

#### **4) Describe Other Actions in the Strategic Plan or Action Plan taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.**

(4) In previous years, there had been a 25% cap on CDBG Public Services expenditures granted to the City. Beginning April 1, 2004, the cap reverted to 15%. This resulted in an effective 40% cut in CDBG funding for the Human Services Delivery System. In addition to the reduction of the Public Services expenditure cap, the 2006 Federal Budget proposed to reduce the \$31 billion HUD budget, which included a 50 percent cut in the CDBG program. While the reductions in the national Entitlement programs were not so drastic, the 2007 budget once again calls for a substantial reduction in CDBG funding (25%), outright elimination of several economic development programs, and elimination of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding altogether. In view of these potential setbacks in funding, the Mayor and City Council have directed CDD to explore all options to secure funding for the HSDS, representing its desire to continue supporting a vital service of the City.

#### **Use of Community Based Development Organizations (CBDOs)**

In anticipation of the Public Services expenditure cap reduction, CDD analyzed the Family Development Network and Neighborhood Action Program services and service providers to determine if activities met guidelines for economic development activities carried out by community-based development organizations (CBDOs). Designation of activities as eligible under HUD CBDO regulations allows CDD to remove funding from the Public Services activity category. The CDD is providing ongoing training and development to funded agencies to see if CBDO status is appropriate for their organization and has developed comprehensive procedures to certify agency activities as CBDO-eligible.

The City has strongly encouraged collaboration among its funded agencies to place emphasis on limiting administrative costs, space costs, and related overhead expenses to maximize program funding. The Mayor and City Council have provided solid leadership on the importance of coordinating and streamlining all City services and encouraging collaboration among City departments and programs as well as funded agencies.

Since ignorance, old stereotypes and fear can often lead to "not in my back yard" (NIMBY) resistance to affordable housing construction, the Los Angeles Housing Department decided to use some of its CDBG administrative funds to develop an Internet-based tutorial called "Building Healthy Communities 101" about housing, planning and smart growth, which LAHD has placed on its website to educate the public and demonstrate the need for more housing. LAHD has also submitted this project for recognition by HUD's Affordable Communities Award program.

The Housing Department has also worked together with the City Planning Department to develop new land-use incentives and similar programs to facilitate the development of new affordable and market rate housing.

The **Department of Aging** recently completed a mandatory needs assessment. The Older Adult survey identified many issues. Among their greatest concern was accessing information, transportation and finding legal advice. The cost of medication, long term insurance and accessing adequate health care were the most common problems expressed by older adults. Of the major financial concerns, adequate income to live on and the cost of energy/utilities and housing were of paramount importance. Social issues of primary importance were isolation and taking care of an older adult.

These issues obviously cannot completely be answered, but augmenting CDBG funding would allow the department to expand its projects, alleviating many of these needs. CDBG provided funding for the Adult Day Support Center, Home Secure, Emergency Alert Response System,

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Legal Services, and Alternative Housing for the Elderly projects. These programs have been very successful; however, additional funds are needed to expand programs to serve more seniors and their families who are in need of these services. Increased funding could be used to extend center hours and to hire additional personnel to accommodate the working family caregivers. Seniors and families have requested service hours before 8 a.m. and after 4 p.m., and weekend services which would enable family caregivers to continue working, and relieve them of the financial burden of paying day care for their love ones. Additional funds could also be used to provide more training for social workers, more educational programs for the caregivers, and to expand outreach to the minority community.