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United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Poverty Resource Center

“The data released today by the U.S. Census presents a mixed picture of how the LA economy performed in 2007....The data also reveal that Los Angeles had higher levels of poverty and income inequality than the state and the nation-and that many L.A. residents remain poor even though they are working.”

—Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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Poverty, Jobs and the LA Economy 2008

September 1st, 2008

Poverty, Jobs and the LA Economy has been published by the L.A. Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE).

This publication by LAANE analyzes the recent release of the American Community Survey data by the U.S. Census Bureau. This release is the latest data collected for 2007 on poverty, income and earnings. The LAANE report examines recent trends in the data and highlights poverty rates for the county (as well as the Cities of L.A. and Long Beach), earnings distributions, median income by race/ethnicity, income inequality and more.

Selected Findings:

- The poverty rate in 2007 in Los Angeles County fell over the previous year from 15.4% to 14.7% (pg. 2).
- Over 1.4 million L.A. County residents lived below the poverty level in 2007 (about \$10,000 a year for a single person, and about \$21,000 a year for a family of four) (pg. 2).
- The average worker in L.A. County earned \$27,571 in wages and salary in 2007 (pg. 3).
- The average woman working in L.A. County in 2007 earned 77.4% of what her male counterpart earned. (pg. 10).
- Slightly less than one third (or 30%) of full time workers in L.A. County earned less than \$25,000 a year in 2007; in L.A. City it was slightly more than a third (35%) and for the City of Long Beach, slightly more than one-fourth (28%)(pg. 10).
- In 2007, the top 5% of L.A. County households claimed about one quarter of all the income in the County (pg. 9).
- L.A. County had higher levels of income inequality in 2007 compared to 2006; and had higher levels of income inequality compared to California as a whole or the nation (pg. 9).

HomeWalk 2008

Saturday, November 15

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