Tackling Poverty

What defines poverty? Poverty can simply refer to a lack of economic resources, but in reality, it’s a relative term that has far greater ramifications and consequences. Poverty leads to homelessness, life-threatening illnesses, and societal inequalities. It can ensnare generations in a vicious cycle of despair, hopelessness and instability. Eradicating poverty at the roots is a collaborative effort involving dedicated parties from all sectors, which is why on September 30, 2019, HCIDLA and Councilman Mitch O’Farrell hosted the first-ever summit on poverty entitled “Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Defining Innovative & Equitable Strategies”, convening service providers, business leaders, educational institutions and formerly homeless individuals to address long term solutions to chronic poverty in Los Angeles.

Distinguished attendees of the event included Mayor Eric Garcetti, members of the City Council, Homeboy Industries founder Father Gregory Boyle, and California State Treasurer Fiona Ma. “My goal for leading this summit is to lift people out of poverty and prevent them from falling into homelessness,” explainer Councilman O’Farrell. “Not everyone living in poverty is homeless, but everyone who lives in poverty is at risk of becoming homeless,” added HCIDLA General Manager Rushmore D. Cervantes. During the summit, participants had the opportunity to take part in various high-level discussions and roundtable sessions. Feedback and input will directly inform policy recommendations for the Mayor, City Council and Councilman O’Farrell’s Homeless and Poverty Commission.

Poverty is not a choice, nor is it a localized problem; it is a worldly affliction that extends far beyond Los Angeles. Poverty may be defined in many ways, but on September 20, 2019, the leaders of Los Angeles joined together and collectively determined that Los Angeles will not be defined by poverty and homelessness.
Mayor Eric Garcetti addresses attendees of the first-ever Poverty Prevention Summit at The California Endowment in Los Angeles.

Keynote Speaker Father Gregory Boyle
Back to School
Fall is here, the kids are all back in school, and everyone knows it can be a stressful time for both parent and child. This year, HCIDLA and its FamilySource System wanted to ensure that students get off to a great start to the school year and take some pressure off parents for back to school shopping. HCIDLA’s FamilySource Centers held fourteen Back2School events throughout the City for over 3,000 students and their parents. Cool-looking backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out to eligible students. HCIDLA takes pride in increasing academic achievement in the community, and this is just one little step to start our youth on the right path.

One of many families participating in the Back2School event

This student is ready to start the school year right

Construction continues
This summer saw the grand openings of two new affordable housing developments and a ground breaking for another HHHH-funded project. Collectively, they will add 152 units to the existing housing stock in Los Angeles.
The grand opening of Coronel Apartments took place on August 22, 2019. Developed by Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, this new construction project in Council District (CD) 13 will provide 53 affordable units for large families. The City of Los Angeles contributed $8.54 million in funding towards the total $32.2 million development.

Homeless seniors now have a place to call home as they celebrated the grand opening of Casa Carmen Senior Apartments. 1010 Development Corporation and Value Housing II’s 25-unit project involved new construction as well as the demolition of a vacant commercial building in CD1. The historic façade of the existing building was preserved and incorporated into the new adjacent structure. Senior residents will have access to computers, community areas, and an on-site service coordinator. The City of LA provided $6.4 million in tax-exempt bonds and a $2.6 million loan towards the $12.4 million project.

The latest Prop HHH project broke ground on September 4, 2019, as EAH Housing celebrated the beginning of construction for The Pointe on Vermont in CD 8. The project will consist of 49 affordable units for low income individuals, and will include special amenities such as a roof deck garden, recording studio, and gym. The $24.8 million project’s funding includes $12.4 million in tax-exempt bonds issued by HCIDLA and $7.9 million in HHH funds.
WHATS NEW

ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
The City of LA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development came to an agreement ensuring that over 4,000 units will be built or retrofitted to accommodate disabled low-income constituents in Los Angeles.

FREE WORKSHOPS
The next series of free HCIDLA workshops will focus on the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and Section 8. Check out our website for a complete schedule!

HHH UPDATE
34 new projects, representing 2,179 new units, have been approved for HHH Round 3. They will be utilizing a total of $231 million in HHH funds, and increase the total units funded under the HHH program to 7,640.

DID YOU KNOW?

Way to Save!
24 families collectively saved $15,146 in six months, and received a 1:1 match for a total savings of $30,292 as part of the HCIDLA’s FamilySource Center Emergency Matched Savings program, a homeless prevention initiative.

Innovative Solutions
HCIDLA’s Housing Innovation RFP has yielded six proposed projects, utilizing $120 million for 975 new supportive housing units. The goal was to identify alternative housing models that could be scaled and duplicated to bring down costs and development time.

Help for Homebuying
A new allocation of $26.8 million has been awarded for the City’s Mortgage Credit Certificate program. Coupled with a new $400,000 grant from CIT Bank, these funds will allow HCIDLA to help first-time low-income LA homebuyers realize the American dream.
Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor

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