



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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### **The Housing Authority Reaches Goal in 'Million Dollar Jobs' Program**

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) today announced it has provided jobs to more than 250 public housing residents in the last eight (8) months as part of the 'Million Dollar Jobs' program.

"We have reached our goal and as of August 2012, more than \$1 million has been paid to our residents through this program," said Doug Guthrie, HACLA President and CEO. "This program not only increased household income during this challenging economic time but will help them secure long term employment."

The program was implemented November 2011 with the goal of providing jobs and paying over \$1 Million between 2011 and 2012. By December 2011, seventy nine (79) residents were hired in various jobs in public housing communities. The program involves advocating on behalf of our residents by engaging companies that perform budgeted work with HACLA to utilize our residents as a workforce to improve our communities. There is no additional cost incurred by the Authority; the vendors that work with HACLA evaluated how they put together their workforce and focused efforts to include public housing residents. Jobs provided have been for painting, installation of security doors and windows, roof replacement, and sidewalk and concrete repairs.

Darwin Lewis is a Laborer Apprentice from Nickerson Gardens, currently working on a concrete project at Gonzaque Village. "I appreciate this program, it's a great opportunity that gave me a chance to start a career, get into a union," said Lewis.

Average public housing household income is \$16,500, and more than 70% of these families fall below the federal poverty level. During a time when jobs are scarce, programs such as this one allow our resident a chance at getting back into the working environment. This program is intended to aid low income public housing residents by linking them to jobs, and at the same time addressing the much needed infrastructure improvements in their communities. The projects chosen were judged based on priority and urgency to improve the public housing sites.

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