

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES RECOGNIZES TWO LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Awards Honor Innovative, Effective County Government Programs That
Strengthen Services for County Residents



Washington, D.C., June 7, 2021 - The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) was recognized with two Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective County government programs that strengthen services for residents.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. NACo recognized the LACDA for the following programs:

Opening Doors for Los Angeles County Renters (Human Services Category) - On January 1, 2020, the LACDA debuted its Customer Service Unit and launched a new business model called Open Doors. The goal of Open Doors is to retain current property owners, entice new owner participation, and heighten confidence in the Section 8 Program through added assurances and owner support. By dedicating experienced staff to provide immediate assistance to the needs of current and potential property owners, the LACDA increased the number of families able to utilize their vouchers in the highly competitive Los Angeles County rental market.

LACDA/City Small Business Grant Program (SBG Program) (Community and Economic Development Category) - As the most populated County in the nation and home to more than 244,000 small businesses, the Los Angeles business community immediately faced severe impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020. As the pandemic continued, a massive decline in business activity and revenues across the County brought tremendous hardship causing the local business community to experience unimaginable challenges to maintaining viability.

In response to this crisis, the LACDA joined forces with six cities to target their business community with the LACDA/City Small Business Grant Program (SBG Program). The SBG Program supported the resiliency of 65 small businesses and provided a needed boost to the loss of revenue as a result of the pandemic. By administering the program

on behalf of its partner cities, the LACDA effectively responded to a new economic reality with an intergovernmental and innovative approach to serving small businesses.

Emilio Salas, LACDA Acting Executive Director said, “While this past year has presented challenges, the LACDA, along with many other County agencies, has remained dedicated to providing critical services such as Open Doors and the SBG Program that have helped Los Angeles County renters and businesses stay afloat. It is an honor to receive recognition from NACo for our efforts.”

NACo President Gary Moore said, “Over the past year, county officials and frontline employees have demonstrated bold, inspirational leadership. This year’s Achievement Award-winning programs illustrate the innovative ways counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America.”

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

For additional information on the programs offered by the LACDA, please [click here](#) to access its agency brochure. For media questions, please contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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