

September 9, 2025



Dear Partners,

On behalf of Centro CHA, I am writing in strong support of Higher Wages for Residential Construction Workers. Our region faces a dual crisis: a severe housing shortage and a shrinking pool of construction workers. To meet our housing goals, Los Angeles needs tens of thousands of additional workers. Yet low wages, immigration raids, misclassification, and wage theft continue to drive workers out of this vital industry.

Centro CHA, Inc. is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the social, economic, cultural, and civic well-being of underrepresented and historically marginalized populations, particularly immigrant and Latino working families. Since our founding in 1992, we have worked to provide workforce development, youth programs, family support services, and civic engagement opportunities, ensuring that all residents can thrive and contribute to the prosperity of our city.

The current state of the residential construction industry—where large firms often subcontract nearly every aspect of a project—has created a system that rewards exploitation and cuts corners at the expense of workers and quality. This unstable model jeopardizes both our workforce and our housing future. We cannot afford to continue a cycle where workers are imported temporarily, with their wages leaving our community. What Los Angeles needs is a strong, stable, and local workforce invested in our neighborhoods.

The consequences of inaction are already evident: the median construction worker in Los Angeles earns just \$35,400 per year (adjusted for cost of living)—one of the lowest rates in the country. This is unacceptable for the people who are literally building the foundations of our community.

That is why Centro CHA proudly supports the Western States Carpenters' efforts. We strongly believe the City of Los Angeles must prioritize policies that establish fair wages and health benefits for residential construction workers on qualifying projects. Doing so will not only stabilize our workforce but also strengthen our local economy, uplift families, and build a more sustainable housing future.

In solidarity,

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Centro C.H.A. Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit | Federal Tax Exempt Identification (EIN) number: 33-0703131

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