



*Enriching Lives*

# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## EVENT CONNECTS HOMELESS WITH NEEDED SERVICES

The County of Los Angeles today hosted Project Homeless Connect Day, part of a national initiative designed to bring together service providers, agencies and organizations to provide assistance to the homeless.

It's estimated there are 90,000 homeless individuals and families on the streets of Los Angeles County on any given night. Homeless Connect Day 2006 served to connect individuals and families with service agencies that can provide health care, cash aid, food, child care and shelter assistance.

"Too often, the people most in need of services don't know what programs may be out there to help them," Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke. "Project Homeless Connect Day will unite government, volunteers, nonprofits, business organizations, civic leaders and faith-based organizations in creating single points of engagement and entry to local health and human services & housing for homeless families and individuals.

Connect Day Centers were set up at nine different "one-stop shop" locations throughout the County. The sites included Downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale, South Los Angeles, Hollywood, East San Gabriel Valley, Pomona and two sites in West Los Angeles.

Each site had solicited attendees by distributing fliers and through local media releases. In addition, homeless outreach teams had been working to identify potential clients and invited them to attend. In some cases, transportation for those in-need was provided by outreach teams.

Once on site, homeless individuals and families were interviewed to assess their needs and eligibility. Clients were then escorted by volunteer staff to a series of service and information booths. Participating agencies included the Department of Public Social Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department. The Department of Health Services offered HIV/STD testing, flu shots, screenings, hygiene kits and dental education. Legal support and advocacy information also was offered.

After clients had been escorted to all booths identified in their assessment, a discharge interview was conducted to ensure that their needs were met and to encourage ongoing connection with health and human service providers, both government and community based. Follow-up appointments were made for clients who were interested. Lunch was also provided to participating clients.