

Improving LA County Housing Through Youth Leadership Development

LA Voice

Improving Access to Housing Through Youth Leadership



THE CHALLENGE

Los Angeles County is facing a severe housing and homelessness crisis, marked by a shortage of affordable housing and limited renter protections. While voter-approved Measure A funds affordable housing and renter protections, youth perspectives are often overlooked in implementation. Intensified immigration enforcement has also created additional instability for immigrant families facing income loss, deportation risks, and predatory landlord practices. For many youth, housing insecurity affects their safety, education, and long-term well-being.

WHY IT MATTERS

LA Voice's youth cohort envisions a Los Angeles County where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to ensure all communities live with dignity and opportunity. Housing justice is essential to that vision. As one youth leader reflected, this work has meant "really understanding how change happens — through the planning, coordination, and intention that goes into it." Youth voice is critical to ensuring housing solutions reflect the lived realities of those most impacted.



THE SOLUTION

LA Voice helped mobilize youth and community members in support of Measure A and is now focused on ensuring implementation equitably reaches youth and families most impacted by housing insecurity. Key actions include:

- **Training and Developing Youth Leaders** — Youth leaders participated in presentations, house meetings and coalition-building activities to deepen their understanding of housing policy, Measure A implementation and the systems affecting housing stability.
- **Conducting Community Research** — LA Voice hosted approximately 20 youth-focused house meetings to identify community priorities related to housing justice. Youth leaders also worked with UCLA researchers to better understand where housing needs are most acute across Los Angeles County.
- **Advancing Policy Advocacy** — Youth leaders engaged elected officials through meetings, public comment and advocacy related to Measure A fund allocation. Their efforts helped secure initial funding for multi-unit family housing. Key policy priorities include:
 - Housing for Opportunity Youth ages 18–25
 - Affordable housing in high-opportunity zip codes
 - Multi-family housing for families at risk of displacement
- **Building Coalitions** — LA Voice partnered with organizations including United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Power California and LA Tenants Union to educate communities about Measure A and its impact on housing instability.