



UNITED HOMELESS HEALTHCARE PARTNERS *MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER*

UHHP Announces Training Opportunities for Preparing Disability Benefits Applications for Homeless Residents

UHHP is coordinating training offered by Social Security Administration (SSA) and the state Disability Determination Services (DDS) for homeless services providers. In addition, we are designing new training modules to supplement the SSA/DDS training. Our efforts are to increase the quality and acceptance rate of disability applications submitted on behalf of homeless residents in Los Angeles County.

This training is designed to replicate the type of training and support received by providers involved in Los Angeles County's partnership with JWCH Institute titled Benefits Entitlement Services Team (B.E.S.T. Program). B.E.S.T. has generated an acceptance rate of more than 90% approval of disability applications submitted since its inception.

The training modules include:

1. Mastering the Application Package - This half-day workshop offered by SSA is designed to teach participants to prepare and submit applications including electronic submissions, which **speeds** up the process and increases the quality of the product. This training also includes information about completing the Disability Report. The training can be delivered in SSA training sites or at a provider's site when there are multiple attendees from the same agency.

In addition, SSA offers hands-on training after the initial workshop. This service is available from the parallel SSA office that serves the provider's operations. The provider staff will establish an on-going relationship with their local SSA office. This hands-on assistance is available for participants completing the "Mastering the Application Package" workshop.

2. Documenting Disabilities for Clinicians - This half-day workshop designed primarily for clinicians is being developed to provide an opportunity for provider staff that completes the disability documentation. It will include an opportunity to interact with DDS physicians, discussion of resources, and case studies to allow clinicians to prepare documentation that meets the required criteria.

3. Client Engagement & Gathering Documentation - This one-day workshop focuses on ways to partner with clients to better assist them submit strong disability applications. It will cover client engagement and collecting needed medical and other records.

UHHP is compiling an interest list for these programs. [Click here](#) to go to the UHHP website to access registration form to indicate your interest in attending these workshops.

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Calls to Action!

Housing Funding in Jeopardy!

The situation with the California state budget as it relates to housing is in total flux. Take action by going to the Housing California website:

www.housingca.org

City of Los Angeles' Proposed Community-Care Licensing Ordinance

The Los Angeles City Council is considering a proposed ordinance that would define licensed community care, elderly residential care, and alcoholism and drug abuse treatment facilities. This proposed ordinance includes provisions that would change the definitions of "boarding or rooming house" and "family" to make illegal households with more than one lease to reside in single family homes in residential zones.

The impact of this proposed ordinance, due to its breadth, would cause homelessness or extend homelessness for hundreds, if not thousands, of people who would otherwise live independently in supportive housing, as well as negatively impact households with more than one family.

We urge you to join UHHP in asking the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the Los Angeles City Council to eliminate the single lease requirements or, at a minimum, except supportive housing from any single lease requirements and form a work group to address the needs of all people affected.

Click here for a [sample letter](#) and a [fact sheet](#) related to this proposed ordinance.

Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA)

Administrative Plan

Please contact your Board of Supervisors office to support the UHHP position to increase the use of Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers to house people who are homeless. Specifically, we are seeking to:

- Increase the number of vouchers set-aside for the homeless program, and
- Amend Section 8 eligibility rules in a homeless program to sue HUD minimum

New 2011 UHHP Network Directory Coming Soon!

We are in the process of updating the UHHP Network Directory to distribute electronically to our members in April. The directory is a useful tool in providing connections and partnership opportunities with other member organizations.

Have you been in the directory in the past? If not, please contact us at info@uhhpla.org and we'd be happy to send you a form to complete

and return to us. It only takes a few minutes! If your contact information has changed in the past year, we encourage you to contact us as well.

Our Email Address has changed!

Please Contact us at:

The UHHP email address is:
info@uhhpla.org

Are you using the Los Angeles Homeless Resource Wiki? *LA's Most Comprehensive Resource*
<http://lahomeless.org/>

Los Angeles Homeless Resource is a vast collection of community resources and information. It is a collaborative effort, one that brings together service providers, advocates, government agencies and the general public. This resource is volunteer-driven and is freely edited by any Wikia user. UHHP has joined this collaborative effort as a sponsoring agency. Please help make this a better resource by participating as an [LAHomeless.org](http://lahomeless.org/) contributor. Your contributions will help to provide the most current and up-to-date resource information. You can add and edit resources and information at any time-- thus helping to make the Los Angeles Homeless

requirements to allow people who are chronically homeless to be eligible.

The Board meets on March 22nd to address the Administrative Plan.

Click here to see the [letter UHHP sent to HACoLA](#) with complete comments and recommendations.

UHHP Policy Development & Advocacy Meeting -

March 21st from 3 - 5 p.m.

UHHP members are invited to the Policy Development & Advocacy Committee meeting on March 21, 2011 from 3 - 5 p.m. at The California Endowment, 1000 N. Alameda St. Los Angeles. This very busy committee is actively seeking help to address the many advocacy opportunities we have available to address homelessness in this region.

UHHP's 2011 policy priorities are:

1. Increasing funding for housing and wrap-around integrated services including, at a minimum, health, mental health, substance use, and case management services by:
 - o Preservation of existing funding;
 - o Creation of new flexible funding streams; and
 - o Identification and use of existing sources of funding that could finance housing and integrated services.
2. Removing current administrative barriers that impede the ability of homeless people to access or maintain housing with services, of providers to deliver services, and of developers to create housing with services.
3. Promoting collaboration among state, county, and city agencies, to adopt best practices, to facilitate integration of care, and to increase flexibility in funding.

Each of these areas has specific policy targets and the Policy Committee is forming subcommittees to address each area. Join us on March 21st or let us know of your interest - info@uhhpla.org

Technical Assistance Available for Transitioning Transitional Housing to Permanent Supportive Housing

Enterprise Community Partners, in collaboration with the Corporation for Supportive Housing and LAHSA, is providing assistance for Transitional Housing providers currently funded through federal McKinney Vento to explore the feasibility of converting their grants from transitional to permanent housing. This is a short-term project. For further information, please contact David Howden at CSH - david.howden@csh.org

CCALAC Announces Health Care Reform Event

Resource Wiki site the definitive homeless resource.

Publicize Your Event on the UHHP WEBSITE!

www.uhhpla.org
Visit the UHHP website today! We offer two ways to publicize your organization's activities:

1. We will place your events on the UHHP website calendar page. We also offer predominant space on the UHHP website home page to advertise your event - first come, first serviced, as space is available.

2. We offer a link to your organization's website.

Please email your information to us at: info@uhhpla.org

Photo Acknowledgement
UHHP wishes to acknowledge the photo image work of Tami Phillips (which we may have altered for our design needs) in this newsletter.

CCALAC is pleased to announce a Health Care Reform anniversary event in partnership with Pasadena's local NPR station, KPCC 89.3! A panel of LA's "Top Docs" will examine health care reform implementation on the one-year anniversary of the law's passage. The event will take place on March 23rd at 6:30 pm at KPCC's Crawford Family Forum, 474 South Raymond Avenue, in Pasadena. The panel will include **Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of LA County DHS, Dr. Hector Flores of White Memorial and Dr. Jehni Robinson of The Saban Free Clinic.**

The event is targeting members of the general public so please distribute to your constituents and community partners.

For more information, please contact:

Cynthia Carmona, MPA
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
(213) 201-6500 (office)
(213) 250-2525 (fax)
www.ccalac.org

Toyota announces 100 Cars for Good Philanthropy Campaign

The Toyota Community Relations and Interactive Marketing departments announced the launch of 100 Cars for Good, an exciting new social media philanthropy campaign. With this program, Toyota will award 100 cars in 100 days to 100 deserving non-profit organizations. Toyota is not deciding who will win the vehicles but rather letting the public direct their giving. If you have any additional questions, please contact Michael Kroll at michael_kroll@toyota.com

<http://www.facebook.com/toyota>


