

## **D. Other Special Needs – Supportive and Housing Services**

The Mayor has identified residents with special needs as a top priority for the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan funding.

### **Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and Their Families**

Services and funding for special needs populations was identified as a high priority in the Mayor's September 30, 2002 29<sup>th</sup> Program Year Consolidated Plan letter. Included in these populations are City residents and families living with HIV/AIDS and individuals at risk for contracting the HIV virus. As reported in the October 15, 2002, Advanced HIV Disease (AIDS) Quarterly Surveillance Summary by the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services, HIV Epidemiology Program, there were 44,855 reported persons that had been diagnosed with AIDS in Los Angeles County since reporting of AIDS cases began. Of this cumulative figure, 16,951 are still living (37%). These figures are for the quarterly period ending September 30, 2002.

Also, based on a modified formula from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and based on the total number of persons living with AIDS, the Health Department estimates that over 50,000 persons are now living with HIV and AIDS in Los Angeles County. Of this 50,000 total, an estimated 56% reside within the City, or slightly over 28,000. The Health Department also reports that unfortunately, after a 10 year downward trend of declining rates in AIDS cases, the County has reported an increase in AIDS cases to date during 2002 for the nine month period ending September 30, as compared to 2001.

Several advantages exist by the City administering its own AIDS Prevention Program. In particular, this provides flexibility to further focus its AIDS prevention efforts on certain high risk populations that reside in the City including injection drug users, young men of color, both gay and heterosexual, trans-gender, women, and homeless, among others.

Another advantage to a City AIDS prevention program is through increased HIV prevention knowledge acquired through **Special Research Studies** funded under the Policy and Planning category. These studies identify under-served or hidden populations or areas of HIV prevention in the City that are either under documented and or under-funded through traditional AIDS prevention programs and research. Further, these special studies support various research projects and studies regarding cultural beliefs, attitudes and norms of certain target groups as related to AIDS prevention and HIV testing, ability of target groups living with HIV/AIDS to access the latest treatments, and also development of more effective AIDS prevention campaigns.

Another important component of the City's AIDS Prevention Program is the **AIDS Technical Assistance Program**, also funded under the Policy and Planning category. The AIDS Technical Assistance Program provides small grants, averaging \$3,000 to \$6,000, to community-based providers to fund AIDS Prevention education and awareness and to strengthen AIDS services delivery systems. These are done primarily through workshops, seminars, media projects, publications, and public forums. These activities must benefit any number of City residents targets populations identified in the current City AIDS prevention program or for the purpose of improving services delivered to residents living with HIV/AIDS or at risk for contracting the virus.

### **City AIDS Prevention Program**

The AIDS Coordinator's Office will continue to administer and amend, as needed, the City's AIDS Prevention Program. The City's AIDS Prevention Program, through contractual services, provides HIV risk reduction education; HIV testing and counseling; medical and social services referrals; needle exchange tied to substance abuse treatment and related social service referrals; safer sex education for HIV positive individuals; substance abuse education and awareness; behavior modification programs; and AIDS awareness skill building sessions.

Prevention services are implemented through the release of a two-year Request For Proposal (RFP) and contracted primarily with non-profit community-based organizations. City residents served by these programs

are included in target groups most at risk for HIV infection. Through the City's HIV/AIDS prevention program, it is anticipated that clients' understanding of the HIV virus, the manners of contraction, the high-risk sexual practices, and prophylactic methods, will empower clients to make informed decisions regarding safe sex. Major measures of performance include the number of clients; pre and post tests regarding HIV/AIDS and prevention; specific evaluation components in each contract to measure self-reporting of safer sexual practices; and quantitative reports on referrals to other social services including substance abuse treatments.

Program effectiveness and efficiency are continuously monitored by working with and coordinating with the Los Angeles County Office of AIDS Programs; the Los Angeles County Health Department Epidemiology Office; local AIDS services agencies; and the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) regarding current trends in HIV infection rates and segments of the population most at risk. This includes improvement and refinements to prevention, treatment, and social services programs provided to clients.

### **Special Needs Housing and Supportive Services - Seniors and the Frail Elderly**

As the nation's population continues to age, the number of seniors continues to increase as there were 213,707 senior households in the City in 2000, or 16.8% of all households citywide. Seniors are defined as persons 65 years of age or older. From a housing standpoint, the 2000 Census reported that 20.7% of senior households in the City had income less than the federal poverty level.

The Los Angeles Department of Aging has identified five supportive service strategies and one housing strategy (with accompanying actions identified) to provide a framework for provision of housing and supportive services for seniors and the frail elderly in Los Angeles through Consolidated Plan and other federal and state financial resources. These goals relate directly to the Mayor's commitment to identify and support special needs populations within the City.

#### **Supportive Services**

- Preventing and delaying unnecessary institutionalization of frail functionally impaired elderly persons.
- Development of a community-based long-term care services system will address the Department of Aging's (DOA) mission of increasing efficiency of services, as well as supporting independence and maintaining quality of life for seniors.
- Provide education and counseling assistance to families of nursing home residents with nursing home problems and disputes, through advocacy and legal rights.
- Continue support of senior legal services and advocacy, needed to educate seniors and to protect their rights to maintain a better quality of health and life.

#### **Planned actions to achieve these goals include:**

- Support of senior programs that provide supportive services to frail seniors enabling them to remain in their own homes.
- Continuation of the Emergency Alert Response System (EARS) program through CDBG funding.
- Participate with community agency task forces to improve service coordination and to educate the public and providers about community-based systems of care options.
- Strengthen the care management system at each of the 15 multipurpose centers by improving coordination, development and utilization of community resources.
- Promote an integrated network of community-based long-term care services that will promote coordination, communication, and service integration.
- Continuation of the Bet Tzedek Legal Services program to provide nursing home advocacy to frail vulnerable seniors.
- Coordinate efforts among service providers who operate senior legal services, the Multi Purpose Center care management program, Medicare Plus, HMOs, and Health Insurance providers and Ombudsman contractors, to cooperate and work towards developing and implementing a long-term care service system for seniors and nursing home residents.

### **Supportive Services and Housing**

- Strengthen the existing network of family caregiver support services, eliminate gaps in service, and develop economically feasible programs.
- Develop a citywide comprehensive caregiver support service system to reduce the physical, mental, emotional and economic strain intrinsic to the environment of a family caregiver, to relieve stress on the family and maintain community stability.
- Continuation of the Adult Day Support Center program, which provides supervised care for frail seniors and respite for their family caregivers.
- Participation in workshops and fairs that educate community groups on Elder Abuse awareness and prevention, and continues to call attention to the problem of Elder Abuse throughout the City.
- Collaborate with and educate the Neighborhood Councils, community groups, and senior service providers to increase the visibility of elder abuse in the home and local nursing home facilities for the purpose of preventing neglect and abuse, and generating greater neighborhood involvement.

#### **Planned actions to achieve these goals include:**

- Continuation of the Adult Day Support Center program, which provides supervised care for frail seniors and respite for their family caregivers.
- Continuation of kinship care services under the Older Parenting Program, which provides support and respite to family caregivers of grandchildren.
- Coordinate all Adult Day Support Centers, Alzheimer Day Care Resource Center's, Linkages, and Respite Registry Programs.
- Conduct community educational seminars/forums to assist family caregivers in their own communities.
- Increase awareness of elder abuse by implementing a citywide information system that focuses on the causes and types of elder abuse.
- Provide information through service provider directories, public service announcements, community presentations, and attendance at community events. The pose of this outreach is to inform community agencies and their clientele of the services, including legal, which are available through the Department of Aging.

### **Housing**

- Continue the process of assisting seniors to remain in a less restrictive environment within their own homes and communities through home modifications, and provide more affordable housing and affordable supportive housing.
- Offer more housing options through advocacy of affordable and suitable housing for seniors.

#### **Planned actions to achieve these goals include:**

- Support the expansion of the Home Secure Program and alternative senior housing options.
- Support the Department of Housing's Handy Worker Program and advocate state legislation to establish programs that provide home modifications so that seniors can remain in their homes in a less restrictive environment for longer periods of time.
- Advocate and support federal legislation to (1) increase funding for the conversion of Section 202 housing complexes that have been identified as suitable for converting into assisted living facilities, (2) increase the number of service coordinators, and (3) create a funding stream through HUD to develop housing for seniors caring for grandchildren.

### **HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)**

The HOPWA program is administered by the Los Angeles Housing Department on behalf of the county and participating jurisdictions. The HOPWA program will continue to emphasize development, supportive services, permanent housing, emergency assistance (including rent, mortgage, and utility costs); technical assistance, and disease risk mitigation as the primary activities of the HOPWA unit in fulfillment of Consolidated Plan goals over the next five years.

## Major components of the HOPWA program include:

- **HOPWA-Development:** This project provides capital for predevelopment costs, property acquisition, rehabilitation and development of affordable housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The flexibility of HOPWA funds permits maximum leveraging with other existing private and public capital resources. Projects are generally reviewed and selected by the Los Angeles Countywide HOPWA Advisory Committee through a Request for Proposals (RFP).
- **HOPWA Supportive Services:** The Supportive Services programs associated with housing for persons and families living with HIV/AIDS are administered by project sponsors under oversight of the Housing Services Division of the Los Angeles Housing Department. These programs include:
  - **Supportive Services in Permanent Housing:** HOPWA funds provide comprehensive support to secure and maintain permanent housing including four (4) Residential Services Coordinator positions at four different sites. The residential services coordinator provides linkages to supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families through outreach, referrals, and facilitates access to permanent housing.
  - **Emergency Hotel/Motel/Meal Vouchers:** HOPWA funds provide general vouchering to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families that may need emergency food and shelter. Contracted hotels/motels provide meals and housing for short periods of time until stable, affordable housing is obtained. This program category in conjunction with the Short Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program (STAP) as described below is the most accessed by persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
  - **Supportive Services in Emergency and Transitional Housing:** HOPWA funds provide comprehensive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families that include: services to youth in emergency shelters; referrals to emergency shelter sites; medical screening; counseling; and assistance to obtain benefits and help toward independent housing.
  - **HOPWA Rental Assistance:** The Rental Assistance (previously Short-Term Rental Assistance) programs associated with housing for persons and families living with HIV/AIDS are administered by project sponsors under oversight of the Housing Services Division of the Los Angeles Housing Department. These programs, designed to assist individuals in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing, include:
    - **Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA):** Contracts exist with four local housing authorities to provide one-year rental subsidy assistance for eligible individuals and their families. The TBRA operates similarly to the HUD Section 8 program.
    - **Short Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program (STAP):** Provides short-term rental assistance to include temporary mortgage payments, catch up rents, move-in costs, and utility payments.
    - **HOPWA Technical Assistance:** The Technical Assistance activities associated with housing for persons and families living with HIV/AIDS are carried out by project sponsors under oversight of the Housing Services Division of the Los Angeles Housing Department. These programs, designed to assist individuals in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing, include and are operated as follows:
  - **Housing Information and Referral:** HOPWA funds provide housing information, referral services and roommate referral services to eligible clients and AIDS service providers. Lists of properties, residential facilities and emergency/transitional housing sites are maintained.

- **TB Risk Mitigation:** HOPWA funds provide educational services that mitigate the contracting of Tuberculosis (TB) by persons living with HIV/AIDS residing in homeless shelters and transitional living facilities.

### **The Physically and Developmentally Disabled - Supportive and Housing Services**

The Department On Disability (DOD) is committed to ensuring full access to housing, employment, programs, facilities and services for the benefit of persons with disabilities (PWD), providers of essential disabled resources, and policymakers. Consistent with the Consolidated Plan priority of protecting and assisting special need populations living in the City, the Department of Disability will continue the Computerized Information and Referral Center (CIC) in provision of quality customer service to constituents.

The simplicity of calling one telephone number to obtain information and referrals regarding service providers, communication techniques, how to apply for services, and emergency/crisis counseling make the CIC program unique and critical to protect and assist the special needs of PWD.

The CIC staff services over 1,000 information and referral calls from PWD, Community Based Organizations, and government agencies annually. The customized computer program and staff expertise allows for rapid access to numerous resources throughout the Los Angeles City and County areas. In addition, the staff tracks client referrals to ensure that appropriate services are being provided. Commonly requested information and referrals includes;

- Accessibility issues to City facilities, programs and services.
- Transportation / Blue Curb Requests (117/PY 02) and
- Assistance with the LA DOT application process.
- Direct advocacy to assist PWD access programs, services and appeal processes.