

Managing the Process

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements

The priorities, strategies and programs carried out through the Consolidated Plan are fully consistent with the city's General Plan and specific plans, and adhere to applicable CDBG and HUD statutes and regulations. The City consults the guidance found in the City's General Plan Framework in preparation of the five-year Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plans, to assure that City priorities, strategies and goals are consistent with both the General Plan and Specific Plan goals adopted by the Planning Commission and by the City Council.

The City's General Plan Framework Element is a strategy for long-term growth that sets a citywide context to guide the update of the community plan and citywide elements. The Element responds to State and Federal mandates to plan for the future. It is critical that Consolidated Planning use the best and most current demographic information in forecasting future population and housing needs – and the impact that population growth will have on Consolidated Plan-funded projects and programs. To that end, the City uses population forecasts provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) RHNA data (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) data is used in conjunction with HUD-provided CHAS (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) data.

The Framework Element elaborates on the City's adopted Housing Element to ensure the provision of housing for the City's existing and future residents and guides the City's preparation of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plans. Among its key policies are:

- **Provide sufficient lands for the development of an adequate supply of housing units.** The Framework Element proposes the expansion of the City's capacity for housing units by the provision of bonus densities for the integration of housing with commercial uses in districts, centers, and boulevards.
- **Provide incentives for:**
 - The scattering of affordable units throughout the City;
 - Development of family-size units in multi-family developments;
 - Expedited permit processing for affordable units;
 - Establish development standards for new multi-family residential projects to provide for livable communities;
 - Revise, as necessary, community plans to facilitate the conservation of the scale and character of existing stable residential neighborhoods; and
- Plan for appropriate increases in housing production in appropriate areas as determined through the community plans and implementing actions in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
- A well-defined review process, emphasizing projects that are consistent with the objectives and policies of the General Plan Framework element and the implementation of community plans and zoning regulations.

The AIDS Coordinator's staff plans and coordinates with the Los Angeles County Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Health Services and the Los Angeles County Prevention Planning Committee regarding AIDS programs and services administered by Los Angeles County. The AIDS Coordinator's Office also keeps abreast of the number of new HIV/AIDS infections, populations affected, as well as certain emerging trends through reports and updates from the Los Angeles County Health Department's HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Program and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

City of Los Angeles, California

In addition, the AIDS Coordinator's Office also works with the California State Office of AIDS. Working relationships have also been established with City AIDS Prevention contractors, various AIDS treatment and services organizations including Minority AIDS Project, Bienestar, AIDS Project Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, Palms Residential Center and a number of other community-based agencies.

This is all to ensure continuous cross communication regarding current HIV prevention strategies and treatment modalities appropriate for Los Angeles. Through a seat on the Los Angeles County HOPWA Advisory Committee (LACHAC), the AIDS Coordinator's Office also plans and coordinates with the City Housing Department's Housing Opportunities Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program regarding housing and supportive services. Regular contact is maintained with all HIV Prevention contractors to ensure they are completing all of their goals. See Monitoring for more details.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging is a Council-Controlled Department as part of the City of Los Angeles which receives, in addition to CDBG funds Older Americans Act and Older Californians Act funding; and General Fund dollars. The Department is accountable to the Mayor and City Council and must comply with both California Department of Aging regulations, state regulations, and federal regulations.

Through the Management Information System, program activity is measured on a monthly basis and reported to management. Quarterly, Performance Measurement reports are prepared and evaluated for each contracted agency in respect to the contracted services.

An Equal Access and Safety Protocol (EASP) program has been developed by the department which includes a "Standards of Practice" Manuals, program protocol, and protocol tools to assist and facilitate performance by the contracted agencies. Annual trainings for program monitoring staff have been instituted to continue development of these tools and ensure regular monitoring.

On April 6, 2006, Bring L.A. Home launched its 10-year campaign to end homelessness in Los Angeles. The report laid out a broad range of strategies to address the complexities surrounding the homeless problem that are present throughout the County. The Bring L.A. Home Blue Ribbon Panel sets in motion a general framework with key strategies that will create momentum for the campaign to end homelessness in Los Angeles.

The report responds to the current homeless crisis in Los Angeles County, which has now been labeled the "Homeless Capital" of the United States. According to the 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count report, the total number of homeless people in the streets and shelters is 82,291 on any one night (point in time) and 221,363 annually excluding those in Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale. Including homeless count information from Long Beach (4,475), Pasadena (1,217) and Glendale (362), the total homeless count for Los Angeles County is 88,345. Of the 82,291, there are 34,512 that are chronically homeless individuals.

The Bring L.A. Home Plan was originally conceived in 2003, when the County and City convened a diverse 60 member Blue Ribbon Panel, consisting of stakeholders from government, corporations, non-profits and former and presently homeless persons, to develop a 10 year plan to end homelessness in the County. During these past few years, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness (LACEH&H) were responsible for coordinating the activities and meetings that helped to create the final version of this plan. These activities consisted of 20 focus groups, 24 community forums and over 1,000 people were convened to provide their input.

The report indicates that the cost of "doing nothing" is actually more costly to local taxpayers. Studies have shown that there is extraordinary cost placed by homeless people to communities due to arrests and hospitalizations. The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department estimates it spends approximately \$32 million each year on such responses. Based on analysis,

City of Los Angeles, California

hospitalization is 49 times more costly than supportive housing and jail is at least twice as expensive. One month's stay in a mental hospital could pay for 20 months in supportive housing and one day in the hospital could pay for more than 45 days in supportive housing.

The Bring LA Home Plan is based on seven guiding principles:

- Prevent homelessness;
- Address the structural causes of homelessness;
- Sustain the current capacity to serve homeless people and build new capacity where it is needed;
- Ensure rapid return to housing for people into the mainstream of society;
- Bring alienated homeless people into the mainstream of society;
- Take a regional approach to the crisis; and
- Reaffirm that housing is one of the basic human rights.

Overall, the guiding principles helped to frame the creation of the following goals for the 10-year campaign to end homelessness:

- **Prevent and end homelessness-** the goal is to increase the availability of affordable housing by 50,000 units for homeless people, and creating an initial minimum of 11,500 new, affordable housing units for homeless people.
- **Improving the Continuum of Homeless services-**the goal is to achieve fewer new entrants to homelessness, shorter durations of homelessness, and improved quality of life for homeless people, including their movement into permanent housing.
- **Increasing income and improving economic stability-** the goal is to increase the number of homeless adults finding and maintaining adequate employment and achieving economic stability, and facilitate access to government benefits for those who need them.
- **Improving health and human services-** the goal is to prevent and end homelessness through the enhancement of regionally based integrated services.
- **Strengthening the partnership with the criminal justice system to help end and prevent homelessness-**the goal is to support persons discharged from jail and prison systems, and reduce the rate of repeated incarcerations for minor offenses by homeless persons.
- **Regional issues and priorities-**regional strategies are crucial to building local support for solutions, resources and cultivating a genuine willingness to place housing and services essential to ending homelessness.
- **Specific populations-**while there is an emphasis to address chronic homelessness and homeless families and children, all populations must be given proper attention. These additional populations include: homeless and runaway youth, veterans, elder men and women, people with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, mental illness and addiction.

Prior to the release of the Bring LA Home plan, there has been momentum building for this campaign to end homelessness. In June 2005, the County Board of Supervisors committed \$24.6 million for shelter and services. In November 2005, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced a commitment of \$50 million to the City's Housing Trust Fund for permanent supportive housing and support for a \$1 billion bond measure to develop more affordable housing citywide. Also, in November 2004, the voters in the State of California passed Proposition 63, which will provide funding to address mental illness, particularly for homeless people. Finally, on April 4, 2006, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$100 million plan to reduce the amount of homeless services on Skid Row by creating local homeless centers across the County that would provide basic shelter and services.