

# Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GATEWAY CITIES TAKE THE LEAD** **TO DEVELOP HOMELESS PLAN IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

*PATH Partners Selected to Develop 27-City Homeless Strategy*

(Los Angeles) - PATH Partners has been selected to develop a regional strategy to reduce homelessness for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG). Home to 2½ million residents, the Gateway Cities COG represents 27 cities, including parts of the County of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach.

Los Angeles County has gained notoriety as the homeless capital of the nation, with over 73,000 individuals experiencing homelessness on any given night. Efforts to encourage localities to pay their fair share and view homelessness as a regional problem requiring regional solutions have been arduous. The Gateway Cities COG sets a powerful example for other regions across the county by being the first to bring together multiple cities to assume a leadership role in addressing homelessness.

“I am enthused and gratified about the new role of the Gateway Cities in taking on the leadership to address homelessness in our region,” said Elba Guerrero, President, Board of Directors, Gateway Cities Council of Governments. “This will be a major new initiative in this year of continued leadership by our cities to address challenging issues.”

Designed around meeting local community needs, the plan will:

- Improve collaboration and links between existing homeless and housing programs and services;
- Identify and replicate best-practice models to promote successful solutions;
- Build the capacity of the community sector to increase affordable housing; and
- Raise awareness about homelessness throughout the community.

"The PATH Partners approach will be completely grassroots and will be geared toward meeting local community needs," says Long Beach resident Joel John Roberts, CEO of PATH Partners. "Our team will be working with stakeholders throughout the Gateway Cities to determine the needs, challenges and opportunities in the region, and will identify ways to promote solutions that will clearly make an impact in reducing the number of people living on our streets."

**Since 1984, PATH Partners and its family of agencies have been committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing services and building housing for people in need. Now a regional organization with national influence, PATH Partners also helps communities integrate support services with permanent housing through capacity-building, creative partnerships and community mobilization.**

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