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L.A. HOUSING PROGRAM WINS AWARD FROM HARVARD AND \$100,000

Recipient of the Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations in American Government Award in Affordable Housing

Cambridge, Mass., – July 27, 2005 – The City of Los Angeles' Systematic Code Enforcement Program has won the Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations in American Government Award in Affordable Housing. The award--which comes with a \$100,000 prize to foster replication of the effort--is a joint effort of the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Systematic Code Enforcement Program (SCEP) proactively inspects more than 760,000 rental units in Los Angeles for habitability, and enforces state health and safety codes. It requires that multi-family rental properties with two or more units be inspected on a scheduled basis over a five-year cycle. In addition to regular systematic inspections, complaints about code violations in individual units or common areas can be filed at any time by renters or property owners.

"This program is good for both renters and owners," said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Awards. "Renters have somewhere to turn if their units are not safe. Owners understand the value of SCEP because other nearby properties are now properly maintained, which increases the value of their own properties. It is a unique effort that benefits the entire community."

The SCEP aims to ensure that all residents live in safe housing and has resulted in the resolution of more than 1.5 million code violations in the nation's second most populous city. Since its establishment in mid-1998, more than 90% of the city's multi-family housing stock has been inspected.

“At the Fannie Mae Foundation, we value innovation and those who break with the status quo and develop new ways of meeting the nation's affordable housing challenge,” said Stacey D. Stewart, president and CEO, the Fannie Mae Foundation. “The Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations in American Government Award in Affordable Housing gives us an opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to those men and women who, through their inspiration and their perspiration, give more people more opportunity to live in a safe, decent home in a safe, decent community.”

The Systematic Code Enforcement Program (www.lacity.org/lahd) was one of more than 1,000 applicants for the 2005 Innovations in American Government Award. Eighteen finalists delivered a public presentation before the National Selection Committee at Harvard University on May 11, 2005. The Committee, chaired by David R. Gergen of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard, included former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, and former Congressman William Clinger. The award was presented today in Washington, D.C.

For 18 years, the Innovations in American Government Award has recognized quality and responsiveness at all levels of government, honored government efforts that are creative, effective and address significant problems, and has fostered the replication of innovative approaches to the challenges facing government. The award is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation (www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu) at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its awards program, research, publications, curriculum support, and global network, the Institute champions critical milestones in creative and effective governance and democratic practice.

The Council for Excellence in Government (www.excelgov.org) is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve government performance by strengthening results-oriented management and creative leadership in the public sector, and to build understanding by focusing public discussion on government's role and responsibilities.

For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year's award winners, please visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.

Style Usage: The Fannie Mae Foundation is a separate legal entity from Fannie Mae (a NYSE-listed company). In order to facilitate clarity and avoid confusion, news organizations are asked to refer to the Foundation exclusively as "the Fannie Mae Foundation" or the Foundation," but not as "Fannie Mae."

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