



Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/23/20

Douglas Guthrie
President & CEO

HACLA Awarded \$35M Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) Grant from HUD

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) announced today that it has received a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The \$35M grant will support what HACLA calls the “Watts Rising Transformation Plan.” This plan includes the redevelopment of 700 public housing units at Jordan Downs to 1,569 brand new units, with one-for-one replacement in a “build first” model, as well as opportunities for ownership and economic advancement. The funds are leveraged by \$685 million in private, local and state resources and will build on the work of HACLA’s Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant from the State of California through continued investment in community health, jobs & entrepreneurship.

“The CNI grant award is a major investment in the Watts community that will provide economic, educational, and housing opportunities that will improve the health and well-being of my constituents,” said Rep. Barragan. “I commend HACLA and the Watts Rising initiative on receiving this significant grant award from HUD.”

“At a moment when so many people are hurting, it is essential that we keep investing in our communities and sustain the momentum of the neighborhood-based transformation underway in Watts,” said Mayor Garcetti. “We applied for this Choice Neighborhood grant long before COVID-19 -- and we received these funds separate from the current crisis -- but thanks to our partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, it came at precisely the right moment for exactly the right place.”

“Now, more than ever, investment in our communities is critical,” said 15th District Councilman Joe Buscaino on his official Twitter account. “I am so proud of HACLA and Watts Rising!”

“The Choice Neighborhoods grant is a critical component of the city’s unprecedented effort to expand affordable housing opportunities and tackle current challenges with inclusivity and creativity,” said HACLA President and CEO Doug Guthrie. “We’re thrilled to be awarded this grant by HUD as it will give us an opportunity to bring sustainable change to the neighborhood of Watts and work with residents and stakeholders to transform the community as a whole.”

“Receiving a CNI award for Jordan Downs is wonderful for the partnership teams, but more importantly for the community,” said Cynthia A. Parker, President and CEO of BRIDGE Housing. “It will allow us to forge ahead with committed funds for two new phases of affordable housing, and to assist our residents and the broader Watts community.”

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“Children’s Institute is deeply committed to the children and families of Watts, and thrilled to be a partner on this critical initiative that will empower the community for years to come,” said Martine Singer, President & CEO, Children’s Institute.

“Watts residents have for years been dreaming of, and advocating for, this community transformation and now that transformation is becoming a reality,” said Kecia Boulware, Vice President of Development at The Michaels Organization. “Michaels and our partners are grateful to HUD for supporting our vision for high quality affordable housing with this CNI award and for including \$5 million for much needed supportive services for the families of Jordan Downs.”

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles is one of four awardees out of a total of eighteen applications nationwide.

About CNI

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans, which focus on directing resources to address three core goals: Housing, People and Neighborhoods. To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families.

About HACLA

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was established in 1938 by City of Los Angeles Resolution No. 1241. HACLA is one of the nation’s largest and leading public housing authorities, providing the largest supply of quality affordable housing to residents of the City of Los Angeles. HACLA provides affordable housing to over 83,000 households in its Public Housing and Section 8 departments, and offers a range of permanent supportive housing programs for homeless households, including: Project-Based, HUD – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, Homeless, Tenant Based Supportive Housing, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), Continuum of Care and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program.

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