



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Housing Authority's Section 8 Program Gets High Marks on HUD's National Scorecard**

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) has completed its annual program performance review under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and ranks as a “High” Performer with a score of 97%.

“The last year has been incredibly challenging to operate this program under the constraints of Sequestration that severely limited our capacity to serve the nearly 50,000 families we assist under Section 8,” said President and CEO of HACLA, Douglas Guthrie.

Federal Sequestration budget cuts presented public housing agencies with a unique challenge in 2013. Those cuts meant a loss of \$35 million in funding for the HACLA Section 8 program, which was required to reduce rental subsidies for assisted families, immediately halt reissuing vouchers when families exit the program, and to rescind all open vouchers, most of which had been issued under special programs to serve the disabled homeless. At the same time, Section 8 administrative funding was reduced to the lowest level in the program’s history, forcing the Housing Authority to cut staff and implement furloughs. Because HACLA could not redeploy vouchers, 1,100 fewer families are served now than were housed by Section 8 at this time last year.

“This is the sixth consecutive year that HACLA’s Section 8 program has been recognized as a High performing program. The results demonstrate the commitment of our staff and their motivation to excel,” said Guthrie.

The SEMAP is a “report card” for public housing agencies (PHAs) who administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). The review assesses a PHA’s utilization of all allocated vouchers, the timeliness and quality of all work under various program components, and the quality control system with respect to compliance with program requirements and program management.

The SEMAP measures PHAs performance in 14 key areas to assess whether PHAs help eligible families to afford decent rental units at a reasonable subsidy cost as intended by Federal housing legislation. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles is one of the few very large agencies nationally to receive a “High” performance rating on the HUD metric.

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About HACLA

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is a state-chartered public agency. It provides the largest stock of affordable housing in Los Angeles and is one of the nation's leading public housing authorities. It is also one of the oldest, providing quality housing options and supportive services to the citizens of Los Angeles since 1938.

