



## MEDIA INFORMATION

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Holly Ferris, Ferris Communications, (562) 746-8461, [holly@ferriscomm.com](mailto:holly@ferriscomm.com)

### **LINC Housing Corporation Focuses on Providing Quality Affordable Housing for Seniors and Families in California**

LONG BEACH, Calif. – With more than 30 years in the affordable housing industry, LINC Housing Corporation (LINC) has helped create more than 7,500 homes in 73 communities throughout California. As one of the most productive nonprofit developers of affordable housing for seniors, families and special needs populations, LINC’s goal is to enhance the lives of its residents and the communities in which they live by increasing the supply of affordable, healthy, sustainable, well-managed, and service-enriched housing.

Rebecca Clark, LINC president and CEO, believes affordable housing is a quality-of-life issue for all Californians. “Some would argue that the high cost of housing is an economic issue, but it's also a social issue,” said Clark. “When families and seniors must pay upwards of 60 to 70 percent of their income on rent, people are forced to make choices between shelter and food, shelter and clothing, or shelter and basic health care.”

#### **Team Effort**

LINC is committed to helping its community partners achieve the best local outcomes. The organization’s development, asset management, accounting, resident services, and support staff work together to deliver comprehensive service to communities. When development is completed, LINC’s asset management and accounting teams ensure that each property is maintained and kept within local regulatory requirements, while the LINC Cares resident services team works to improve residents’ social and economic well-being. LINC builds both the housing and social capital that are the basis of a sustainable community.

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### **Industry Innovation and Leadership**

Beyond its contribution to California's supply of affordable housing, LINC is an ongoing contributor to the evolution of the industry. Several of LINC's projects represent the leading edge in affordable housing design. An example is SEASONS at Compton, an affordable community that offers the unique residential blend of limited-income seniors, developmentally disabled adults, and seniors with developmentally disabled adult dependents. LINC was also among the first to integrate the principles of green building into the development of affordable communities.

In addition, LINC stands out as an innovator in financial packaging. The organization doesn't work with a set of formulas as every project has different challenges, goals and objectives. "LINC has always looked for the most efficient way to finance each development," said Clark. "Being innovative is more important than ever before as traditional sources of funding continue to shift and evolve."

### **SEED Partners**

SEED Partners, LLC is a mission-driven water and energy services company established by LINC in 2012. SEED's mission is to bring sustainability to existing affordable multifamily housing communities throughout the country.

SEED Partners has specialized expertise in sustainable retrofits of multifamily housing. SEED's work to date in retrofitting 18 of LINC Housing's properties has resulted in \$140,000 per year in savings on owner-paid energy and water costs. SEED has built relationships with utilities, government agencies, and other sustainability partners - all in its effort to thoroughly understand the regulations, unique challenges, and distinct opportunities inherent to bringing water and energy efficiency, and energy generation to multifamily properties.

Each retrofitted property will become more energy efficient, and support a "quadruple bottom line" that reduces owner and resident utility costs, creates healthier living conditions, saves building owners money on operations, and benefits the environment by reducing each building's carbon footprint. SEED's services include: energy audits/modeling; payback and life cycle cost analysis for improvements; project and construction management; measurement and verification; operations and maintenance training; and resident engagement programs.

Due to financial, regulatory, and technical barriers, residents and owners of multifamily affordable housing have not had access to the benefits of scalable energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. SEED's one-stop, whole-building technical assistance approach will enable wider participation of building owners in the energy-efficiency marketplace.

### **Housing + Health**

Another area of focus for LINC is transforming poor neighborhoods by exploring new housing plus healthcare models that expand access to health and supportive services for residents who are often isolated and underserved. Through its work, LINC has learned that no single organization can provide the housing, medical care, counseling, food and services needed to successfully transform a neighborhood, but that transformation requires all of these elements for success.

"LINC wants to facilitate a paradigm shift - combining people- and place-based strategies - to make affordable housing the focus for access to healthcare and supportive resources that help neighborhoods thrive," said Clark. "We want to explore and implement innovative partnerships and financing strategies that can be replicated in other low-income communities."

### **LINC's Heritage**

LINC's work began in 1984 when visionaries in regional government realized that given the escalating price of land, certain segments of the population – retired teachers and service sector personnel, and young working families in both California's urban and rural economies – would be left without housing options with no hope of owning or even renting a home.

Based on the belief that the stakeholders of the regional economy should actually live within the communities that they help to sustain, the Southern California Association of Governments formed a nonprofit organization named the Corporate Fund for Housing (CFH). They selected a board of directors comprised of government and business leaders that would see the way toward securing affordable homes for these vital members of California's economy.

Building on the experience and relationship gained in its early developments, CFH responded to the demand of the state's changing housing market by setting forward with an expanded mission, staff, and service area under a new name, LINC Housing Corporation. LINC is an acronym for Limited Income Communities.

**Ongoing Commitment**

LINC’s commitment to community partnership, industry innovation, and outreach has been recognized with awards from industry associations like the League of California Cities, the National Association of Home Builders 50+ Housing, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the National Council on Senior Housing. LINC is also the recipient of the Frederick P. Rose Architectural Fellowship, which grants a three-year paid architect position to only four nonprofit development agencies across the country each year.

“LINC aims to raise the supply of affordable housing to meet California’s massive level of demand,” said Clark. “The whole affordable housing landscape is changing, and LINC is prepared to help define the new normal for our industry. We’re going to continue to make an important impact on Californians who need secure, healthy housing with supportive services.”

LINC serves Californians with special needs in relation to housing including transitional age youth, emancipated foster youth, large families, single-parent families, frail elderly and farm workers. The organization is also developing new strategies to directly address the housing needs of California’s homeless, as well as people with developmental disabilities.

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