The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) was excited to hold its second annual Community Meeting and Resource Fair on October 19, 2019. A total of 77 residents attended the event that included two community meeting sessions. At these sessions, residents provided their valuable input on their community and housing development needs through a survey. The results from the survey will assist the Board of Supervisors to plan how to distribute federal grant funds in their respective Districts for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

The event also kicked off the planning cycle for the Action Plan, which is the LACDA’s application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2020-2021 funding. The Action Plan will disperse approximately $34 million in community development and housing funds – including approximately $23 million from the CDBG Program, over $9 million from HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and almost $2 million from the Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

To garner interest and attendance, the event included a resource fair where County Departments and other agencies offered program information and provided activities and demonstrations to make it a family-friendly, enjoyable event. There were 17 County Departments, seven other agencies, and four LACDA Divisions represented. Some first-time agencies in attendance included the American Red Cross (Restoring Family Links Service), Federal Bureau of Investigation (Fraud and Scams), Dayle McIntosh Center (Free Assistance with Vision Loss), and the U.S. Census Bureau (Census 2020).
On November 5, 2019, LACDA helped celebrate the unveiling of the newly remodeled Avalon Library. The new 1,256 square-foot library is a significant resource to the Avalon community by offering services for visitors of all ages. The library includes adult, teen, and children reading areas, programming space, express movie checkout machines, public access computers, Wi-Fi, staff areas, and public restrooms. To further accommodate community members, various online services including homework assistance, tools for job seekers, business resources, and opportunities.

The LACDA managed the $1.4 million-dollar refurbished project funded by the Fourth District. The remodeling of the library’s interior includes staff restrooms, which comply with the ADA standards, installation of the windows to provide more natural light, and removal of the dropped ceiling to gain interior volume and entrance to the space. Doors, millwork, flooring, shelving, lighting, furniture, and electrical fixtures were replaced to modernize the existing library. Through the careful design and selection of construction materials, the library was built with energy efficient features. Exterior improvements include a courtyard, trellis, greenscape, and seating.

Each October, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and its membership, including Los Angeles County, work collectively to raise awareness of the unmet housing needs for many of America’s most vulnerable, and the vital need for safe, decent, and affordable housing in sustainable communities. New housing developments, such as Athens Vistas, which celebrated its grand opening on October 17, 2019, support Housing America Month’s goals. This annual initiative allows Los Angeles County to recommit itself to meeting local affordable housing and community development needs.

Athens Vistas is a permanent supportive 73-unit housing development for persons with limited means and homeless seniors, aged 62 and above. The senior units all meet the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and include Universal Design standards. The development includes landscaped grounds, an outdoor courtyard, container garden and edible landscaping, two community rooms, a laundry room, gym, designated exercise room, computer room, and social services.
Throughout the month of December, the LACDA collaborated with local partners, volunteers, and staff to help spread the holiday spirit to hundreds of Los Angeles County residents.

The Community Resource Center in South Whittier held its 23rd Annual Holiday Basket and Toy Giveaway. Approximately 200 families posed with Santa for photos and received boxes filled with all the trimmings for a holiday meal. More than 75 volunteers from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Norwalk Station, Shelter Partnership, local Girl and Boy Scout troops, and other community groups dedicated their time to enriching the holiday season within the community.

Additionally, the LACDA hosted a series of holiday events at its public housing developments. Nearly 1,000 public housing youth throughout the County received holiday gifts, and more than 900 public housing families received food baskets. The events were filled with joy, decorative desserts, holiday music, and games.

The agency’s countywide holiday events were made possible through the outpouring support from Toys 4 Tots, Shelter Partnership, Cottonwood, former Housing Commissioner Henry Porter, The Basket Brigade, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, The Ella’s Foundation, East Los Angeles Criminal Justice Department, and many others who graciously provided toys, food, and monetary donations to help give approximately 1,200 families a holiday to remember.