

# SECTION 3 RESIDENT STORY:

## *Let's Get to Work!*



## **Alejandro's Story**

Alejandro Lopez is a resident of the Estrada Courts public housing community and a third year political science student at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). He's yet another Section 3 Resident success story! We met Alejandro at the offices of Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors (ELP)\* in Downtown Los Angeles where he works part time as an Intern/Research Assistant. His previous work and life experiences have positioned him well to provide substantive support to ELP on several projects related to affordable housing, economic development and urban planning. ELP recognizes his talents and utilizing him on a variety of assignments and activities including his participation at meetings with partners to develop a strong understanding of the roles and functions of public-private partnerships and policy processes.

Alejandro says that his family has been instrumental in his choices and successes. His mother encouraged him to stay active and involved in his community and confident in his abilities. His brother, a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, is his mentor.

Alejandro graduated from Loyola High School, a competitive college preparatory school inspiring young men to lead lives of leadership and service to the community. While in high school, Alejandro was involved in clubs, organizations and volunteer work. His high school experience and exposure solidified his desire to be active in the community and influence change. With support from his community, including a scholarship from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), Alejandro is beginning to realize his goals. After graduating from UCSB, he intends to earn a Master's Degree in Public Policy to be better positioned to improve communities and have a positive social impact.

Alejandro is one of the three Section 3 Residents hired by ELP via HACLA's Section 3 program. Leah Hubbard of ELP says that all three referrals were wonderful candidates and had the education and background needed to join their team and do meaningful work. She is pleased that Alejandro is able to develop skills he needs to realize his goals through his work experience with ELP.

- *Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors is assisting HACLA to develop a Vision Plan focused on addressing the needs of HACLA's public housing portfolio, preserving and expanding affordable housing in Los Angeles and improving economic and social outcomes for the households and communities HACLA serves.*

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requires that economic opportunities generated by certain U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be given to low and very low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities for these persons.

HACLA has developed Section 3 Business and Resident Registries to assist businesses and residents to gain employment and economic opportunities.

### **SECTION 3 RESIDENTS REGISTRY**

HACLA maintains a database of qualified employment-ready Section 3 Residents. Residents take assessment tests, go through a skills review and are provided resources to be employment-ready. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department at (213) 252-5387 to enroll in the registry. Residents from the Registry are identified and referred to contractors for employment opportunities.

### **SECTION 3 BUSINESS REGISTRY**

Businesses who wish to do business with HACLA, and to provide economic opportunities to HACLA residents are encouraged to contact the Section 3 Compliance Administrator at (213) 252-1865 or via e-mail at [section3@hacla.org](mailto:section3@hacla.org).

Additional information about the Section 3 program is available at [www.hacla.org/section3](http://www.hacla.org/section3).