

Testimony of

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Los Angeles, California

Of

The Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of

The Committee on Financial Services of

The United States House of Representatives

Good morning Chairman Ney and Ranking Member Waters. On behalf of our residents and Board of Commissioners, I appreciate this opportunity to discuss the importance of Community Development Block Grant funding to Los Angeles, and to the thousands of families struggling toward self-sufficiency in our public housing communities. Our 7229 total units house families, the elderly, and those with disabilities, about 23,000 people.

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles receives funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide housing affordable to low-income households. Communities are not just bricks and mortar. Recognizing this, the City of Los Angeles has awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the Housing Authority since 1991 to support our efforts to promote family self-sufficiency and safe and healthy communities. CDBG funding has played a key role in our success in raising average household incomes from 17% to 24% of Area Median Income (AMI.)

CDBG funding from the City helps us fulfill our responsibilities to our residents and to the City of Los Angeles as a whole, and support HUD's broader mission of promoting safe, healthy communities and family self-sufficiency, and most importantly, support the Administration's "ownership society."

Over the last four funding years, the City has had to reduce the level of CDBG funds for the Housing Authority by 57%, from \$1,471,632 for the 2002-2003 funding year to \$631.146 for the 2006-2007 funding year. The annual decline over this period ranged from 13% to 26.4% in the current funding year. The reduction in CDBG funds proposed for the 2007 federal budget would inflict mortal wounds to already weakened programs.

Competition for shrinking service funding is intense. CDBG funds bridge funding gaps in three key areas: education, employment, and family development programs, to support school achievement and attainment, job training and placement, and family health.

- Education: Tutoring, After-school
- Employment: Supportive Services, Job Training, Job Fairs
- Family Development: Anti-violence campaign, back-to-school, computer learning, parenting classes, health fairs, family events, senior activities, cultural and cross-cultural events, and sports

We are also working closely with the City and with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to improve public safety. Just as bricks and mortar do not make a community, policing alone does not create safe communities. Safe, healthy communities result from constructive interaction of community members in a variety of positive activities supported by a wide range of services and programs. This is as true for those with very low-incomes as it is in our own lives.

Given the extreme challenges Los Angeles faces from organized gangs, low levels of educational attainment, and the City's rank as the "homeless capital of the nation," funding to provide affordable housing and to support healthy communities and self-sufficiency is more important for our city than ever before.

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles – CDBG Funding

Purpose

- Foster community, family, and individual achievement – physically, educationally, and socially
- Provide (directly or brokered) job training, safe and healthy communities, internet technology, educational enrichment, civic participation, and individual, family and community improvement action, and cultural and recreational events and activities

Method of Delivery

- Through 16 Community Service Centers located in public housing communities throughout the City of Los Angeles

Recent Funding History

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
\$1,471,632	\$1,217,576	\$1,058,159	\$857,750	\$631,146

KEY AREA	SERVICES	2006 PROJECTED PARTICIPATION
Family Development	Parenting and Childcare classes	90
	CLC Family Lab	80
	Youth Sports	600
	Field Trips and Cultural Events	400
	Transportation	100
	Arts programs	600
	Cooking Classes	100
	Senior Activities	200
	TOTAL	2,170
	Education	Homework Clubs
Spelling Bee		400
Homebuyer Education		0
Financial Literacy		0
TOTAL		1,000
Employment	Adult/Youth	110
	Career Fairs	59
	Employment Preparation Workshops	50
	ESL	100
	Supportive Service	75
	Transportation	100
	Office Automation Training	250
	Career/College Curriculum	50
	Job Shadowing/Mentoring	150
	Resident Training/Employment	50
	TOTAL	994

