## CALIFORNIA



### The Community Coalition Building

# COMMUNITY COALITION STRENGTHENS ITS HOME BASE

Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)



The Community Coalition Building is Renovated and Open for Business

"The flexibility of the Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) enables LIIF to finance critical projects, like Community Coalition's (CC's) new headquarters in South Los Angeles. With CMF, LIIF can stretch further to fill gaps in capital financing so high-impact projects can move forward. We're proud to have been part of financing CC's work to encourage local residents, particularly youth, to work together toward a more prosperous future for the neighborhood and its residents."

Daniel Nissenbaum, President & CEO Low Income Investment Fund Los Angeles' Vermont Knolls neighborhood is a high-need community of approximately 22,000 residents of which nearly one-third have incomes under the federal poverty level. Fifty five percent of residents have less than a high school diploma, which results in limited job and economic opportunities. There is also a severe shortage of community spaces available to deliver critical social and human services.

Community Coalition (CC), a community development and social justice organization, was concerned about the dire situation in Vermont Knolls. Following its mission to transform the social and economic conditions in South Los Angeles by building community institutions, CC partnered with the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) to make a positive difference. LIIF provided CC with a \$1.85 million loan to rebuild its headquarters in Vermont Knolls. CC's renovated headquarters, which is conveniently situated near area affordable housing, resulted in a completely updated facility that includes a large community room to convene 400 residents weekly, a high-tech conference room, and a state-of-the-art kitchen with the capacity to prepare meals for 100 youth weekly.

#### Capital Magnet Fund Awardee: Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)

Funding Recipient: Community Coalition

#### Community Profile: Los Angeles, California

- 21.5% Poverty Rate
- 4.7% Unemployment Rate
- Population: 3,976,322
- Household Median Income: \$51,538

#### Financing Overview Project Investment:

LIIF - \$1.85 Million Loan Other Partners - \$2.65 Million Total - \$4.5 Million

#### **Project Highlights**

- Renovation of Neighborhood
  Community Center
- Provision of Weekly Meals for 100 Youth
- Support for the South Central Youth Empowered Through Action Program

The renovation also furthered one of Community Coalition's most impactful programs, the South Central Youth Empowered through Action. This program trains high school students to reform South LA schools and improve their community for future generations. Additional partners that contributed to making the new building a reality include: The California Endowment, The Katie McGrath and J.J. Abrams Family Foundation, The Weingart Foundation, AEG Worldwide, and Genesis Los Angeles (a certified Community Development Financial Institution and Community Development entity).

Every day, LIIF and its fellow community developers build better neighborhoods and support families across America. Read more about the history and evolution of LIIF and the community development sector in their 25th anniversary publication, <u>Bridges</u> to Dreams: The Story of the Low Income Investment Fund. For more information go to <u>www.liifund.org</u>.

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