

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES RECOGNIZES THREE 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 11, 2020 - The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) was recognized with three 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 project and programs:

Newly Opened Health Clinic in Public Housing (Health Category) - The LACDA aims to address the difficulties of its low-income residents to access effective and low-cost healthcare. To that end, in May 2019, the LACDA welcomed the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation as the operator of the onsite Daniel “Skip” Gibson Carmelitos Health Clinic (Clinic), located within the Carmelitos Public Housing Community, which is home to over 1,700 low-income youth, families, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Comprehensive health services include primary to preventive care, and health and wellness workshops. The Clinic adopts a patient-centered model of providing care that gives Carmelitos residents and the surrounding North Long Beach community the best opportunity at improving health outcomes while meeting individual needs.

Family Reunification Housing Subsidy (FRHS) Program (Children and Youth Category) - The FRHS Program focuses on reunification of homeless families with children in out-of-home placement where the only barrier to reunifying the family is the lack of housing. This is the first Department of Children and Family Services housing program within Los Angeles County to house homeless families for reunification with their children more expeditiously. To support reunification, eligible parents experiencing homelessness are directly connected to agencies and case managers with expertise in providing housing services. A housing subsidy is provided by the Program to enable the parent to secure the needed housing to regain custody of his/her children.

Public Housing Youth Take Flight in the Aviation Industry (Children and Youth Category) - The LACDA was pleased to introduce 100 public housing youth to the aviation industry through hands-on education and career exploration experiences. During the summer months of 2018 and 2019, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals facilitated fast-paced programs, packed with participant driven activities, which turned dreams into viable careers and ignited a whole new world of visibility to occupations in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for youth. This program addressed the need to continue learning in the summer months.

Emilio Salas, LACDA Acting Executive Director said, "It is an honor to be recognized amongst other local and national agencies that are striving to provide quality services, seeking opportunities to improve local communities and economies, and dedicating themselves to improving residents' lives. The LACDA will continue to think creatively to maximize its resources and help build a stronger Los Angeles County."

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.

NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson said, "We are seeing firsthand now more than ever that counties work tirelessly to support our residents. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties build healthy, safe, and vibrant communities across America."

NACo unites America's 3,069 County governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings County officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas, and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational County solutions, enrich the public's understanding of County government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

For media questions related to the LACDA's projects and programs, please contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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