

# Quarterly

## Highlights and Updates

Second Quarter  
Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011

A publication demonstrating recent program accomplishments and providing the status of ongoing projects.



### *The Spirit of Giving*

The holidays bring about the spirit of giving not only to our family and friends, but to others in need of a helping hand.

Each year, the Community Development Commission's (CDC) Community Resource Center, funded by the County's First and Fourth Supervisorial Districts, located in unincorporated Whittier, organizes a Holiday Food & Toy Program by collaborating with other county agencies, community-based organizations, and local volunteers. This year's event, held on December 21, 2010, provided boxes of food to 300 families that live in the South Whittier area and toys to more than 600 children. Shelter Partnership, Inc., donated two truckloads of plush toys, dolls, Sesame Street clothing, toddler items, board games, and books.



Additionally, every year the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) hosts a Resident Services Annual Toy Drive which provides gifts to over 700 youth living at several of our public housing developments. For a second year, Shelter Partnership, Inc., donated dolls, toys, and backpacks which were distributed to 400 youth during the holiday events held at four of HACoLA's public housing developments the week of December 20, 2010.



With such a large demand for donated gifts to support our two events, the CDC and HACoLA are very pleased that Shelter Partnership, Inc., was able to help in such a big way! Through its S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank, Shelter Partnership, Inc., solicits large-scale donations and ensures that items are delivered to the people and agencies that need them most. Shelter Partnership, Inc., has provided large quantities of donated gifts to the CDC and HACoLA's holiday events over the past couple of years, and this year was no exception.

Thanks to the large donations from Shelter Partnership, Inc., the generous funding provided to the Community Resource Center's event by the First and Fourth Districts, and the willingness of all volunteers, both events were a success, and the families that participated were truly grateful for what they received. The CDC and HACoLA value the partnerships that we have established, not only with Shelter Partnership, Inc., but all donors and volunteers. Through their generosity, and spirit of giving, they helped ensure the holidays were made brighter for low-income families in South Whittier, and residents of our public housing developments.



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

For additional information on the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, please contact us at (323) 890-7001 or visit us at: [www.lacdc.org](http://www.lacdc.org)



# Outreach and Education



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### EDA Western Regional Conference

From December 7-9, 2010, the CDC's Economic/Redevelopment Division participated in the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Seattle Regional Office's 2010 Western Regional Conference. The multi-state conference focused on the latest trends and ideas in regional and local economic development.

The three-day event featured speakers from the EDA, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Washington State Department of Commerce, and many others. The presentations emphasized the importance of collaborations between communities, local governments and leaders in economic development. Presenters discussed economic development strategies and innovative approaches to creating and keeping jobs in local communities.

Iris Alvarado, Senior Loan Administrator in the CDC's Economic/Redevelopment Division, was part of a five-person panel that presented information on the EDA's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program. The RLF Program is a critical component for communities and regions working to create opportunities for business start-up, growth and retention.

The CDC's County Business Loan Program, which falls under the RLF Program, helps companies with their expansion and development efforts. Loans may be used for equipment/machinery, property acquisition, and working capital. To date, the CDC has invested over \$103 million in local businesses, and helped create and retain over 3,500 jobs.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### CDBG Online Trainings

Each year, more than 100 agencies participate in the Los Angeles Urban County (County) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. These agencies offer low- and moderate-income residents across the County a wide range of valuable programs and services. Keeping this constantly evolving agency workforce up-to-date and fully trained on new regulations and policies is a challenging task requiring extensive planning and preparation. In previous years, annual trainings were often spread over weeks to accommodate the large number of people, time, and resources required for staff to prepare the necessary materials and presentations.

Looking for more efficient ways to handle the challenge of training, the CDC's CDBG Division turned to the benefits of online communication. During October and November 2010, personnel from our agencies participated in the CDBG Division's first set of online funding proposal, financial, and reporting trainings. The training sessions were a success, with over 200 participants attending.

For the CDBG Division, offering online trainings consolidated multiple-day sessions and essentially eliminated the need to print hundreds of handouts as all documents were made available electronically. Online trainings also eliminated the need to travel, thereby offering participants time and cost-saving benefits. In addition, agencies have the ability to access trainings and documents in the future by going to an electronic archive located on our website. The Division's online training is just one more tool that can be used to effectively and efficiently conduct business with our external agencies.

# Housing Highlights

## PUBLIC HOUSING



### Harbor Hills Art Fair

On Saturday, December 4, 2010, HACoLA's public housing youth enjoyed an art fair at the Harbor Hills public housing development, located in the City of Lomita. During the event, which was hosted by HACoLA and FREE ARTS, youth made stockings, necklaces, and gift boxes, all with a holiday theme. FREE ARTS volunteers helped youth with the art projects and enjoyed a wonderful lunch once the event was over.

HACoLA has been working closely with FREE ARTS for over 10 years, introducing youth to the arts through weekly programs. FREE ARTS is a non-profit organization that integrates the healing and therapeutic power of the arts into the lives of children and youth. They recruit, screen, train, and place community volunteers to work directly with youth and families. Dance, drama, writing, music, and painting are just some of the avenues of creativity FREE ARTS volunteers use to encourage children and youth to channel their emotions, release their anger, and develop positive methods of communication. In an effort to continue teaching and inspiring youth through art, another art fair will be planned for Spring 2011.



## SECTION 8



### Owner Portal Goes Live!

HACoLA's Assisted Housing Division, which administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, continues to implement the technological strategies outlined in its Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted to the Board of Supervisors in July 2009.

As part of the HACoLA's goal to achieve "High Performer" status from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on December 22, 2010, the Assisted Housing Division unveiled an Owner Portal on HACoLA's website. The Owner Portal will improve customer service, reduce the administrative burden placed on staff, and contribute toward a paperless environment.

The Owner Portal provides HACoLA owners with direct access to specific information related to their properties, such as payment status, inspection reports, and tenant profiles. Additionally, the Owner Portal allows owners to submit address changes, rent increase requests, and sign-up for or update direct deposit information.

The Owner Portal incorporates data from internal HACoLA reporting systems to provide the most up-to-date information available such as real-time inspection results, thereby minimizing staff time spent on owner-related inquiries.

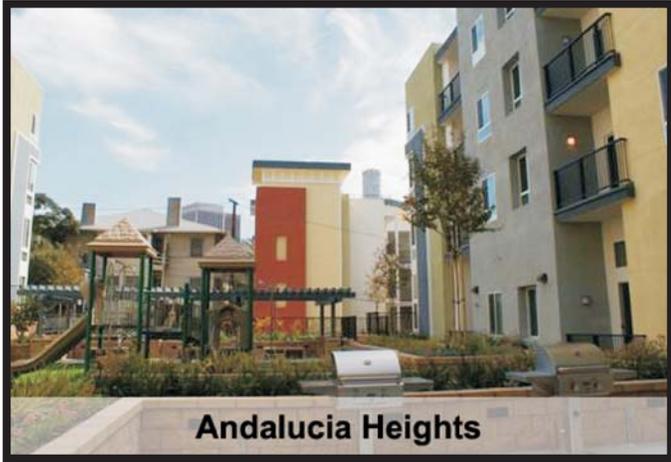
**To access the portal, owners may visit [www.hacola.org](http://www.hacola.org), and select "Section 8 Owner Portal."**



# Other Highlights

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



**Andalusia Heights**

### Affordable Housing Grand Openings

On December 9, 2010, AMCAL Multi-Housing, Inc. held a grand opening for Andalusia Heights. This project, located in the City of Los Angeles, included the new construction of 75 units of affordable housing for low-income families. The four-story residential structure sits above an underground parking lot. Amenities include a community room, laundry room, tot lots, outdoor seating and barbeque areas.

On December 10, 2010, the Downtown Women's Center (DWC) also held its grand opening. DWC, located in the City of Los Angeles, used the funds received from HACoLA for the renovation of the historic six-story building, thus creating 71 supportive housing efficiency units. DWC will provide homeless women a combination of housing, health, and social services such as a mental health clinic and day center. The renovation integrated sustainable building practices and achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

HACoLA contributed \$2 million in City of Industry Funds to each of the affordable housing developments.

### Rowland Heights Community Center

After months of anticipation, the planning for the new Rowland Heights Community Center project is well underway! During the second quarter of 2010-2011, the schematic design was completed and presented to Rowland Heights residents with renderings and a model, thus closing the community involvement portion of the project. The design is based on the idea of dividing the programming needs within two buildings centered around an open entry plaza that can be utilized for large gatherings. The existing recreational center will remain on the upper level of Pathfinder Park. The new 16,000 square foot community center will be constructed on the lower level with facilities to expand recreational, educational, and social opportunities for the residents.

Funded by Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe, and designed by Gonzalez Goodale Architects, the design was the result of months of community outreach and planning efforts by the architects and development team. The CDC's Construction Management Division is overseeing the development from conception through completion. All parties involved are excited and enthusiastic about the future center. Construction is expected to begin in early 2012.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Economic Development Finance Professional Certification



In December 2010, three of the CDC's Economic/Redevelopment Division staff members, Dan Aikens, Matt Lust, and Matt Abney, received prestigious Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) certifications from the National Development Council (NDC). EDFP Certification is given to individuals who successfully complete the intensive economic development finance training series. The training, sponsored by Citibank, provides individuals with instruction in business credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging, and the implementation of development programs. Upon completing all courses, and passing an exam, the candidate is awarded EDFP Certification. This is an example of the CDC's effort to invest in the professional development of its workforce. Congratulations gentlemen on this impressive accomplishment!