

Contact: Heidy Rodriguez

323-526-5819

[hrodriguez@elawc.org](mailto:hrodriguez@elawc.org)



**East Los Angeles Women's Center Receives \$2.5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to End Homelessness**  
*Day 1 Families Fund grants \$105.9 million to 42 nonprofits helping families gain housing support and stability*

**EAST LOS ANGELES, Calif. – (December 9, 2020):** The East Los Angeles Women's Center (ELAWC), a multidisciplinary, culturally-responsive organization serving the greater Los Angeles area, today announced it has been selected to receive a \$2.5 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families.

“This grant is truly a transformational opportunity for ELAWC’s housing programs,” said Barbara Kappos, ELAWC Executive Director. “We are deeply honored to be among those selected and it comes at a critical point in the pandemic. Every day we see increasing homelessness, domestic violence and economic hardships in Los Angeles County. With this investment, we will serve many more at-risk and homeless families with children and create real pathways to permanent homes.”

This one-time grant, awarded to organizations doing meaningful work to connect families with shelter and support, will allow ELAWC to further serve those that live in poverty, and have been affected by sexual, domestic and family violence. The Day 1 Families Fund grant will be used to change the lives of women like Irma, an ELAWC client. “At a time when I was most vulnerable, ELAWC offered me the support I needed to reunite with my children and to move into our own home, where we now live safely, without violence and surrounded by love and hope,” said Irma. “I am thrilled to learn ELAWC will now be able to help many more families like mine also find a permanent home and a better life full of hope and peace.”

ELAWC is one of 42 nonprofits across the U.S. to receive the third annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, as part of a continuing commitment by the Day 1 Families Fund to help end homelessness for families. The Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$105.9 million in grants this year. To select these organizations, the fund worked with an advisory board of homelessness advocates and leaders whose expertise spans housing justice, racial equity, direct services, homelessness policy, equity for Native American communities and anti-poverty work. This year, the grant recipients from around the country include: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness; The Cathedral Center, Inc.; Catholic Charities of Acadiana; Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention; Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida; Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Scott, Madison, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas County, Inc.; Congreso de Latinos Unidos; Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio; Denver Indian Family Resource Center; East Los Angeles Women's Center; East Oakland Community Project; Facing Forward to End Homelessness; Families Together; Family Life Center; Friendship Place; HELP of Southern Nevada; The Homeless Families Foundation; Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System; HOPE Atlanta; House of Ruth; Housing Matters; Housing Up; Kahumana; MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc.; Metro Denver Homeless Initiative; MUST Ministries; National Center for Children and Families; Native American Youth and Family Center; North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness; One80 Place; Poverello House; Rainbow Services; Refugee Women's Alliance; Safe Haven Family Shelter; Samaritan House; Solid Ground; St. Vincent de Paul CARES; Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence; The Salvation Army Austin Area Command; Time for Change Foundation; United American Indian Involvement, Inc.; and WestCare California.

The Bezos Day One Fund was launched in 2018 with a commitment of \$2 billion and a focus on two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help homeless families, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit [www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund](http://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund)

**ABOUT THE EAST LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S CENTER**

Established in 1976, the East Los Angeles Women's Center is a private, non-profit organization based in Los Angeles, CA. The mission of the East Los Angeles Women's Center is to ensure all women, girls and their families live in a place of safety, health and personal well-being, free from violence and abuse, with equal access to necessary health services and social supports, with an emphasis on Latino communities.