



Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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Authority awarded 600 Vouchers to House Homeless Veterans, Section 8 Director named Trailblazer of the Year by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) today announced the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding HACLA with 600 additional vouchers to provide housing for homeless Veterans under the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program.

When the program began in 2008, HACLA received the second largest award in the nation with 840 vouchers. With this award, the total allocation to HACLA is now 2,045 HUD-VASH vouchers.

“The vouchers have a dollar value of \$6,120,000 million annually,” said Douglas Guthrie, HACLA Interim President and CEO. “This will make a significant impact on our ability to continue to decrease the number of homeless veterans in this city”

The Authority’s dedication to decreasing chronic homelessness was recognized recently by the United Way of the Greater Los Angeles; Section 8 Director Peter Lynn was chosen to receive the *Home for Good* Trailblazer of the Year award by organization. Home for Good is a 5-year plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness in Los Angeles County.

The United Way asked key stakeholders to vote for award winners in five categories, including the Trailblazer category. The Trailblazer description is an individual or organization/agency leading the way with new and innovative strategies in ending chronic and veteran homelessness.

“Peter received, by far, the largest number of votes in the Trailblazer category,” said Christine Marge, Director, Housing Stability for United Way of Greater Los Angeles. “We were so happy to see Peter receive this honor from the community. He’s been such a champion for ending chronic and veteran homelessness, and through his innovations and leadership at HACLA, he’s been an integral part of the progress that’s been made over the last year.”



The HACLA's work in ending chronic homelessness is centered around four programs: Shelter Plus Care, Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Tenant Based Supportive Housing and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing-VASH.

"HACLA's work to eliminate barriers to access for housing for the chronically homeless is a great example of what can happen when an agency takes leadership role in working with various groups to collaborate and focus resources for an underserved population," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, "I commend HACLA for its commitment and urge other organizations to participate in this effort to serve the residents of this city."

In 2011, HACLA provided rental assistance to 374 units in the Permanent Supportive Housing Program.

HUD-VASH is a joint program with HUD, Veterans Affairs (VA) and local housing authorities. HUD-VASH vouchers provide tenant-based permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless veterans. Eligible homeless veterans are referred to HACLA by the VA. Case management and other supportive services are provided by the VA. Many community-based homeless outreach and service organizations have participated in city-wide efforts to locate and identify homeless veterans, and to connect them with the referral process.

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