Broadway-Manchester
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, District 2

The Broadway-Manchester community is a part of the South LA region. Within this region more resources and infrastructure are typically found in communities in the northern area of the region. Broadway-Manchester, in the southern area of the region, is not as well-served as other areas in the region, but does share regional service providers, capacity and infrastructure. Community leaders have come together to address issues such as child welfare reform, depression, community and economic development, housing, educational reform, public safety and health access. The faith-based community is particularly strong in the South LA region and strives to provide a multitude of social services to residents in addition to religious support and guidance.

Community leadership in the South Los Angeles region, which includes Broadway-Manchester is described as “dedicated” “passionate” “hardworking”, “grassroots”, “invigorated against all odds” and “strength-based”.

Why Broadway-Manchester

According to 2008 California Department of Public Health data, the Broadway-Manchester community had a high rate of births to teens. A large percentage of children living in this area also score below basic, or far below basic, using the California Standards Test. In addition the Broadway-Manchester community has a high rate of adults who are unemployed when compared the County as a whole.

Overall, Broadway-Manchester has a high rate of schools and nonprofits per capita and has received relatively high levels of funding from First 5 LA, particularly for the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) investment and for the Partnership for Families initiative in Service Planning Area (SPA) 6. Broadway-Manchester is also located close to a birthing hospital.

**Key Areas of High-Need**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Broadway-Manchester</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate</td>
<td>4.1 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| % of 3rd graders scoring below or far below basic on the English Language Arts CST | 48.2% | 30.1% |
| CA Dept. of Education, 2008 |

| % unemployment (civilian labor force) | 18.7% | 8.3% |
| Nielsen Claritas, 2009 |
Leadership

“The South LA collaborative brought together people from the schools, parks and recreation, WIC, homeless programs, and the healthcare sector to talk about local issues and develop action plans.”

South LA has a long history of community activism where resident leaders are mobilized around various issues. Community leaders in South LA and the Broadway-Manchester community often find out about emerging issues by working directly with residents. The South LA region has a large number of collaboratives and organizing groups who serve the Broadway-Manchester areas. These collaboratives are known to be effective in terms of “bringing people together” as well as creative in their outreach when funding is a limiting factor. The overall declaration to fight for health and human rights has “engaged a lot of people and created a lot of energy”. This is also true of the Empowerment Congress formed by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas which draws on resident leaders to organize around community issues but also includes participation from the faith based community, service agencies, and law enforcement.

Infrastructure

“The dollars we are funded pays for a quarter of the budget and the rest is made up by in-kind services that we continue to give because, we believe in the community and we believe in the residents.”

The South Los Angeles region is home to some of the more established and sophisticated nonprofits in Los Angeles County. LA County Departments have co-located services in this area. WorkSource, OneSource and FamilySource centers are places people in the community go to “find out what’s available in the community, what social things are going on - from getting health insurance to knowing how to get on social security.” Other service providers mentioned during focus groups include the food banks, WIC offices, and legal aid as additional community infrastructure. Parks and recreation was also mentioned as part of the local service infrastructure.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

Organizations are “really working hard to make strong bridges and strengthening connection”

Focus group participants shared that the Broadway-Manchester community is working to engage multiple sectors and develop relationships. The County Supervisor’s office has a focus on school based health which is creating positive impact across South Los Angeles. The faith-based community is described as being “an essential core of the community” who provide social services in high-need areas including re-entry services, affordable housing, childcare, after school programming, and availability of food. According to focus group participants, many agencies partner with churches to conduct outreach and that there is a strong collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the County Executive Office to enhance school-based health centers.

Investments

“The Conrad Hilton Foundation, Dwight Stuart Foundation, and the Atlas Family Foundation are investing in child abuse prevention in South LA.”

The South LA region has seen various investments made to improve conditions of the community. There is a relatively high amount of investment from First 5 LA, particularly for the LAUP program in the Broadway-Manchester community and from the Partnership For Families Initiative which covers this area as part of Special Planning Area (SPA) 6. Locke High School, located in the Broadway-Manchester community, has received joint funding from the County and LAUSD for the Public Private Partnership Expanded School-based Health Center to provide school attendance immunizations, regular physicals, acute care and mental health services.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The Central Long Beach community has a long history of working together to impact the services and resources available to residents. The area has been described as having a “culture of collaboration” and inclusion of multiple sectors is actively promoted. The diversity and extensiveness of the leadership has the potential to be a model. Residents have taken on leadership roles when asked to participate, and there are additional opportunities for them to become increasingly engaged.

Community leadership in Central Long Beach is described as “committed,” “creative,” “ethnically diverse,” “innovative,” “collaborative,” “connected,” “wanting to be organized,” “active,” and “dedicated.”

Why Central Long Beach

The Central Long Beach community has some of the highest percentages of families with children in poverty and unemployment rates in comparison to Los Angeles County as a whole. The area also has a relatively high number of zero-to-five year olds in comparison to the other communities.

The Central Long Beach community has high rates of nonprofit expenditures, support groups, and child care centers per capita (age 0-5). There are also several libraries and nonprofits located within the community. Also, the Central Long Beach community has a large number of organizations located within its borders, who are focusing philanthropic dollars towards the zero-to-five year old population.

The leadership of Central Long Beach has been developing and engaging with community members for well over a decade. The area has also benefitted from First 5 LA’s investment in the Healthy Births, Partnership for Families, School Readiness and Family Literacy initiatives. A key strength of these collaboratives is their culture of respect and their ability to sustain their work, evolving as necessary to continue providing services for children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Central Long Beach</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% unemployment (civilian labor force)</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teen birth Rate</td>
<td>2.5 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
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</table>
Leadership

“There is a sense of non-territoriality in Long Beach when it comes to children because we know there are enough children that need services. We watch each other’s back.”

Leaders in Central Long Beach learn about emerging leaders from their “vast communication infrastructure.” Some leaders also live in the neighborhood and “grew up in the neighborhood, so they know what is happening and are the eyes and ears for the community.” Long Beach has several collaboratives that are over ten years old. These collaboratives “never go away. They stay, they merge, and they develop new avenues to provide more services for children.” Residents have seen success in advocating for their community, an example of which is the broad-based support created for Long Beach to become a smoke-free city. The makeup of engaged residents is multigenerational and are seen to be active in discussions within the California Endowment planning process.

Infrastructure

“The economy has brought the community together to maximize resources and that has made them stronger.”

The community has access to services through the greater City infrastructure including green space and the public health department. Many families, particularly within the Latino community, congregate in the parks on evenings and weekends. Other places where residents gather include churches, schools and libraries. Despite being impacted by the economic downturn, many nonprofit organizations have worked collaboratively to stretch out resources across geography and organizations, spurred by a shared vision for the common good and a lack of territoriality. Staff includes individuals who grew up and reside in the community.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

“Long Beach is a big small town, even though we are the second biggest city in LA County.”

The Central Long Beach community engagement actively engages partners across multiple sectors. The City Health Department and the School District participate in several collaboratives. Subcommittees of Reinvent Long Beach and the California Endowment collaborative include participation from faith-based leaders. The local Chamber of Commerce participates in the City’s early childhood education committee through the business advisory council. Public education leaders are actively involved in the community such as when the School District Superintendent and early childhood education leaders worked together to target preschool enrollment. “Long Beach is large [compared to many cities] but it is still small enough where everybody knows each other. People are very hands on.”

Investments

“They have brought some people who haven’t been to the table as much.”

Central Long Beach has seen some recent business investment including a new full-service market giving residents access to affordable fresh food and vegetables. This area has also benefited from foundation and government investments including: the California Endowment as part of its 10-year place-based approach, the Long Beach Community Foundation which is working to increase investment in this area, and the U.S. Department of Justice, as part of the Weed and Seed program, a community based strategy engaging multiple agencies to work in the areas of law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The Compton community boasts a strong potential for growth. Collaboration in Compton is high with individuals from various organizations coming together to meet “the needs of the people and organizations who come through our door.” This primarily consists of filling service gaps and recognizing where organizations can make a contribution. To resolve conflicts, the community looks to serve where there is “a greater need, particularly for low-income families.” One focus group participant said that they provide a format within their meetings to resolve conflicts that may arise during collaboration efforts.

Community leadership in Compton is described as “committed,” “passionate,” “dedicated,” “grassroots,” community-led” “adaptable to change,” “committed to change,” “pursuing,” and “able to manage limited resources.”

Why Compton

Compton has high rates of teen birth and low-birth weight (<2500 grams) babies. The community also has double the County rate of households headed by a single mother and over 10% of the area’s population age zero-to-five. Within this population, a high proportion of families participate in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Compton has a high number (per zero-to-five year olds) of nonprofits, foundations and relatively high percentages of children with a licensed child care seat. The community also benefits from high Los Angeles Universal Preschool expenditures in 2010.

![Compton Ethnicity/Race 2009](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Compton</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate</td>
<td>3.5 per</td>
<td>1.4 per</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of households with children headed by a single mother</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of zero-to-five year olds participating in WIC</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</td>
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Leadership

“No organization has the ability to do all the things that need to be done. So you build relationships with people that you’ve known for years. It takes all those years to build that commitment level, to agree on what each of us has to offer.”

The community leadership shows a strong pride for the Compton community. Leaders find out about emerging community issues through networking, going to various organizations’ meetings and getting engaged in whatever the community is involved in. Leaders also receive information from parents they work with. Collaborations have formed with the idea of maximizing resources and addressing service gaps. As one leader said, “We have a mutual interest in seeing something happen. It turns out to be the smartest way of doing business because you get to meet people and benefit from their ideas.” Parents in the community are motivated by their desire to access help with raising their children, and they recognize their influence in the community. There is a strong sense of community among residents.

Infrastructure

“Sunday feels very different in Compton than any other day. There are families everywhere, children everywhere...a lot of people are accessing referrals, information and ideas through their church.”

The Compton community has some primary strengths in infrastructure. In the Compton community, churches are a hub for families to gather and exchange information. Parks are a focus of the city government. Wilson Park has recently been refurbished and residents’ safety concerns have been addressed. A new skate park has also opened in the community, attracting up to 80 youth on a typical day. Many of the staffing resources at Compton Unified School District also include Compton residents. There are also a large number of schools and an extensive nonprofit infrastructure in Compton.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

“The community is seeing a shift in the way the different sectors work with them.”

The Compton community maintains strong relationships across different sectors. In recent times, the area has seen community-based organizations (CBOs) develop strong partnerships with public agencies, such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as well as the city officials and the public education sector. DCFS has recently opened an office in Compton to serve local residents. Local elected officials are working with CBOs to bring a Farmer’s Market to the area and advocate for healthy eating. A local community clinic partners with schools to provide health services on school campuses and has a school readiness program that integrates school readiness in early childhood development programs. Furthermore, the re-opening of MLK Hospital represents an opportunity to improve coordination.

Investments

“Casey Family Programs has supported work with kinship families throughout South Los Angeles and also targets the Compton community.”

There are a number of examples of investments made in the Compton community. First 5 LA has made investments in initiatives including School Readiness, Family Literacy, Partnership for Families, and LAUP. A full-service market recently opened in this area. The Public Private Partnership school-based health centers at both Bunche Middle School and Dominguez High School have received County funding for expansion. The California Community Foundation oversees the Centinela Medical Funds, which resulted after the conversion of Centinela Hospital. Approximately $600,000 is available each year. The fund covers neighborhoods in the Compton community and is in the process of developing a strategic plan.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
East Los Angeles has a rich history of community involvement, activism, leadership and empowerment, and that potential exists within the community to continue that engagement. Focus group participants describe the community as an interconnected community “where everyone knows everyone.”

Community leadership in East Los Angeles is described as “having a strong history,” “a track record of community leadership”, “having contemporary struggles to engage residents and parents,” and “steady and hardworking”.

Why East Los Angeles

Annually, East Los Angeles reports high rates of teen births and low birth weight births. Compared to Los Angeles County, East Los Angeles also has relatively high rates of zero-to-five year olds participating in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs and a large percentage of families with children in poverty. East Los Angeles has higher rates of unemployment, adults (25+) without a high school diploma or equivalent, and non-English speakers than Los Angeles County as a whole, which may require increased English language support to access County and local services.

The Commerce/Atlantic Park portion of East Los Angeles has a strong nonprofit investment infrastructure as measured by various indices such as nonprofit expenditures, nonprofit expenditures per zero-to-five year olds, mean nonprofit expenditures per zero-to-five year olds, and public support per zero-to-five year olds. Compared to other studied communities, East Los Angeles also has a relatively high number of foundations per zero-to-five year olds and a comparatively high rates of libraries and organizations focused on the zero-to-five old population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>East Los Angeles</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td>2.5 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of families with children in poverty Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
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Leadership

“That’s why when we build these collaboratives, it’s important to share information so that we can inform our clients. We are rich in resources, but not out there sharing those resources. I think we can get better at that.”

East LA is described as having a rich history of community involvement, activism, leadership and empowerment and that great potential exists to continue growing the leadership in this community. Local leadership is seen as improving and “collaborative spirit” is starting to build in local groups. Leaders also remain engaged with residents and learn about emerging community issues via regular meetings with community members. Among community leaders, school principals are seen as being “very active and passionate about the community” and “are individuals who grew up in that community.” Residents also have opportunities to get involved in their community through Neighborhood Action Councils that have formed in the area, which are working on community clean-ups.

Infrastructure

“Due to sites like the Civic Center and Maravilla Service Center, it’s easier for the community to navigate through resources and services.”

The community has a healthy infrastructure that provides opportunities for access to services. The East LA Civic Center is a hub of activities and provides co-location of services for the residents of the community. LA County maintains both a Comprehensive Health Center and library on the site. There is also a park as well as a weekly farmers market, which is currently being organized by Volunteers of East LA (VELA) that connects a good network of smaller CBOs. The recent extension of the MTA Gold Line through East LA is attracting new resources and business investments into the area. Maravilla Service Center is also a major point of interest for families to gather and receive information. Several large cemeteries in the area represent open spaces used by residents for exercise activities.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

“East LA has very strong interconnected networks and very strong civic engagement with many organizations that are very integrated into the community.”

A good deal of work has been accomplished to create the relationships currently pulling the community and government forces together to address serving community needs. City and County agencies outreach to the community and address unique issues such as working with low English proficiency speakers who might be paying too much for their phone services. In addition to support from the local Chamber of Commerce, the community also sees engagement with the business sector, such as a local funeral home involving itself with a community collaborative because “a lot of our clients are children affected by child abuse or gang related issues in the community.”

Investments

“Cesar Chavez Blvd. is going to get resurfaced from the 710 freeway all the way to Monterey Park. This is another project from the Supervisor’s office.”

East LA sees investments being made to enhance the community. First 5 LA is currently invested in community collaborations created to support the Family Literacy Initiative, School Readiness Initiative and Partnerships for Families. The Supervisor’s office is seen as a key supporter of local investment projects. The Civic Center is an example of County investment in the community, a hub of redevelopment, and an asset to the community in terms of where families congregate and access services. A road resurfacing project is another example of those investments made. Focus group participants also mentioned that new affordable housing developments were recently built and the Community Development Commission (CDC) is developing a special redevelopment project in the area.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.*
There is a long tradition of collaboration in the Lancaster community. Some community leaders see themselves as being ahead of the curve when it comes to collaborating and pulling people together from different sectors to address issues. Their experience and success is attributed to the isolation of the community but also to the groundwork and relationships that have evolved over time. Community leadership in Lancaster is specifically described as “passionate,” “cohesive,” “collaborative,” having “strong teamwork,” “committed” and “involved.”

The community has maintained a “small-town feel,” despite the transition from being a rural to an urban area in the last 20 or 30 years and the development of city centers. Each city is beginning to develop its own identity. As one focus group participant shared, “the community is learning how to embrace everyone's diversity.”

Why Lancaster

In 2008, the percentage of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care in Lancaster was more than double the percentage for Los Angeles County. The rates for low birthweight babies were also higher in Lancaster than for the rest of the County. In addition, third graders in Lancaster were more likely to score below basic or far below basic on the 2008 English Language Arts California Standards Test (CST) than County 3rd graders.

Relative to the size of Lancaster’s zero-to-five population, families have quite a few resources such as high numbers of support groups, healthy grocery stores, parks, open space, schools and other organizations. This area also has a number of other groups focusing philanthropic efforts towards the zero-to-five year old population, including Mark Taper, LA Cares, Kaiser, and the Hilton Foundation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Lancaster</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low birthweight rate</td>
<td>1.8/1000</td>
<td>1.1/1000</td>
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<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of 3rd graders scoring below or far below basic on the English Language Arts CST</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
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<td>CA Dept. of Education, 2008</td>
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Leadership

“There was a time not too many years ago when the only people we had to depend on were ourselves. The County and everyone over the hill didn’t know we were here.”

Lancaster leaders have come together in collaboratives to bring attention to the needs of the community. Focus group participants expressed that there is an abundance of collaboratives that have a long history serving residents. Many leaders sit on the same committees so they have a strong common understanding of resident needs. Residents are characterized as having “a very loud voice” and as trailblazers who are “not afraid to be the first out of the box and try something different.” The long history of collaboration in Lancaster is attributed to the isolation of the community from the rest of Los Angeles County.

Infrastructure

Antelope Valley was once “the child abuse capital of California” which was no longer the case, according to one focus group participant, “because of our working together.”

Organizations with a focus on young children have developed strong bonds and increased their presence in the region. Safety and family security are two issues that are a focal point of leaders and organizations. The sprawling landscape of the Antelope Valley presents many transportation issues to the population of the High Desert communities, yet providers have overcome these issues by developing mobile clinics to deliver services to outlying towns. The High Desert region contains many large green and open spaces, some designated as parks. As a bedroom community, the Lancaster area has attracted a sizeable amount of licensed seats providing childcare to its residents.

Engaging Multiple Sectors

“We’re getting some of the business community sitting in committees where they wouldn’t normally come to the table.”

Lancaster sees strong participation across different sectors of the community. According to community members, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has reached out to work with the community in “a remarkable way” and the Antelope Valley Hospital has been an instrumental partner as well. The ability of the faith-based community to “connect leaders from non-profit, public and religious sectors” has also contributed to “the great spirit in this community” and the success of programs such as the Black Infant Health program. Business leaders are also beginning to engage with the community in new ways.

Investments

“I’m giving this development [in Lancaster Blvd.] five years and you’re not going to know that area.”

Lancaster has a variety of investments directed to the community. The community has received funding from First 5 LA’s Healthy Births Initiative, Partnership for Families Initiative and School Readiness Initiative. The City of Lancaster is investing in a large-scale project in the Downtown area. Lancaster Boulevard has already been “reinvented” with new buildings and new restaurants. A walking mall is being planned, and the fairgrounds and amphitheater are expanding. In addition, there are green energy industrial technologies such as solar energy developing in the deserts. Existing collaboratives have also been able to secure funding from a variety of sources, including Mark Taper, LA Cares, Kaiser, and the Hilton Foundation.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.*
The Pacoima community is characterized by their strong infrastructure for collaboration and sense of neighborhood identity. While facing many challenges, Pacoima has been able to develop capacity by attracting investment and building relationships among stakeholders. Community leaders have come together to address issues including school readiness, healthy babies, and childcare, engaging parents in decision-making through participation in the work of collaboratives and boards. One example of Pacoima’s experience and success in collaboration is the work of area hospitals and community-based organizations coming together to create a continuum of care.

Community leadership in Pacoima is described as “strong,” “proactive,” “involved,” “empowered,” “plentiful,” and “committed to community.”

Why Pacoima

In 2009, Pacoima adult residents (age 25+) were twice less likely to hold a high school diploma or equivalent than Los Angeles County adults as a whole, and the area’s third graders were nearly one-third more likely to score below or far below basic on the 2008 English Language Arts California Standards Test in comparison Countywide. Pacoima also has a higher proportion of children and adults participating in a WIC program when compared to the Los Angeles County as a whole.

Pacoima has already made some progress in addressing these challenges through their collaborative efforts and cultivation of resources including a high-rate of zero-to-five year old targeted funding from Los Angeles Universal Preschool. The community also has a high rate of children with licensed child care seats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Pacoima</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Nielsen Claritas, Inc.</em>, 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% of 0 to 5 year olds participating in WIC programming</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</em></td>
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<td><em>CA Dept. of Education, 2008</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Leadership
“At the core, what so many of these collaboratives are trying to do is strengthening families and communities.”

In the Pacoima community, leadership is expressed through the work of the many collaboratives. Emerging issues in the community are shared with leadership through “a strong e-mail circuit.” In an effort to fill gaps, agencies in the community are seen as willing to take on projects that may not fall under the scope of what their agency usually does. The beginning of a collaborative culture can be traced back more than 10 years with many of these collaboratives really taking off in the last 5-6 years. Residents often become engaged via the few Neighborhood Action Councils in Pacoima and San Fernando. There is also some additional grassroots organizing through the County’s Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) and alignment with the Children’s Council. Residents are also organizing around the efforts of Pacoima Beautiful in addressing lead poisoning and other environmental issues in the community.

Infrastrucure
“The community is rich with weekend activities and special events – healthcare, carnival, or resource fairs put together by different agencies or the city council.”

There is a strong sense of community identity and presence of infrastructure in the Pacoima community. Residents of Pacoima tend to stay within the community for recreational activities, services and shopping. Overall nonprofit infrastructure in Pacoima is generally described as large and doing well in this economy and residents who live, work, and play in the community are evident.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
“We really tried to bring all the stakeholders together that provide the different aspects of a continuum of care.”

The Pacoima community has strong engagement across county and city government, public education, and faith-based sectors, in addition to their long history of collaboratives. There is collaboration between area hospitals and community-based organizations which provides a continuum of care. The community understands the need to serve families across this continuum and bring the necessary partners to the table. According to community members participating in focus groups, there is active involvement with County Departments through county representation at collaboratives. The Schools in San Fernando and Pacoima are described by focus group participants as very open to partnerships, while the growth of the charter movement in the area is opening the door to even further collaboration.

Investments
“Two major retailers have recently opened new sites. Economic development in Pacoima is starting to pick up.”

Pacoima is often targeted for investments by city and county government agencies as well as some foundations. Both San Fernando and Pacoima receive School Readiness funding from First 5 LA and there is a broader San Fernando Best Babies Collaborative as well as a Partnership for Families Collaborative that serve some of the zip codes in this area. Pacoima has also seen some recent economic development with the opening of two large retail stores. City and county investments are evident as well in the community’s designation as a city Gang Reduction Youth Development (GRYD) zone and selection as a service integration site by the County CEO office.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The Palmdale community is often characterized by being located in the most Northern region within Los Angeles County, which isolates it from resources in the Los Angeles basin, such as treatment centers and specialty healthcare. However, the distance has resulted in the community becoming more resourceful and utilizing what is available to the best of their ability. There is a strong presence of regional collaboration in the community, which allows organizations to participate in collaborations without having to travel long distances. Organizations have made an extra commitment to be active in the community.

Palmdale Community leadership in Palmdale is described as “strength-based,” “cohesive,” “growing,” “developing,” “improving” and “conservative.”

Why Palmdale

In 2008, Palmdale had a high percentage of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care. Palmdale also has a higher rate of births to teen mothers, and births with low birth weights when compared to other communities in Los Angeles County. In 2009, Palmdale reported a higher proportion of children and adults participating in a WIC program compared to Los Angeles County as a whole.

While there are many challenges in Palmdale, the community does benefit from having large areas of park and open space acreage and high numbers of schools per zero-to-five year olds. The community also benefited from high amounts of Los Angeles Universal Preschool expenditures in 2010 and has a relatively high rate of other zero-to-five year old philanthropic investments.
Leadership
“Collaboratives not only improved access to services for families, but also increase their understanding that “they’re not the only family that goes through that.” Once a family is helped, they would tell their friends and neighbors who may face a similar challenge.”

Community leaders in Palmdale demonstrate strong collaboration in order to coordinate the limited resources the community has available. Emerging issues are discovered through participation and networking in collaboratives, “where we disseminate information freely amongst each other.” Leaders discovered that “being so involved with the families definitely gives a lot of insight into what is needed.” County departments also host community forums with local organizations to “keep abreast of a lot of the needs of the community and resources.” Collaboratives are used for information sharing, referrals, and service coordination. These collaboratives are a means for providers to support each other. Residents also participate in community forums with the City of Palmdale and in school district meetings.

Infrastructure
“There’s a great passion for people who live there who are very underserved and very low-income.”

Organizations with a focus on young children have developed strong bonds throughout the Antelope Valley and have increased their presence in the region. Two issues that are a focal point for leaders within these organizations are safety and family security. For the first time in nearly two decades, a hospital will soon be opening in Palmdale, providing maternity services in the city. The High Desert region also contains many large green and open spaces, some designated as parks. This sprawling landscape presents many transportation issues to the population of the Antelope Valley, yet providers have worked to overcome these issues by developing mobile clinics to deliver services to outlying towns.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
“Inviting the community to the table and sharing the decision-making helps provide services to families more effectively.”

There is a very concrete sense of collaboration in Palmdale and engagement in all sectors. A faith-based network takes an active role in providing services to families, including child preventative care. The aerospace industry also provides resources to local programs, as well as offering employees opportunities to donate to the community. Schools are engaged through an educational outreach program (AV Partners for Health) focusing on healthy eating and exercise.

Investments
“There is some business growth in this area, particularly with some big-chain stores.”

Palmdale benefits from investments made in the community that aim to address specific issues. First 5 LA has invested in the community through the Family Literacy, Healthy Births, Partnership for Families and School Readiness Initiatives. There are two Department of Children and Family services (DCFS) regional offices in the Antelope Valley with County-contracted mental health providers. Through the County’s Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP), nearly $300,000 was earmarked for innovative child abuse prevention. Additionally, a grant through the Supervisor’s office enabled a group home/foster care provider to establish transitional housing for aged-out foster youth and provide mental health services within the community.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The community of Panorama City is characterized by their strong history of collaboration. Community leaders have come together to address a number of issues, including supporting mental health in early child care, gang prevention and the recent development of a neighborhood council. Despite facing many challenges, Panorama City has been successful in building relationships with diverse sectors, including hospitals, schools, clinics, faith and community-based organizations. One example of this is the community’s partnership with 20 churches to bring nursing services to congregations.

Community leadership in Panorama City is described as “collaborative,” “consistent,” “reliable,” “varied” and “dispersed.”

Why Panorama City

Panorama City had a higher percentage of third graders scoring below basic or far below basic on the 2008 English Language Arts California Standards Test when compared Countywide. More than two-thirds of area residents (age 5+) speak a language other than English in the home, with adult residents (age 25+) proportionately less likely to hold a high school diploma or equivalency than Los Angeles County adults. The area’s low birth weight birth rate was also higher than the County rate.

The efforts of Panorama City in addressing these challenges is supported by substantial funding from Los Angeles Universal Preschool and First 5 LA per capita of zero to five year olds and First 5 LA investments in collaboratives such as Best Babies Collaborative and Partnership for Families. The area also has a high rate of libraries per 1,000 zero-to-five year olds.

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<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Panorama City</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of 3rd graders below or far below basic on the English Language Arts CST CA. Dept of Education, 2008</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of population (age 5+) speaking a language other than English at home Nielsen Claritas, 2009</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birth weight birth rate CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.1 per 1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leadership
“How do we share power? Whose collaborative is this? It took 8-10 months to feel somewhat natural to do this. Now collaboration is easy, like second nature, like breathing.”

Local collaboratives in the Panorama City community are useful mechanisms by which leaders find out about emerging issues in the community. Relationships among leaders have evolved through collaboration and these relationships are now the foundation for future collaboration. Residents have organized over some issues, such as mobilizing to create the North Hills East Neighborhood Council. The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) activity, while just beginning in the area, is described as moving in the direction of advocacy. Local organizations are working with parents and residents, and in the next several months, the NAC should be better able to interface politically.

Infrastructure
“One of the primary reasons why adult schools are so effective in LAUSD is because we’re out in the community.”

Organizations serving the community have a strong understanding of local needs and families look to them for support. Schools and agencies of the Panorama City community were described as the most common places for families to congregate. There are several large, established agencies providing services in the community. Adult education classes are popular and well-utilized, particularly because there has been active outreach in the community to encourage residents to enroll. Despite the effects of the economic downturn, nonprofits serving the area are adapting and responding to fiscal challenges by utilizing new methods to pursue funding.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
“This community has community partners that work well with the LAUSD Early Childhood Education Division.”

The Panorama City community has a strong collaborative spirit evident across multiple sectors. One partnership which provides nursing services to faith-based congregations has 20 participating churches with good collaboration across religious denominations. Local agencies also often partner with local elected county and city officials to leverage program support. A partnership between the Valley Industry and Commercial Association and area schools is working to engage the business sector through the development of employment training and new opportunities in green technology.

Investments
“I’m seeing a lot more economic development in Panorama City.”

The investment in the Panorama City community can be characterized as poised for growth. The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles has been going to different areas in the community to see where they can invest, conducting focus groups in the area to facilitate this process in late 2009. First 5 LA also has current investments in Family Literacy, Best Babies collaborative of the Healthy Births Initiative, School Readiness and Los Angeles Universal Preschool. While the recent formation of chambers of commerce in the area, is seen as a positive step in developing business investment. Community organizations have also been successful in leveraging federal funding for staff salaries by hiring employees through the WorkSource centers.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.*
The South El Monte-El Monte community is often characterized by residents’ strong sense of pride and high level of connection to their fellow neighbors. This is evidenced by the number of young adults who have moved from the area for employment or education opportunities elsewhere but return to live and work in the community. Focus group participants expressed hope for positive changes in this community if this asset could be harnessed.

Community leadership in South El Monte-El Monte is described as “homegrown,” “emerging,” “connected to education,” “connected to residents,” “reaching out” and “examining trends.”

Why El Monte-South El Monte

Recent data tell us that South El Monte-El Monte have twice as many resident adults (age 25+) without high school diplomas or equivalencies compared to adults in Los Angeles County. The population of South El Monte-El Monte is also predominantly non-English speaking which may require increased language support for residents to access County and local services. Area children also participate at a higher rate in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program than Los Angeles County children in general.

Compared to rates per capita for zero-to-five year olds, South El Monte-El Monte has high numbers of support groups and a large amount of parks and open spaces. The area also has a high number of philanthropic institutions focused on the prenatal-to-five year old population. There is a history of collaboration that includes a number of First 5 LA collaboratives specifically, the San Gabriel Valley Best Babies Collaborative, Partnership for Families, the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project, and some smaller collaboratives in the community focusing on specific projects. Focus group participants described these collaboratives as evolving and working together through both formal and informal channels.

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<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>So. El Monte-El Monte</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% population (age 5+) speaking language other than English at home</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of zero-to-five year olds participating in WIC programs</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Leadership
“The community lets you know what the needs are. We send people from the community to talk to residents individually, door to door.”

South El Monte-El Monte leaders learn about emerging community issues via direct community outreach and analyzing trends in the data. As one leader said, “Our outreach told us that parents want more access to education in terms of ESL and GED classes. So we developed a parent diploma project.” Some networks existed at a small level prior to funding being available, but now there are more formalized resources and collaboration. South El Monte-El Monte residents are described as engaged in the community and will “turn out for workshops and information sessions on various topics.” There is also a community Neighborhood Action Council called “Unity in the Community” which is considered “a great place for organizing.”

Infrastructure
“El Monte Adult School has seen a large influx of parents. It’s a gem in this community. It’s amazing in terms of counseling and the certificate programs they offer.”

The infrastructure in South El Monte-El Monte varies from traditional family-focused organizations to adult educational institutions. The local Boys & Girls Club is a key landmark in the community and a primary resource for families. The El Monte Adult School offers several programs aimed at improving language and job skills for area adults. The community is serviced by large, stable organizations with a geographic scope larger than the South El Monte-El Monte area. The California Community Foundation (CCF) is also planning to improve the infrastructure of El Monte as part of their Community Building Initiative.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
Organizations “make the effort to engage and bring those services to the community.”

South El Monte-El Monte is experiencing a growing level of engagement with various sectors. Representatives from the City of El Monte have recently started engaging with community partners to reduce obesity. According to focus group participants, the City has also started working with the local public school system to partner with Rio Hondo College and University of California, Irvine on a new initiative for students. The public education sector is heavily involved in engaging parents through the El Monte Adult School.

Investments
“The city is trying to bring revenues into the community and that makes a big difference as far as servicing the public.”

The South El Monte-El Monte community has received First 5 LA investment through the Healthy Births, Partnership for Families and School Readiness Initiatives. The California Department of Education has given the El Monte Unified High School District a grant to improve the coordination of support and provide encouragement for students to graduate from high school and continue their higher education. El Monte is also the demonstration community for the 10-year Community Building Initiative, a place-based strategy, for the California Community Foundation. This project is currently in its third year and provides up to $1 million per year to improve the physical environment, better coordinate social services, and increase engagement in local decision processes, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The Southeast Los Angeles community is focused on working together to advocate on behalf of the individual cities to enhance access to resources and improve the sustainability of their programs. The existing collaboratives have been growing and although they are not as established as in other communities, these collaboratives are seen as tremendous assets to the community.

Community leadership in Southeast LA is described as “passionate,” “committed,” “resourceful,” “vibrant,” “emerging,” “connected,” “collaborative” and “engaging.”

Why Southeast Los Angeles

Southeast Los Angeles is home to relatively high percentages of zero-to-five year olds. When compared to Los Angeles County as a whole, the area also has high numbers of zero-to-five year olds participating in Women, Infant and Children (WIC) programs. In this area, the rate of families in poverty is higher than the County rate, and nearly nine in ten residents (age 5+) speak a language other than English at home, which may require increased language support for residents to access County and local services. More than two in three adults in Southeast Los Angeles (age 25+) do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

The Bell Gardens portion of Southeast Los Angeles has a strong nonprofit investment infrastructure as measured by nonprofit expenditures, expenditures per capita zero-to-five year olds, mean expenditures per capita zero-to-five year olds and total public support per the zero-to-five year old population. There are also more foundations in this area, per capita zero-to-five year olds. The Bell Gardens and Bell/Cudahy portions of Southeast Los Angeles also have more libraries per person age zero-to-five when compared to other communities, as well as large amounts of open space.

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<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Southeast LA</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% children age 0-5 of total population</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of zero-to-five year olds participating in WIC programs</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
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</table>
Leadership
“Residents are seeing they have more power than they thought, taking on more leadership roles and volunteerism, taking ownership of their child’s education, breaking down the isolation and connecting with others, building careers, demanding more responsive services.”

Leadership in Southeast LA is characterized by very strong parent involvement, and high engagement with some local County agencies as well as school districts. Leaders discover emerging issues through the Neighborhood Action Councils and through the relationships they built in the community. Leaders often bring back “grassroots information” to their collaboratives. There is an emergence of collaborations over the last five years which has been attributed to the Southeast LA Community Collaborative work of “unifying goals within all the service providers.” Collaborations are also leading to resident empowerment, with residents “taking on more leadership roles and voluntarism, and breaking down the isolation and connecting with each other.” Community members are outreaching to family members and neighbors for support, recognizing “it’s okay to ask for help when you need it.”

Infrastructure
“You need a more regional approach because individual cities would not have the resources to build a comprehensive health center. It would take all the cities to work together with elected officials to accomplish this.”

The growing community infrastructure supports residents. Families in the Southeast LA cities socialize through school and around activities such as soccer and baseball leagues and cultural activities. Residents within one city often seek services at providers located in other cities in the area. Organizations in the area also do not view city boundaries as barriers. Hometown associations conduct cultural and education activities (e.g., scholarships) for residents. A dearth of physical space has contributed to some organizations co-locating services with each other.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
We have built “those relationships in the community so we can connect the families to the community resources.”

Southeast LA has numerous and diverse examples of collaboration among CBOs that work across all the cities, partially because there are not a lot of strong anchor institutions. The cities located in the Southeast LA community have a strong role in serving families and work closely with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). They are leaders in coordinating efforts for partnerships and referral networks. City governments can be an asset in some issues. Public education is also well-engaged with the community with the Elizabeth Learning Center building trust and bringing families together.

Investments
“The California Community Foundation investments are part of their education portfolio working with parents of young children in that area.”

The Southeast LA community takes the opportunity to leverage other resources with the investments made by some funders in the area. First 5 LA has invested in Family Literacy, School Readiness and Partnership for Families Initiatives that serve the area. Vernon brings in money to the surrounding communities because of the power plant. Bell Gardens and Commerce have casinos and, as a result, more resources. The California Community Foundation has funded some groups in Southeast LA, primarily community clinics and parent engagement groups. The local Assembly member’s office has worked with the United Latino Fund and the Supervisor’s office to host a “Meet the Funders” event.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The Watts-Willowbrook community has strong momentum for change and has high levels of local activism and capacity. A concerted effort to collaborate among local organizations exists within the community. This is primarily a result of groups wanting to increase the sustainability of their efforts and provide better services to the community.

The increase in collaboration is made possible by shifting the concentration to clients and patients rather than organizations. Various developments in the area can be “synergistic opportunities,” including the redevelopment of Jordan Downs, the re-opening of Martin Luther King, Jr. hospital in 2012, and the expansion of the Department of Health Services’ Public Private Partnership school-based health center at Jordan High School.

Community leadership in Watts-Willowbrook is described as “collaborative,” “passionate,” “committed,” “hands on,” “in the field” and “competent.”

**Why Watts-Willowbrook**

Watts-Willowbrook has very high rates of teen births. A high proportion of the community’s zero-to-five population participate in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. The area experiences high rates of unemployment, a high percentage of households headed by a single mother with children, and a high percentage of families with children living below the federal poverty level.

The community has relatively high rates (per capita zero-to-five year olds) of parks per square mile and schools. There is also a high rate of organizations focused on the zero-to-five population and is in close proximity to a birthing hospital. Local nonprofits and foundations are also relatively strong as measured by rates of expenditures and public support per capita zero-to-five year olds.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Watts-Willowbrook</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teen birth rate CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td>4.0 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of households with children headed by a single mother Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of zero-to-five year olds participating in WIC programs PHFE WIC Data Mining Project, 2009</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
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</table>
The leadership in the Watts-Willowbrook community is active. Leaders find out about emerging community issues by contacting the Board of Supervisors, talking to families and parents and generally being “in the field.” Leaders are known to each other and have worked in collaboratives with each other. There is a collaborative spirit that helps mitigate competition and has developed among agencies over the years. One focus group participant found that “twenty years ago everyone seemed to be operating independently. Resources weren’t shared or maximized. We’ve stopped doing that. Everything that is done here is done as a collaborative model.” Residents also hold positions within local agencies and mobilize around various community issues, holding health fairs and also holding community events devised by men to outreach to other men in their community.

The infrastructure capacity in the Watts-Willowbrook community is considered healthy and well developed. There is an extensive non-profit infrastructure, including very large organizations like Watts Healthcare Corporation and SHIELDs for Families. The planned reopening of inpatient services at King/Drew Medical Center in 2012 will alleviate the need for residents to seek maternity and emergency services in other communities. Community centers, the Boys and Girls Club and employment assistance programs are prominent in the community. A weekly farmers market is held at Watkins Park.

The Watts-Willowbrook community sees involvement of multiple sectors in addressing community needs. Local elected officials that represent the area have a “handle and a pulse on the community” and supports the community. Law enforcement engages in the community-driven Watts Gang Task Force and other County agencies meet with the community to identify issues and deliver services to address them. In particular, the faith-based community was one that is seen as very influential in reaching out to families in the community and bringing them together.

There are many developments occurring in the Watts-Willowbrook community. First 5 LA investments include Family Literacy and the South LA Best Babies collaborative of the Healthy Births Initiative, as well as School Readiness and Partnership For Families which cover the area. Certain areas see an increase in development, in particular with outdoor shopping areas and new housing. The new Imani Fe Affordable Housing Complex was completed in 2009. There is a $1 billion project to revitalize Jordan Downs housing project and transform it into a “new urban village” with mixed use and housing. The California Community Foundation oversees the Centinela Medical Funds, which resulted after the conversion of Centinela Hospital. The school-based health center at Jordan High School recently received funding from the Department of Health Services for both infrastructure and primary care.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.
The West Athens community is often described as part of the broader South LA region. Within this region more resources and infrastructure are typically found in communities to the north of the region. West Athens, in the south of the region, is less well served, but does share some regional service providers, capacity and infrastructure. Within West Athens, and in the South LA region overall, community leaders have come together around issues such as child welfare reform and public safety. There are also several active collaboratives working to improve services for pregnant women, financial literacy skills for residents, and resources for families with young children. The South LA region has significant resident participation in these collaborative efforts and developing local leadership is seen as a priority.

Community leadership in the South LA region, which includes West Athens, is described as “dedicated,” “passionate,” “hardworking,” “grassroots,” “invigorated against all odds” and “strength-based.”

Why West Athens

According to 2008 California Department of Public Health data, West Athens had a high rate of low-birthweight babies. Compared to LA County, West Athens also has a high percentage of households with children who are headed by a single mother and also of families with children who are living in poverty.

Given the total number of zero-to-five year olds in the community, West Athens has received relatively high levels of funding. These investment comes from both First 5 LA and other organizations who focus on young children. The South LA region, to include West Athens, has a fairly high number of nonprofits serving the population and also a relatively high percentage of child care seats. West Athens also has some open spaces and parks.

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<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>W. Athens</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight rate</td>
<td>2.1 per</td>
<td>1.1 per</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of households with children headed by a single mother</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of families with children in poverty</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
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</table>
Leadership
“The South LA collaborative brought together people from the schools, parks and recreation, WIC, homeless programs, and the healthcare sector to talk about local issues and develop action plans.”

Community leaders in South LA and the West Athens community can be characterized as committed and are seen to be very active in their communities. These leaders often find out about emerging issues directly through working with residents. The broader South LA region also has a large number of collaboratives and organizing groups that serve the West Athens community. These collaboratives are known to be effective in terms of “bringing people together” as well as creative in their outreach, especially when funding is a limiting factor. The South LA region’s overall declaration to fight for health and human rights has “engaged a lot of people and created a lot of energy.” This is also true of the Empowerment Congress formed by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas which draws on resident leaders to organize around community issues but also includes participation from the local faith-based community, local agencies and local law enforcement.

Infrastructure
“We continue to provide services even on an in-kind basis because, although we are under-resourced, we believe in the community and we believe in the residents.”

The South Los Angeles region, including West Athens, is home to some of the more established and sophisticated nonprofits in Los Angeles County. The faith-based community was described as “an essential core of the community.” WorkSource, OneSource and FamilySource centers were given as examples of how residents routinely go to “find out what’s available in their community, what social things are going on - from getting health insurance to knowing how to get on social security.” Other service providers in the area include the food banks, which often provide information about housing, shelter, immigration rights and health insurance, WIC offices, and legal aid. Parks and recreation were also mentioned during focus groups as being part of the local infrastructure for services.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
Organizations are “really working hard to make strong bridges and strengthen connections.”

Focus group participants shared that the South LA region has developing engagement across multiple sectors, although this is proving to be more challenging for the business sector. The County Supervisor’s office has a focus on school-based health which is seen to be creating positive impacts across South Los Angeles. The Community Development Technologies Center has also been working with local business partners on the issue of broadband inclusion throughout South Los Angeles. Additionally, the Public Private Partnership is working to add mental health services as part of their clinic expansion within South Los Angeles schools.

Investments
“I was impressed that they’re [Safe Schools Initiative partnership] not just working with the school but also convening the residents. It’s pretty ambitious.”

The South LA region has seen various investments made into improving conditions of the community. There is a relatively high amount of investment from First 5 LA, particularly the Partnerships for Families initiative in West Athens, and from other funders serving young children. Within West Athens itself, Washington High School, has received joint funding from the County and Los Angeles Unified School District for the Public Private Partnership Expanded School-based Health Center. In addition, the school has received $8.5 million in federal funding for the Safe Schools Initiative, which will focus primarily on community mental health and probation. According to focus group participants, Washington High School is well placed as it serves as a hub for several nearby elementary and middle schools and has begun outreaching to nonprofits and residents.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.*
Collaboratives in the Wilmington community have evolved from focusing on primarily mental health oriented services within the elementary schools to an increased variety and number of existing and active partnerships. The Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 collaborative now includes local cities, school districts, community and faith-based organizations as well as the local oil refineries. Additional partnerships were developed to engage other sectors including local law enforcement and the City of Los Angeles. Focus group participants also mentioned several programs that help to prepare younger generations of leaders, including high school programs and youth coalitions.

Community leadership in Wilmington is described as “committed,” “compassionate” and “understanding of the community.”

Why Wilmington

The Wilmington area has a higher percentage of births occurring to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care when compared to mothers in Los Angeles County as a whole. In addition, in 2009, adults aged 25 years or older from this area graduated high school at half the rate of Los Angeles County adults, and experienced higher unemployment rates compared to the County as a whole.

Wilmington has a number of successful nonprofits in the community, as measured by their average expenditures per capita. There are also a large number of organizations within this community who are focusing philanthropic dollars towards the zero-to-five year old population. Additionally, per zero-to-five year olds there is a large amount of park and open space and relatively high numbers of libraries and support groups in comparison to other high-need areas in the County.

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<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Wilmington</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% births to mother receiving late or no prenatal care</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% unemployment (civilian labor force)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Leadership
“Local leaders don’t see their work as ‘their projects’ but see the need to ‘pass the baton’ in the community.”

Leaders in Wilmington interface with a variety of sectors through both formal and informal networks. Residents connect with leaders through informal networks, well other partners, such as community-based organizations, the local government and the faith-based community are brought together in a more formal manner. There is a history of collaboration in the community that extends back over 15 years. Programs have been created to engage local residents to “take control of their streets”, such as the Neighborhood Action Councils. Residents have also worked to address the environmental impact of the port and the oil companies by soliciting resources and funding to help mitigate the environmental impacts. Residents are described as “very generational” and having “a sense of ownership in the area.”

Infrastructure
“Families in the area typically attach themselves to one agency that they come to trust, and try to get all of their services through them.”

Wilmington is served by several strong organizations involved in the area, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, South Bay Counseling Center, and United Way. Some of these organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, have received increased funding, especially for capital investments. Families use the services of organizations such as the YMCA, schools and the community center to access information and to congregate. Although organizations have been referred to as “small and disparate,” they have been able to come together collaboratively to share resources. Malloy Harbor Regional Park and Harbor City College are two examples of community infrastructure located in Harbor City.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
A “successful relationship between LAUSD Early Childhood Education and another agency has made incredible contributions to the district.”

Wilmington works on a variety of issues through engagement of different sectors across the community. Community based organizations, the Los Angeles Police Department and the City have several partnerships. The Los Angeles Unified School District as well as the faith-based community were also mentioned as partners in several collaboratives. The oil refineries were the most active members of the business community and often partner with agencies to provide jobs for residents and to make investments in community programs.

Investments
“The oil companies are always looking for volunteer opportunities where they will come out and help with beautification projects.”

The Wilmington area has received First 5 LA funding as part of the Healthy Births and School Readiness Initiatives as well as Los Angeles Universal Preschool. Sharefest, a local community developer, has been investing in the community (e.g., beautifying local schools). The Port of Los Angeles has also begun a waterfront improvement project that will attract restaurants and other businesses to the area, and should be completed in 2011. The Port has also provided capital funding for the Boys and Girls Club and for the YMCA to begin building an indoor aquatic area. Construction is said to begin soon. The Casey Family Program also has a direct investment in Wilmington and has funded a neighborhood-based program around the area of foster care.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.