



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **HACLA Receives Federal Grant to Provide Higher Education Opportunities for 250 students in Public Housing Communities**

**Los Angeles** - The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) today announced the agency is the recipient of a \$452,000 grant to help low-income public housing students pursue higher education. The competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will allow HACLA to coordinate efforts with partner organizations to deploy Education Navigators to serve students ages 15-20 to complete the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, as well as conduct financial literacy and college readiness workshops.

"Every student deserves the chance to pursue higher education, without worrying about how to afford the school that gives them the best shot at reaching their dreams," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "This grant will help young Angelenos get the one-on-one support they need to navigate the application process, claim the financial aid they deserve, and make smart choices for their future."

HUD awarded \$2.5 million to nine public housing agencies with HACLA receiving the largest allowable amount through The Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) for Education Program, also known as *Project SOAR* (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results).

"HACLA has made great efforts to engage our youth population residing in our public housing communities," said HACLA President and CEO Douglas Guthrie. "From early education initiatives to implementing productive on-site afterschool programs with our partners, the agency understands that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. We are pleased that this grant will bolster our effort to ensure we can guide our youngest residents toward a self-sufficient future."

HACLA will work with the Southern California College Access Network (SoCal CAN) and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce UNITE LA to implement Project SOAR. Their combined experiences take into consideration the needs of our student population, build upon the effective college advising efforts employed to date, leverage the unique opportunity for site-based support, and tap into existing programs and resources in Los Angeles.



There are strategic goals that will help ensure the success of this program; those include **creating a college-going and completion culture, increasing the college-going rate through comprehensive college planning, FAFSA completion, and financial aid advising support.**

"Our students have bold dreams and aspirations. This opportunity will allow us to support students who might not otherwise receive targeted guidance on the pathway to college," said Executive Director of SoCal CAN **Alison De Lucca.**

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