



NEW AGREEMENTS APPROVED FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS TO HELP ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS, HOUSING INSECURITY ISSUES FOR LACCD STUDENTS

LOS ANGELES –Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) students with housing insecurity issues or homelessness could find relief thanks to an agreement approved by the District’s Board of Trustees with Los Angeles Room & Board, a non-profit organization that plans to provide about 35 dedicated beds plus other support services to students.

The new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles Room & Board follows a similar MOU approved by the Board of Trustees in April with another non-profit, Shower of Hope, which plans to provide another eight beds and support services for male LACCD students enrolled at East Los Angeles College who are facing homelessness.

“These partnerships are just the beginning of finding innovative solutions to help our students who are homeless and who need a safe place to sleep, to study and a place they can call home,” LACCD Board of Trustees President Andra Hoffman said. “We know that about one in five of our students have had housing insecurity needs or are homeless. These pilot housing programs, which do not directly cost the District any money, are paving the way today for even more such programs and partnerships tomorrow.”

Both programs are accepting applications now. The first students are expected to begin moving into their new temporary housing later this month. Each program has eligibility criteria that requires the students to be continuously enrolled at college, they must apply for financial aid, maintain a minimum satisfactory GPA, be employed or actively seeking employment and pay a monthly fee up ranging from \$250 to \$300.

[Los Angeles Room & Board \(LARNB\)](#) Pilot Program will help provide current low-income LACCD students who are experiencing homelessness with transitional housing, meals and other student support services in a large, single dwelling building in Westwood, near UCLA, that can accommodate up to 50 students. Due to COVID-19 the program will start now with only about 35 students.

“Our work has become critically important as COVID-19 has exacerbated student needs. Joblessness and economic insecurity have become much more acute and now students are without a safe place to live or access the technology they need to persist during these fraught times. This is why The Opportunity House project and is so vital right now,” said Sam Prater, Founder, Los Angeles Room & Board. Students interested in the program are encouraged to fill out the application available now at <https://opportunityhouse.larnb.org>

Mel Tillekeratine, CEO [Shower of Hope](#), said under its MOU with LACCD, “Hope Housing” will provide transitional housing for East Los Angeles College (ELAC) students experiencing homelessness. The program will start by offering housing in a single dwelling home in the City of Rosemead for eight students in September 2020, eventually expanding to more capacity with support from its partners. For ELAC students to begin the application process for Hope Housing, visit <https://tinyurl.com/HopeHousing-ELAC>.

-MORE-

"The basic need for stable housing must be addressed as part of comprehensive services for college students. They can't go to college if they don't know where they are going to live," Tillekeratine said. "The devastating effects of COVID-19 are forcing more and more low-income students to quit school and work to support themselves creating a never-ending cycle of poverty. We give them hope not by just simply providing housing, but by providing meals, resources, counseling and community support to stabilize their lives, complete their education and emerge as future leaders in their community."

We give them hope with housing, meals, counseling and community support to stabilize their lives, complete their education and emerge as future leaders in their community."

End Homelessness California, also known as Shower of Hope, is a non-profit organization focused on providing services for individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. Since 2012, the organization has provided more than 500,000 meals, 20,000 showers, 2,000 safe parking spots and case management services to homeless people in Los Angeles at 19 locations. The organization works with more than 30 partners in the City and County of Los Angeles, including LAHSA, the County Board of Supervisors, City Councilmembers and City Neighborhood Councils.

The [Opportunity House](#) is the first program effort by L.A. Room and Board. At full capacity, the Opportunity House is a 50-bed facility to provide stability and support to resilient students in pursuit of their college degrees. Students will experience a vibrant residential living and learning community that emphasizes interpersonal leadership, scholarship and service to community. The 24-hour, live-in staff will provide a continuum of care for access to health and social services as well as a guidance and direction. Opportunity House students will have access to healthy and nutritious meals, and wrap-around support that includes tutoring and academic mentorship, mental health and wellness, job training and career development, financial literacy, and more.

While the Hope Housing is specifically working with East Los Angeles College students, the L.A. Room& Board program is open to students throughout the District to apply. Our colleges include [East Los Angeles College](#); [Los Angeles City College](#); [Los Angeles Harbor College](#); [Los Angeles Mission College](#); [Los Angeles Pierce College](#); [Los Angeles Southwest College](#); [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#); [Los Angeles Valley College](#) and [West Los Angeles College](#). ***We are the Colleges of L.A.!***

###

About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

Members of the Board

Andra Hoffman, President | Steven F. Veres, Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., Second Vice President
Mike Fong | Ernest H. Moreno | Scott J. Svonkin | David Vela | Elias Geronimo, Student Trustee