

Legacy Homes Update: Grants, New Tools, and Outreach in Los Angeles County Move LHA Closer to Launching Program

The enduring and haunting question faced by many parents is what happens to my adult child with developmental disabilities after I'm gone. The LHA Legacy Homes committee is developing a program that confronts this overwhelming concern while also addressing one's long-term housing needs.

Union Bank Foundation provided a \$30,000 grant to support our efforts. The outcome will be a business plan for the local LHA member consisting of tools for outreach, marketing, and property analysis. We will also sponsor presentations and conferences for families and local planning professionals (e.g., estate planning attorneys and financial planners).

Additionally, the Foundation grant will create a website in partnership with Cresendo that is the centerpiece of our outreach effort. This will include many planning tools and calculators to assist families with general estate planning as well as specific details on how to work with LHA and its members on a Legacy Homes plan.

Throughout the past year the LHA Legacy Committee has participated in several conferences, webinars and meetings; buzz is being generated. Recently, Kristin Martin (HOPE, Inc.) and Norma Delgado (HOME, Inc.) spoke before over 50 families in Pasadena at the Foothill Autism Alliance. Though part of the discussion was on general housing options, many families were eager to hear about the LHA legacy program. For many in attendance this was the first time they encountered such a concept, and many were very receptive. Based on feedback from this and other meetings, we are confident this program will be a necessary component to the full range of housing options for this population.

We look forward to launching the LHA Legacy Homes program this year with a resolution from the California Legislature which Senator Beall is authoring for LHA.