

**South L.A. Homeless  
& Foster Care Collaborative**



July 16, 2013

Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Planning Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults With Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness

HHS-2013-ACF-ACYF-CA-0636

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the South Los Angeles Homeless TAY and Foster Care Collaborative (Collaborative) to express our support of the collaborative proposal of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Children, Youth and Families to develop a coordinated engagement model to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults who are homeless or at a high risk of experiencing homelessness. Homelessness is a key issue for Los Angeles. Our most recent Homeless Point In Time Count found an increase of 12% since 2011 in the number of youth in LA County. Of the 58,423 homeless individuals counted, 4,863 are homeless youth up to age 24, and 817 of those youth are unaccompanied youth under age 18. This is simply unacceptable.

The Collaborative is a key stakeholder and believes that a planning grant awarded through this funding opportunity will enable LAHSA, in partnership with public, private, and non-profit stakeholders, to facilitate a meaningful and comprehensive process to develop this critical intervention model.

Our Collaborative works to increase better social, economic, and personal mobility for youth who are homeless, foster care, or at-risk of being homeless. Many of our youth within our Collaborative's region return to areas of extreme poverty and no resources to ease their transition into adulthood. We work to build a community system that has culturally-relevant and responsive resources to house our youth in their time of crisis and to offer a safety net of services to assist with their personal development.

LAHSA has a strong partnership with the Collaborative by being a key resource repository for data and policy and planning insight. Most recently, they helped the Collaborative illustrate the unmet need of Transition Age Youth (TAY) in the South Los Angeles region, and because of it, private funders have been working with the Collaborative's partners to invest in building the community's capacity.

If LAHSA is awarded this grant, they will bring with them the resources of our support. This includes a commitment to participate in the Grant Advisory Body to inform the planning process over the next two years. The Collaborative looks forward to working with LAHSA to stop the next wave of chronic homelessness through the implementation of a comprehensive system to address the needs of our most vulnerable young people.

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We are pleased to recommend and support this application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (310) 251.6523 or gerald773@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

*Gerald Thompson*

Gerald Thompson

Chair