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**APLA Health Expands Housing Support Services
to South Los Angeles Through \$1.4 Million HOPWA Grant**

*New funding increases access to critically needed housing support services
for people living with HIV/AIDS*

(LOS ANGELES, CA; October 26, 2016)—[APLA Health](#) is proud to announce that we have recently expanded our housing support services to South Los Angeles thanks to a \$1.4 million grant from the Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program. This funding allows APLA Health to hire additional staff and provide increased support for people living with HIV who also face or risk facing homelessness.

HOPWA is a federal program designed to provide housing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS with incomes at or below 80% of an area's median income. In Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles City Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) administers HOPWA funds to local agencies that provide housing support services to people living with HIV/AIDS, including APLA Health. HOPWA-related services are now available to APLA Health clients at our new Education Center in Baldwin Hills, next door to the Gleicher/Chen Health Center. The goal is to assist hundreds of clients in the first year of operations.

For many people living with HIV in South Los Angeles struggling to find and/or maintain stable, affordable housing, this means easier access to critically needed services. "It will be highly impactful that we are able to provide housing services in the area with the second highest rate of HIV infection in Los Angeles County," APLA Health Director of HIV Access and Community-Based Services Jeff Bailey says. "Our expansion also comes in the midst of an unprecedented homelessness crisis in Los Angeles as a whole, with over 40,000 people now living on the city's streets—a significant number of whom are living with HIV. Ensuring that those living with HIV have stable housing helps improve health outcomes and overall quality of life."

Bailey notes that that the expansion to Baldwin Hills encompasses additional services that also help clients. "Not only do we now provide five housing specialists to assess clients' needs and work with clients to develop housing plans," he says, "but we also provide a life skills specialist,

who offers employment counseling, personal finance education, and who addresses barriers that might prevent someone from maintaining affordable, safe, and permanent housing.” APLA Health has offered housing support services to clients since 1990, when it began providing Section 8 vouchers to HIV-positive individuals who needed help locating, acquiring, and paying for a safe place to live.

The HOPWA expansion contributes to both local and national plans to reduce and eventually eradicate the burdens caused by HIV/AIDS. “We are implementing an important component of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy,” Bailey notes. “Combined with other efforts like PrEP education, medical and support services, and community-based initiatives, we are demonstrating our continued commitment to play a leadership role in the fight to end HIV.”

APLA Health’s Housing Specialty Regional Office in the new Education Center is located at 3741 S. La Brea Ave. in Baldwin Hills. For APLA Health clients seeking support in central Los Angeles, housing services are also available at The David Geffen Center in Mid-City through a partnership with the Alliance for Housing and Healing.

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APLA Health’s mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. We are a nonprofit, federally qualified health center serving more than 14,000 people annually. We provide 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County, including: medical, dental, and behavioral health care; PrEP counseling and management; health education and HIV prevention; and STD screening and treatment. For people living with HIV, we offer housing support; benefits counseling; home health care; and the Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries; among several other critically needed services. Additionally, we are leaders in advocating for policy and legislation that positively impacts the LGBT and HIV communities, provide capacity-building assistance to health departments across the country, and conduct community-based research on issues affecting the communities we serve. For more information, please visit us at aplahealth.org.