On November 3, 2018, the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA) hosted a Community Meeting and Resource Fair. Over 120 County residents attended the event which sought to obtain input on residents’ needs as part of the County’s 2019-2020 Action Plan, and allow over 15 agencies onsite to provide information on services currently available to potentially address those needs. Attendees received assistance in completing a Community Survey, the results of which will be used to develop the Action Plan. The Action Plan guides the disbursement of approximately $34 million in community development and housing funds. In addition, there were games and activities for all ages, including face painting, arts and crafts, “hands-only” CPR training, free flu shots, and assistance with CalFresh and Medi-Cal sign-ups.

The feedback received from the surveys, and the comments discussed with agency representatives, supports projects, including the revitalization of community infrastructure, childcare programs, services for senior citizens and persons experiencing homelessness, homebuyer assistance and home repair programs, low-interest business loans, and graffiti removal.
Historically, the CDC/HACoLA, through its Housing Assistance Division, has partnered with nearly two dozen homeless service providers and several County departments to disperse its Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) under the Homeless Referral and Continuum of Care Programs for homeless persons with disabilities. 2018 marks another successful year of service sharing and formal collaborations.

In 2018, the CDC/HACoLA collaborated with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to apply for additional Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers. Together, DCFS and the CDC/HACoLA use FUP vouchers to assist families for whom the lack of housing is a primary factor in the imminent placement of the family’s child(ren) in foster care, or the delay in reunifying the child(ren) with the family from foster care. In November, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the CDC/HACoLA 83 additional FUP vouchers to assist families in finding adequate housing and help house transitional age youth who have graduated out of foster care. These additional vouchers complement the CDC/HACoLA’s existing resources and, when added to the 912 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers and 79 additional Mainstream vouchers also awarded in 2018, the agency is better equipped to continue serving Los Angeles County’s most vulnerable residents.

The newly awarded vouchers will help County renters obtain stable housing subsidies, fulfill the CDC/HACoLA’s lease-up goals, and demonstrate the benefits of serving clients through successful partnerships.

Vermont Corridor

On October 17, 2018, the County broke ground on Phase One of a comprehensive effort to redevelop along the Vermont Corridor. The 21-story office building is one of three sites that will begin to transform Vermont Avenue, between 4th and 6th Streets.

The building will house the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and the Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. Onsite services will include walk-in mental health services, a ground-floor clinic, and office space. LACDMH will also consolidate its administrative functions into this centralized building, and expand its operations.

This collaborative project, which took several years to come to fruition, is an example of the CDC/HACoLA’s commitment to providing a state-of-the-art home for the delivery of client services, while revitalizing communities that are home to County facilities.
Each year, the CDC/HACoLA enlists the help of local partners, staff, and volunteers to help make the holidays a little merrier for hundreds of Los Angeles County residents.

On December 20, 2018, the Community Resource Center in South Whittier was bustling with holiday cheer during its 22nd Annual Holiday Basket and Toy Giveaway. Boxes filled with all the trimmings for a holiday meal were distributed to approximately 200 families, along with gifts for over 600 children. More than 50 volunteers from Los Angeles County Fire Department’s “Spark of Love” program, the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff’s Department-Norwalk Station, Shelter Partnership, and local Girl and Boy Scout troops dedicated hours of their time to make this event a success.

Additionally, throughout the month of December, the CDC/HACoLA hosted a series of holiday events at its public housing developments. Nearly 1,200 public housing youth throughout the County received holiday gifts, and over 900 public housing families received holiday food baskets.

The agency’s County-wide holiday events were made possible through the generosity of the California Highway Patrol, Lomita Sheriff’s Station, Cottonwood Church, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and The Basket Brigade. The CDC/HACoLA was especially grateful for the outpouring of support from Southside Church of Christ, Shelter Partnership, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Rho Iota chapter, Central Neighborhood Health Foundation, Women in Action Reaching Out, Borba Realty, East Los Angeles College Criminal Justice Department, and many others who graciously donated toys, food, and monetary donations to help give families a holiday to remember. In total, the CDC/HACoLA distributed gifts to over 1,800 youth with limited means throughout Los Angeles County, spreading the holiday spirit!
On November 14, 2018, officials from the CDC/HACoLA joined West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC) and representatives from the Third Supervisorial District to celebrate the grand opening of Blue Hibiscus.

Located in West Hollywood, near the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, Blue Hibiscus is a 22-unit, new construction, multifamily housing development. The new homes serve persons experiencing mental illness, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and Transition Age Youth. WHCHC provides supportive services including, but not limited to, mental health counseling and a range of social activities. WHCHC has also partnered with the Los Angeles LGBT Center (Center) to provide additional supportive services and programs. These services will be supplemented with off-site services as appropriate, such as primary medical care at the Center’s Federally Qualified Health Center.

Each apartment unit contains energy-efficient appliances, an eat-in kitchen, and private balcony. All units incorporate universal design principles, making Blue Hibiscus the first universal design project for WHCHC. Blue Hibiscus also features a spacious roof deck, container garden area, fully-furnished community room, fitness room, laundry room, two resident services offices, and a resident manager’s office.

The CDC/HACoLA invested over $3.2 million in HOME Investment Partnerships funds for construction and permanent financing, as well as 21 Project-Based Vouchers which provide rental subsidies for all of the units, with the exception of the manager’s unit.