

## MEDIA RELEASE

### COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITY WELCOMES U.S. HUD SECRETARY BEN CARSON

#### Secretary Announces HUD Award of \$1.8 Million to Develop Work Readiness Programs for Public Housing Residents

Long Beach, February 14, 2020 - The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), Long Beach Councilmember Al Austin, and staff from Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office were honored to welcome U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson to the Carmelitos Public Housing Community in the City of Long Beach.

The Secretary's visit was in conjunction with an announcement from HUD that the LACDA is a recipient of a four-year \$1.8 million Jobs-Plus Initiative (Jobs-Plus) Program grant for Carmelitos. The Jobs-Plus Program seeks to develop locally-based, job-driven approaches to increase earnings and advance employment outcomes through work readiness, employer linkages, job placement, educational advancement technology skills, and financial literacy for public housing residents. The program requires public housing agencies to partner locally with Department of Labor Workforce Development Boards and American Job Centers. Additionally, Jobs-Plus grantees are required to demonstrate a 25% match from community partners, providing wrap-around supportive services to improve employment and earnings outcomes.

"HUD is committed to empowering public housing residents with new educational and economic tools to improve self-sufficiency," said Secretary Carson. "HUD is proud to work with our local partners to help more residents find employment so that they can reach their full potential and become role models to future generations."

With support from the Jobs-Plus Program and in partnership with the Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network, Long Beach City College, New Opportunities Organization, University of California Cooperative Extension, Long Beach Unified School District Head Start, YMCA Greater Long Beach, Cottonwood Church and Los Angeles Community Development Foundation, the LACDA will effectively support its residents on their path to self-sufficiency and meet the employment, training and supportive service needs of over 1,778 Carmelitos residents, of which over 657 are non-disabled, ages 18-65, who can readily work and overcome barriers to employment through this program.



Emilio Salas, LACDA Deputy Executive Director said, "We are proud to have been selected as a recipient of a Job-Plus grant. These funds will allow the LACDA to further expand upon the supportive programming offered to help our residents on their road to self-sufficiency."

The LACDA maintains and manages 3,229 public and affordable units located at 68 sites throughout Los Angeles County. Carmelitos is one of its largest properties with 713 units onsite.

For more information on the LACDA's Public Housing Program, please call (626) 262-4510. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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