

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
LINDSEY P. HORVATH

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

**WILDFIRE RECOVERY: HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED
BY THE JANUARY 2025 CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS**

Starting on January 7, 2025, Los Angeles County has been impacted by severe and life-threatening windstorms and resulting wind-driven destructive fires, which include the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, Hurst Fire, Kenneth Fire, and multiple other fires (January 2025 Critical Fire Events). These unprecedented simultaneous events have caused loss of life, widespread damage, and destruction to residential structures, businesses, and infrastructure. Thousands of County residents have lost their homes. Many of the impacted families were renters who may have resided in naturally occurring affordable housing. These families may find it difficult to secure new housing at a comparable level of affordability.

The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) has assessed its programs and services to find solutions to support impacted residents. An assessment of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program concluded that 50 vouchers can be prioritized for families who lost their homes. This prioritization would be achieved by amending the HCV Administrative Plan to create a new local preference at the highest level for residents who lost their homes in the fires.

The LACDA has already requested an expedited regulatory waiver from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement the new local preference. The regulatory waiver would allow the LACDA to immediately amend the HCV Administrative Plan and to undertake HCV Program admission activities. Due to the urgent need to assist families who lost their homes, the LACDA anticipates HUD approval of the regulatory waiver.

The LACDA will provide notification on its website and in local newspapers to advertise the opening of the HCV waiting list for registration to impacted residents. The LACDA will also notify County and other regional partners to advertise the opening of the waiting list. Once registered, impacted residents will have their eligibility determined on a first come, first served basis.

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MOTION

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Page 2

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Commissioners of the Los Angeles County Development Authority, authorize the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority to amend the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan immediately upon Housing and Urban Development approval to implement a new local preference for the Housing Choice Voucher Program to prioritize 50 vouchers for County residents making less than 50% Area Median Income who lost their homes in the January 2025 Critical Fire Events.

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KB:tcs