Appendix H: Glossary of Terms

Community Development Commission
of the
County of Los Angeles
Glossary

**Accessibility**  All new construction of covered multifamily buildings must include certain features of accessible and adaptable design. Units covered are all those in buildings with four or more units and one or more elevators, and all ground floor units in buildings without elevators.

**Action Plan**  The Action Plan includes the following: An application for federal funds under HUD’s formula grant programs (CDBG, ESG, HOME); Identification of federal and other resources expected to be used to address the priority needs and specific objectives in the strategic plan (the 2003-2008 Consolidated Plan); Activities to be undertaken including the following; Activities to address Homeless and other special needs (persons with mental, physical or developmental disabilities, battered and abused spouses, victims of domestic violence, etc.); Activities to address other Actions (affordable housing, lead-based paint hazards, poverty reduction, public housing improvements, etc); and lastly; A description of the areas targeted given the rationale for the priorities for allocating investment geographically.

**American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI-HOME)**  The American Dream Downpayment Initiative was authorized by Title I of the American Dream Downpayment Act of 2003. This federally funded program allocates additional HOME Program funds to states and local jurisdictions which currently administer HOME funds, to assist low-income families become first-time homebuyers.

**Affordable Housing**  That housing within the community which is decent and safe, either newly constructed or rehabilitated, that is occupied by and affordable to households whose income is very low, low, or moderate. Such housing may be ownership or rental, single family or multifamily, short-term or permanent. Achieving affordable housing often requires financial assistance from various public and private sources and agencies.

**Agency**  Any department, agency, commission, authority, administration, board, or other independent establishment in the executive branch of the government, including any corporation wholly or partly owned by the United States that is an independent instrumentality of the United States, not including the municipal government of the District of Columbia.

**Brownsfield Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) Grant Program**  BEDI is designed to help cities redevelop abandoned, idled, or underutilized industrial and commercial properties and facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination e.g., brownfields. BEDI accomplishes this by providing funding to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees to finance redevelopment of brownfields sites. BEDI-funded projects must meet one of the CDBG program’s national objectives.

**Capital Fund Program (CFP)**  The Capital Fund Program provides funds, annually, to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) for the development, financing, and modernization of public housing developments and for management improvements.
Certification  A written assertion based on supporting evidence that must be kept available for inspection by HUD, by the Inspector General of HUD, and by the public. The assertion shall be deemed to be accurate unless HUD determines otherwise, after inspecting the evidence and providing due notice and opportunity for comment.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) A Community Development Block Grant is a federal grant to states, counties or cities. It is used for housing and community development including housing construction and rehabilitation, economic development, and public services which benefit low- and moderate- income people. Grant funds can also be used to fund activities which eliminate slums and blight or meet urgent needs.

Community Development Commission (CDC) The Community Development Commission is the lead agency for purposes of the Consolidated Plan, and administration of the County’s federal entitlement funding, namely CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds. The Commission is comprised of numerous divisions, each with its own area of responsibility. The divisions most directly involved with implementation of the Urban County’s housing and community development strategic plan are the Community Development Block Grant Division; the Housing Development and Preservation Division; the Economic/Redevelopment Division, the Assisted Housing Division; and the Housing Management Division. In addition to those responsibilities of the Commission, Commission staff coordinate with various County departments, approximately 85 community-based organizations and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority in implementation of the strategic plan, and in allocation of CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds.

Community and Housing Development Organization (CHDO) A private non-profit organization that meets specific HOME Program qualifications to maintain accountability to low-income community residents. A minimum of 15% of HOME Program funds must be reserved for investment in affordable housing that is developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Performance Report (CAPER) The CAPER allows HUD, local officials, and the public to evaluate the grantees’ overall performance, including whether activities and strategies undertaken during the preceding year actually made an impact on the goals and needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Consolidated Plan The Consolidated Plan services four separate, but integrated functions. The Consolidated Plan is: a planning document for the jurisdiction which builds on a participatory process with County residents; an application for federal funds under HUD’s formula grant programs which are: CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA; a five-year strategy to be followed in carrying out HUD programs; and lastly, an action plan describing individuals activities to be implemented.

Cost Burden The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceeds 30 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Grant Program EDI is designed to enable local governments to enhance both the security of loans guaranteed through HUD’s Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and the feasibility of the economic development and revitalization projects that Section 108 guarantees finance. EDI accomplishes this by providing grants to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees. A locality may use the grant to provide
additional security for the loan (for example, as a loss reserve), thereby reducing the exposure of its CDBG funds (which by law must be pledged as security for the loan guarantees). A locality may also use the EDI grant to pay for costs associated with the project, thereby enhancing the feasibility of the 108-assisted portion of the project. EDI-funded projects must meet one of the CDBG program’s national objectives.

**Elderly** The CDBG low and moderate-income limited clientele national objective at 570.208(a)(2)(i)(A) includes the elderly as a presumptive group. However, the CDBG regulations do not define the term "elderly". Therefore, a grantee can use its own definition of elderly for non-housing activities. As such, the County defines elderly as 55 years of age or older. With regard to housing activities, the Consolidated Plan requires identification of housing needs for various groups, including the elderly, which is defined as 62 years of age or older at 24 CFR 91.5 and 24 CFR 5.100. Because of this, housing activities to be counted toward meeting a Consolidated Plan goal of housing for the elderly must use the definition in 24 CFR 5.100, 62 years or older.

**Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)** Emergency Shelter Grant Program is a federally funded program designed to help, improve and maintain the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless. ESG helps emergency shelters meet the costs of operating emergency shelters and of providing certain essential social services to homeless individuals so that these persons have access to a safe and sanitary shelter, and to the supportive services and other kinds of assistance they need to improve their situations. The program is also intended to prevent the increase of homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities.

**Emergency Shelter** Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

**Entitlement** An underlying formula governing the allocation of Block Grant funds to eligible recipients. Entitlement grants are provided to larger urban cities (i.e. population greater than 50,000) and larger urban counties (greater than 200,000).

**Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)** A federally chartered, stockholder owned corporation which supports the secondary market for both conventional mortgages and mortgages insured by the FHA and guaranteed by VA.

**Financing** Functions necessary to provide the financial resources to fund government operations and federal assistance including the functions of taxation, fee and revenue generation, public debt, deposit funds, and intra governmental collections.

**First-time Homebuyer** An individual or family who has not owned a home during the three-year period preceding the assisted purchase of a home that must be occupied as the principal residence of the homebuyer. Any individual who is a displaced homemaker or a single parent may not be excluded from consideration as a first-time homebuyer on the basis that the individual, while a homemaker or married, owned a home with his or her spouse or resided in a home owned by the spouse.

**Fiscal Year** Any yearly accounting period, regardless of its relationship to a calendar year.
**FTE-Full Time Equivalent**  One FTE is 2,080 hours of paid employment. The number of FTEs is derived by summing the total number of hours (for which included categories of employees) are paid by the appropriate categories of employees and dividing by 2,080 hours (one workyear). Appropriate categories include, but are not limited to, overtime hours, hours for full-time permanent employees, temporary employees, and intermittent employees who may not have been paid for an entire reporting period.

**Grant**  A federal grant may be defined as a form of assistance authorized by statute in which a federal agency (grantor) transfers something of value to a party (the grantee) usually, but not always, outside the federal government, for a purpose, undertaking, or activity of the grantee which the government has chosen to assist, to be carried out without substantial involvement on the part of the federal government. The “thing of value” is usually money, but may, depending on the program legislation, also includes property or services. The grantee, again depending on the program legislation, may be a state or local government, a nonprofit organization, or a private individual or business entity.

**HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)**  The HOME Investment Partnerships Program is authorized by Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act. This federally funded program is designed to strengthen public-private partnerships and to expand the supply of affordable housing for low-income persons. The funds are used to carry out multi-year housing strategies through acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of housing, and tenant-based rental assistance.

**HOME Funds**  Funds made available under the HOME Program through allocations and reallocations, plus all repayments and interest or other return on the investment of these funds.

**Homeless Family**  Family that includes at least one parent or guardian and one child under the age of 18, a homeless pregnant woman, or a homeless person in the process of securing legal custody of a person under the age of 18.

**Homeless Individual**  An unaccompanied youth (18 years or younger) or an adult (18 years or older) without children who is homeless (not imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law), including the following: 1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and 2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is: i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**Homeless Subpopulation**  Include but are not limited to the following categories of homeless persons: severely mentally ill only, alcohol/drug addicted only, severely mentally ill and alcohol/drug addicted, fleeing domestic violence, youth and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**HOPWA**  Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS is a federal program designed to provide States and localities with resources and incentives to devise long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases and their families. The program authorizes entitlement grants and competitively awarded
grants for housing assistance and services.

**Household**  Household means all the persons who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

**HUD**  Created as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was established as a Cabinet Department by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3532-3537), effective November 9, 1965. It consolidated a number of other older federal agencies. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is the Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that: address America's housing needs; improve and develop the Nation's communities; and enforce fair housing laws. HUD's mission is helping create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans. It has given America's cities a strong national voice at the Cabinet level.

**HUD Income Levels**  Income levels serve as eligibility criteria for households participating in federally funded programs. The following income level definitions are applicable to the CDBG Program:

**Extremely Low Income**  Family whose income is between 0 and 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

**Low Income**  Low-income families whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

**Middle Income**  Family whose income is between 80 percent and 95 percent of the median area income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 95 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

**Moderate Income**  Family whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.
**Jurisdiction**  A State or unit of general local government.

**Large Family**  Family of five or more persons.

**Lead-based paint hazards**  Any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead-contaminated dust, lead-contaminated soil, lead-contaminated paint that is deteriorated or present in accessible surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects as established by the appropriate Federal agency.

**Letter of Credit**  Line of credit to a grant recipient established at a time of approval of application.

**Liability**  Assets owed for items received, services received, assets acquired, construction performed (regardless of whether invoices have been received), an amount received but not yet earned, or other expenses incurred.

**Limited Clientele Activities**  For school-wide activities that benefit the entire student population, who are at least 51 percent low- or moderate-income, the eligibility citation of 570.208(2)(D) will be applied. To demonstrate that the school population meets the 51 percent low – or moderate –income level, staff will obtain the percentage of students participating in free or reduced-price lunch program from the respective school district’s website.

**Los Angeles Urban County**  As defined by HUD, an Urban County is any county with a population of 200,000 or more, excluding metropolitan cities. The Los Angeles Urban County is comprised of the County's unincorporated areas and 49 ‘participating cities,’ e.g., cities, which participate in the Urban County program. The population of the Urban County is 2,282,514, making it the largest Urban County in the nation.

**Overcrowded**  For purposes of describing relative housing needs, a housing unit containing more than one person per room, as defined by U.S. Census Bureau, for which the Census Bureau makes data available.

**Person with a Disability**  A person who is determined to: (1) Have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that: i) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; ii) Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and iii) Is of such a nature that the ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; Or 2) Have a developmental disability, as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001-6007); or 3) Be the surviving member or members of any family that had been living in an assisted unit with the deceased member of the family who had a disability at the time of his or her death.

**Private Non-profit Organization**  A secular or religious organization described in section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1988 which: (a) is exempt from taxation under subtitle A of the Code; (b) has an accounting system and a voluntary board; and (c) practices nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance.
**Program**  An organized set of activities directed toward a common purpose or goal that an agency undertakes or proposes to carry out its responsibilities.

**Program Income** Program income is the gross income received by the recipient and its subrecipients* directly generated from the use of CDBG funds. For those program income-generating activities that are only partially assisted with CDBG funds, such income is prorated to reflect percentage of CDBG funds that were used. Reference 24 CFR 570.500(a). Examples: (Note: This list is NOT exclusive and therefore other types of funds may also constitute CDBG program income.)

- proceeds from the disposition by sale or long-term lease (15 years or more) of real property purchased or improved with CDBG funds.
- proceeds from the disposition of equipment bought with CDBG funds.
- gross income from the use or rental of real property that has been constructed or improved with CDBG funds and that is owned (in whole or in part) by the recipient or subrecipient. Costs incidental to the generation of the income are deducted from the gross income.
- payments of principal and interest on loans made using CDBG funds.
- proceeds from the sale of loans made with CDBG funds.
- proceeds from the sale of obligations secured by loans made with CDBG funds.
- any interest earned on funds held in a revolving fund account.
- any interest earned on program income pending its disposition.
- funds collected through special assessments that are made against properties owned and occupied by non-low and moderate-income households where the assessments have been made to recover some or all of the CDBG portion of a public improvement.

Reference: 570.500(a)(1)

Program income does not include the following examples.

- interest earned on grant advances from the U.S. Treasury. Any interest earned on grant advances is required to be returned to the U.S. Treasury.
- proceeds from fund-raising activities carried out by subrecipients that are receiving CDBG assistance to implement eligible activities.
- funds collected through special assessments that have been made to recover the non-CDBG portion of a public improvement.
- proceeds from the disposition by the grantee of real property that has been acquired or improved with CDBG funds when the disposition occurs after grant closeout for entitlement grantees.
- proceeds from the disposition of real property that has been acquired or improved with CDBG funds where the disposition occurs within a five year period (or more if so determined by the grantee) after the expiration of the agreement between the grantee and subrecipient for that specific agreement where the CDBG funds were provided for the acquisition or improvement of the subject property.

Note: This list is not all-inclusive. *Subrecipient means a public or private nonprofit agency, authority, or organization or an authorized for-profit entity receiving CDBG funds from the recipient or another subrecipient to undertake activities eligible for such assistance. The term excludes an entity receiving CDBG funds from the recipient unless the grantee explicitly designates it as a subrecipient. The term includes a public agency designated by a unit of general local government to
receive a loan guarantee, but does not include contractors providing supplies, equipment, construction, or services subject to the procurement requirements as applicable.

**Project** A planned undertaking of something to be accomplished, produced, or constructed, having a finite beginning and finite end. Examples are a construction project or a research and development project.

**Rehabilitation** Labor, materials, tools, and other costs of improving buildings, including repair directed toward an accumulation of deferred maintenance; replacement of principal fixtures and components of existing buildings; installation of security devices; and improvement through alterations or incidental additions to, or enhancement of, existing buildings, including improvements to increase the efficient use of energy in buildings, and structural changes necessary to make the structure accessible for persons with physical handicaps.

Rehabilitation also includes the conversion of a building to an emergency shelter for the homeless, where the cost of conversion and any rehabilitation costs do not exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before conversion. Rehabilitation must meet local government safety and sanitation standards. For projects of 15 or more units where rehabilitation costs are 75 percent or more of the replacement cost of the building, that project must meet the accessibility requirement of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or where rehabilitation costs are less than 75 percent of the replacement cost of the building, that project must meet the requirements of 24 CFR 8.23b.

**Rental Assistance** Rental assistance payments provided as either project-based rental assistance or tenant-based rental assistance. Otherwise known as the Section 8 Rental Assistance Payments Program and variations thereof.

**Renovation** Rehabilitation that involves costs of 75 percent or less of the value of the building before rehabilitation.

**Request for Proposals (RFP)** A RFP is the instrument used to solicit proposals/offers for proposed contracts using the negotiated procurement method.

**Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program** The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program involves a federal guarantee on local debt allowed under Section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. This section of the Act allows public entities, such as the County of Los Angeles, to issue promissory notes through HUD to raise money for eligible large-scale community and economic development activities. HUD guarantees these notes, which are sold on the private market in return for a grantee's pledge of its future CDBG funds and other security for the purpose of debt repayment. Section 108 activities must satisfy CDBG eligibility and national objective criteria as well as Section 108 regulations and guidelines.

**Senior** A person who is at least 55 years of age. For senior housing activities, a senior is a person who is at least 62 years of age. (Seniors and “elderly” are terms that are often interchangeable.)

**Shelter Plus Care** A federally funded McKinney Act Program designed to provide affordable housing opportunities to individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities.
**SRO** (Single Room Occupancy) A unit for occupancy by one person, which need not but may contain food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both.

**State** Any State of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**Subsidy** Generally, a payment or benefit made where the benefit exceeds the cost to the beneficiary.

**Substantial Rehabilitation** Rehabilitation of residential property at an average cost for the project in excess of $25,000 per dwelling unit.

**Supportive Housing** Services provided to residents of supportive housing for the purpose of facilitating the independence of residents. Some examples are case management, medical or psychological counseling and supervision, childcare, transportation, and job training.

**Supportive Housing Program (SHP)** The Supportive Housing Program promotes the development of supportive housing and supportive services, including innovative approaches that assist homeless persons in the transition from homelessness and enable them to live as independently as possible. SHP funds may be used to provide transitional housing, permanent housing for persons with disabilities, innovative supportive housing, supportive services, or safe havens for the homeless.

**Transitional Housing** Is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to persons, including (but not limited to) deinstitutionalized individuals with disabilities, homeless individuals with disabilities, and homeless families with children. Also, it is housing with a purpose of facilitating the movement of individuals and families to independent living within a time period that is set by the City or project owner before occupancy.