



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
700 W. Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elisa Vásquez, (626) 586-1762, Elisa.Vasquez@lacdc.org

YWCA CONTINUES TO THRIVE WITH FEDERAL FUNDING

Despite Constant Threat of Elimination, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Successfully Serves and Supports Our Local Communities

Los Angeles, CA, April 20, 2017 – In a residential pocket of industrial East Los Angeles, a room in the bright yellow and red YWCA Union Pacific Empowerment Center is a safe haven during afterschool, summer, and school break hours. Fifty



youth of low- and moderate-income families come here to learn personal and professional life skills through the Youth Development Program. On a daily basis, this program offers school-aged youth activities that develop self-esteem and confidence along with academic tools to enable future success.

Parents of program participants rely on this valuable community resource while they work to provide for their families. The YWCA offers the support they need to enhance their children's development in a safe and active environment.

In the next room, over 100 seniors learn how to safeguard their personal information and identity after having lunch together in the YWCA Senior Empowerment

Program. This program assists seniors in remaining healthy and active through participation in recreational, educational, and leisure activities. Other senior programs offered onsite include fiscal literacy, health and wellness, and empowerment skill development to continue the long-honored, valued tradition of a community taking care of its elders, while addressing an important concern of senior isolation through group activities.



“I come here every day,” Felix Perez, a participant of the YWCA’s Senior Empowerment Program said. “The YWCA makes me feel happy and helps me stay active. It’s an important part of the community.”

The Youth Development and Senior Empowerment Programs are great examples of a community improving the lives of its residents on a daily basis. Both of these programs are supported with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG also funded infrastructure and site improvements to the YWCA that were completed in June 2016. This included exterior anti-graffiti painting, security cameras, kitchen and accessibility improvements, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

CDBG funding enables residents, such as those in East Los Angeles, to live in revitalized communities and lead healthier lives. It is arguably the federal government’s most successful domestic program and is the same CDBG funding that President Donald Trump’s proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2018 budget has slated for elimination.

The YWCA Union Pacific Empowerment Center is one example of many organizations across Los Angeles County and the country that provide vital community

needs on a daily basis. It is also one of several projects highlighted during National Community Development Week, celebrated April 17 through April 21, 2017, which offers the opportunity to promote the successes and flexibility of CDBG. For more than 40 years, it has provided cities, counties, and states an important source of funds to address their unique affordable housing and community and economic development needs. Through its long history, the CDBG Program has demonstrated time and again its value to local communities through various uses of funding and the results achieved. Without CDBG, many of these services and the ability to revitalize community facilities, such as the YWCA's community center and programs, would be at risk of elimination as funding from other sources are either not available, competitive, or are not stable.

The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) administers the CDBG Program for the Los Angeles Urban County, which includes the unincorporated areas as well as 47 participating cities. Each Supervisorial District and city decides how to use CDBG funding to best meet the needs of their constituents. The YWCA programs are funded by CDBG dollars allocated to the County's First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and have been awarded a Congressional Recognition of Excellence Award by Congresswomen Judy Chu.

For more information on programs operated by the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, please call (213) 365-2991. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer for the CDC, at (626) 586-1762.

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