

## Community Input

- **QUESTION:** How is the LACDA considering arts programming as a community services solution? I see the responses in the survey include youth services, community centers, youth centers but I don't see the arts explicitly called out and I know the County is committed to the arts as a solution partner with the creation of the LA County Department of Arts and Culture?

**ANSWER:** Yes, we are partnering with Arts and Culture and they may be applying for CDBG in the future for arts programming. We also are looking at incorporating a few items on the survey specifically related to Arts.

- **QUESTION:** What has come forward from our residents as a priority need in the County of Los Angeles? What is the level of funding that is committed to address those needs?

**ANSWER:** Overall, we look at the survey results and feedback. Housing and homelessness are top needs. In fact, 55% of our funding goes towards housing. A lot of our funding is trying to add affordable housing and our housing crisis.

- **QUESTION:** What is another big use of the funds, in addition to housing and public service?

**ANSWER:** We do things like community facilities, such as community and senior centers. We leverage Section 108 funding, which is part of the CDBG program. We also do infrastructure projects such as street improvements and activities that support housing (i.e. architectural services and acquisition).

## 2020 Community Meeting

November 14, 2020

## Questions Presented by the Moderator and Received Via Chat Box

### Housing

- **QUESTION:** How will proposed changes made to HUD's disparate impact rule impact renters?

**ANSWER:** Under the current administration that is led by HUD Secretary Carson, there have been some very serious changes to fair housing laws. The Disparate Impact Theory is a theory that the Supreme Court upheld in 2015 saying that a fair housing case can be proved even if you don't have proof of intentional discrimination you can use disparate impact to prove that the discrimination occurred. Disparate Impact is when there is a facially neutral policy, so it doesn't mention any particular category, but when you apply that policy it impacts one group of people more severely than another group of people. An example would be an apartment owner that says you can ride bikes, play outside, bounce balls, ride skateboard, all these things that children do and courts have said some of these restrictive rules impact children more so than anybody else so those rules can be illegal under fair housing laws. Some of the big mortgage cases were based on disparate impact because they impacted women that needed to take maternity leave because and weren't able to obtain mortgages.

Under this administration they indicated they would severely limit the use of the disparate impact rule, which is very troubling to fair housing advocates because they rely on the disparate impact theory. There has been a temporary hold placed to applying this new change. Even mortgage lenders and banks have come out in support with letters to HUD of the use of the disparate impact theory to use this as a tool because oftentimes you can't prove discrimination intentionally. With the new incoming administration, there is anticipation that the disparate impact rule will be strongly enforced again and the current challenge to it will go away.

- **QUESTION:** Does AB 1482 apply to tenant-based rental units?

**ANSWER:** That's the big question right now. Tenant advocates and some of the large housing authorities, such as the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, do maintain that AB 1482 does apply to Section 8 units basically is the question. The question comes from whether or not there is an exemption from it. The reason why housing advocates and certain housing authorities do believe that it covers Section 8 units is because oftentimes contract rent can still be raised if there is no rent control protection. The tenant may not have to pay more, may still only have to pay 30% of their income, but it doesn't protect the total rent from being paid and so that's why there should be protection for Section 8 units under AB 1482 as well.

### Homelessness

- **QUESTION:** The Homeless Count occurs in January 2020, pre-COVID. Can you share any insights into the trends and how the number of homeless residents may be changing in Los Angeles County as a result of the pandemic?

**ANSWER:** The Homeless Count is conducted annually and the next count will occur in January 2021. We are working closely with HUD because of COVID and do not want to the homeless or volunteers to be put at any risk. We are thinking about what it could look like and what a different type of homeless count will be to minimize exposure to both. We really don't know yet the impact of COVID for a few reasons. We know that we have brought all of these new interim housing resources and more people are inside, which is amazing. At the same time, the economic impact of COVID are devastating across the country. We have seen reports that as many as 80,000 households across Los Angeles County could be at risk of eviction when the eviction moratoriums are lifted. Thankfully we have protections in place still, however, when the moratoriums are lifted there is a really big risk more people will fall in. We are watching that very closely to see what can be done proactively.

- **QUESTION:** Do you have intervention teams we can contact to relocate people on the streets and have settled into a particular spot?

**ANSWER:** To make service requests for specific encampment locations, you may access [www.LA-HOP.org](http://www.LA-HOP.org) and make a request by following the prompts. An outreach team will try to make contact and offer services, usually within 72 hours.