	739,792 persons	734,391 persons	99%
Senior Programs	269,334 seniors 8 senior centers	305,230 seniors 4 senior centers	113%
Special Needs Non-Homeless	126,835 persons 10,027 public facilities	75,459 persons 6,681 public facilities	60%
Youth Programs	329,799 youth 8 public facilities	296,022 youth 2 public facilities	90%
Public Facilities	7,281 public facilities	7,013 public facilities	96%
Economic Development	1,497 businesses 27 households 307 jobs	2,091 businesses 12 households 92 jobs	54%
Infrastructure	184,171 persons	66,080 persons	36%
Other Activities	3,280 housing units 1,299,573 persons	3,615 housing units 1,283,743 persons	99%

HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES

The Annual Action Plan seeks to support a comprehensive Continuum of Care for homeless individuals and families which is currently funded through LAHSA through the following resources: California Endowment Foundation, City of Los

Angeles General Fund, Community Development Block Grant Program. County of Los Angeles General Fund, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Emergency Housing Assistance Program, Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Independent Living Program Funds through the County's Department of Children and Family Services, and Supportive Housing Program.

OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES

The CDC will also be undertaking annual actions to address the needs of special needs populations who are not homeless through the following activities:

- Removal of architectural barriers on streets and in parking facilities, parks and recreational facilities, and other public facilities to improve accessibility for the physically disabled.
- Provision of services for persons with disabilities, including persons with mental illness and substance abuse issues.
- Provision of legal, tenant/landlord counseling, and other services for the elderly and frail elderly.
- Improvement of senior facilities, such as senior centers.
- Provision of youth services, including health services for children and counseling services for abused children, and services for emancipated youth.

OTHER ACTIONS

The County, with CDC as the lead, also will be taking actions in the coming year to:

- Overcome obstacles to meeting underserved needs such as housing for large families.
- Foster and maintain affordable housing.
- Remove barriers to affordable housing.
- Evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.
- Reduce the number of poverty level families.
- Enhance the CDC's housing and community development delivery system.
- Overcome impediments to fair housing choice.
- Enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.
- Foster public housing improvements and resident initiatives.

Monitoring

As the lead agency for the Consolidated Plan, the CDC has the responsibility to ensure that the Urban County's CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs follow applicable laws and regulations.

It is the principal objective of the CDC, as the grantee, to develop a standard approach to monitoring which ensures that federal funds received from HUD are used only for approved activities and that they are administered in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. This established monitoring approach provides an early indication of problems or potential problems in meeting applicable requirements. This approach also helps to prevent fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Finally, through an active process of agency interaction including instructional training, ongoing technical assistance, routine site visits, quarterly reporting, and annual monitoring, the CDC promotes efficient and effective grantee performance.