



Enriching Lives

NEWS RELEASE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNVEILS GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WEBSITE

**LACountyHelps.org provides residents easy access
to information about health and human service programs available to them**

The County of Los Angeles today announced it has launched a new website to help residents in need get assistance with health care, food, child care and other government services.

By logging onto WWW.LACountyHelps.org and answering a set of simple questions about household income and expenses, residents can be screened anonymously for potential eligibility.

"Too often, the people most in need of services don't know what programs may be out there to help them," Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said. "Our goal with the LACountyHelps.org project is to offer the public useful information on the County's health and human services, and provide a handy online way for residents to identify the programs they might need and where to access them."

LACountyHelps.org is not designed to serve as an official eligibility screening and enrollment mechanism.

"LACountyHelps.org does not ask who you are and will not share information with anyone," said Bryce Yokomizo, director of the Department of Public Social Services and head of the New Directions Task Force, which developed the website. "All answers are anonymous and the information is erased after each screening session."

LACountyHelps.org is available currently in English and Spanish, and will display comprehensive program descriptions; instructions on how to apply for services, including required documentation, contacts for applications, and office locations/addresses with driving directions.

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LACountyHelps.org will screen for the following types of health and human service-related programs:

- CalWORKs
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
- Child Health and Disability Prevention Program
- Child Support Services
- Community and Senior Services
- Family Preservation Program
- Food Stamps
- General Relief
- In-Home Supportive Services
- Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids
- Supplemental Security Income
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- Women, Infant, and Children Services

Additionally, LACountyHelps.org will provide program and contact information for:

- Adoption Services
- Foster Family Recruitment
- Family Support/Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- Runaway Adolescent Program
- Baby Surrender Program

“This is an example of collaboration among County, federal and community agencies coming together for the good of the community,” said Supervisor Yaroslavsky. Participants in this project include representatives from the County health and human services departments, other government agencies such as the Social Security Administration and community-based organizations.

Total project cost is \$600,000, of which \$300,000 is a grant from the County's Information Technology Investment Infrastructure Fund and \$300,000 from the County Chief Administrative Office. The development and implementation cost for the first phase of the project is approximately \$200,000. The remaining funds will be used for the hosting and maintenance of services, future enhancements and the inclusion of additional programs and services.