



# ***A History of*** **Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.**



In Celebration of the ***50 Year Anniversary***  
of the Community Mental Health Center Act

# Community Mental Health Centers Act

The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act, known as the Community Mental Health Center Act, in 1963. The law instituted a nationwide network of mental health centers based in local communities.

## HISTORY

In the decades before the passage of the Community Mental Health Centers Act, support grew for community-based alternatives to the large custodial institutions that had been the primary option for the care of people with mental illness and mental disabilities. A series of press exposes of conditions in several large state institutions provoked public concern.

In 1955, an act of Congress commissioned a nationwide analysis of mental health needs. The resulting 10-volume report issued in 1960 became the basis for new legislation. New drugs for the treatment of a variety of mental illnesses also became available so that people with these illnesses could more easily manage life outside of custodial institutions. **Congress passed the Act in 1963 in response to a special message from President John F. Kennedy, the first such presidential message on mental health issues.**

## PROVISIONS

The law initiated federal involvement in the construction of community mental health centers and authorized the National Institute of Mental Health to monitor the centers. Amendments to the law in 1965 authorized funding to staff the centers, and it expanded eligibility for grants to include treatment facilities for substance abuse and children's services. Funding was provided as "seed money." Local communities applied for grants to fund locally organized centers that met the law's specifications.

## SERVICES

As the community centers opened, they provided both inpatient and outpatient services to the mentally ill, as well as emergency services, day treatment, consultation and education. The centers were accessible to the general population and provided services without regard to clients' ability to pay.

## CHANGES

During the 1970s, President Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford both vetoed funding for the community mental health centers, but Congress voted to override their vetoes. The report of a commission during the administration of President Jimmy Carter led to the passage of the Mental Health Systems Act in 1980, intended to reinvigorate the centers, but it was repealed in 1981 under President Ronald Reagan as part of budgeting revisions. Services provided by community mental health centers declined in the years that followed.

# A Message from Patrick Kennedy:

Fifty years ago today marks President Kennedy's historic message to Congress on mental illness. It was in this message that JFK began laying the groundwork for what would be the first mental health bill to be introduced and passed into legislation. My uncle had the profound realization that as a country, we could no longer continue the inhumane institutionalization of those with mental illness. This message led to the signing of the Community Mental Health Act on October 24th, 1963.

I ask you all to join with me in celebration of this remarkable legislation and all it did to advance community mental health on October 23 – 24, 2013. It will be a time to reflect on all the progress we have made in the past fifty years and to identify the initiatives we need to continue to work on in order to have another fifty years of progress for those with mental illness.



There will be many opportunities to participate in the celebration. On October 23, 2013, I will be hosting the Kennedy Forum on Community Mental Health Gala at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA. This private gala will be coordinated with mental health organizations from around the country that will be able to participate via webcast of the gala keynote speaker program live at each of their celebrations.

On October 24, 2013 the Kennedy Forum on Community Mental Health Conference will take place in Boston, MA. Advocates, academics, researchers, practitioners and politicians will be invited to come and reflect on current topics in the field of mental health through expert panel discussions and a keynote luncheon program.

**I hope you'll all join me in honoring the work of President Kennedy in the field of community mental health and work with me to create ideas for the next 50 years of mental health policy. In the words of JFK:**

*"The mentally ill and the mentally retarded need no longer be alien to our affections or beyond the help of our communities."*

It is with this thought in mind that I urge us all to come together in order to progress the research, care, science and policy in the field of mental health. I look forward to celebrating with people all across the country on October 23-24, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick F. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.

## Timeline: 1965 - Present

**1965**

Founded October 22, 1965 by the late Dr. James L. Jones, MD, a child psychiatrist.



**1966**



1st Kedren Mental Health Center Site opens in 9th & San Pedro & 1st Head Start Site on 1219 Gramercy Place.

**1968**

Kedren moves to Kedren Community Mental Health Center at 7760 South Central Ave.



**1970**



Groundbreaking ceremony is held for the new Kedren Community Mental Health Center.

**1985**



Dr. Frank L. Williams becomes Kedren's first full time Medical Director.

**1992**

New programs begin to take shape and the amount of hospital beds increase. Kedren begins to expand services and locations with a residential center for homeless in Compton and 28 Head Start Facilities.

**1996**



LA Unified moves into Kedren's Headquarters at 4211 South Avalon Blvd. in order to deliver education for our Children's Inpatient Program.

**1998**

Both Mental Health and Head Start budgets double in size; Mental Health capacity expands to 17 beds for children and 31 beds for adults



1971



Alban I. Niles becomes Executive Director.

1977

Grand Opening and expansion of Kedren Community Mental Health Center at 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles.



1980



Gloria Nabrit becomes Kedren's CEO, begins expanding services.

1985

Kedren Community Mental Health center moved into its current residence at 4211 South Avalon Blvd.

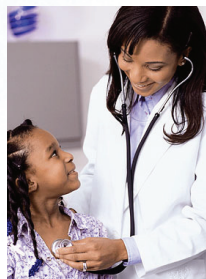


2002

Dr. John H. Griffith becomes Kedren's CEO and adds Kedren's first inpatient pharmacy, reducing the cost of delivering inpatient care.



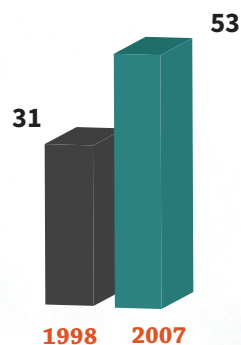
2005



Kedren begins developing strong partnerships with primary care physicians in the community.

2007

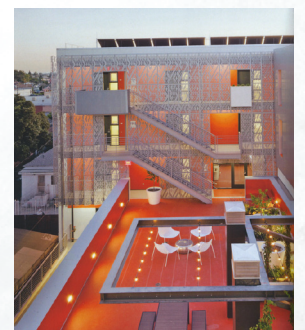
Kedren Headquarters adds an additional 22 adult inpatient beds.



ADULT BEDS

2012

In partnership with the YMCA, the 28th St. Apartments opens its doors to house Kedren's outpatient clients.



# Historical Overview

Kedren Community Health Center, Inc. dba Kedren Community Mental Health Center and Kedren Head Start Preschool Program was founded October 22, 1965 by the late Dr. James L. Jones, MD, a child psychiatrist. It was founded after the Los Angeles Watts uprising in response to economic disenfranchisement, education deprivation, and minimal or no access to healthcare. After the Watts uprising in 1965, a group of 22 black male psychiatrists came together at the home of Dr. James L. Jones to discuss the problems that ignited the uprising. They determined that in order to understand the underlying reasons, they needed to reach out to the community and talk to its residents. Residents illustrated some issues that they believed caused the uprising from police brutality to absentee landlords and poverty. Some residents said that their schools were inadequate; others talked about gang violence, drugs and alcoholism, high teen pregnancy rates and absentee fathers. The doctors realized that there were pervasive community problems that needed to be addressed. After much discussion, the doctors decided that they would begin to make a difference with the youngest children, those who had been least affected by the negative influences of the community, and if successful, they would begin delivering mental health services.

This marked the beginning of Kedren Community Health Center, Inc., in 1965. Dr. Jones and his colleagues proposed educational programs that would also serve families. They were laying the groundwork for the Head Start program to be implemented in Los Angeles. Head Start was concurrently being proposed and put into place by the former late President Lyndon Johnson in Washington DC as part of his “War on Poverty” legislation.

**After receiving federal funds from the Department of Health and Human Services in 1965, Dr. Jones and his wife developed 10 Head Start sites within the South Central Community.**

Dr. James L. Jones and his staff of 24 opened the outpatient clinic on Valentine’s Day in 1965. After the first week, 40 members of the community received services and within three months, up to 250 families were served. Dr. Jones believed that Kedren had to change the perception of mental health and “bridge the gap of resistance from a nut house to the concept of a mental health center.” Kedren is named after Dr. Jones’ second daughter Mrs. Kedren Jones-Zadikov. The organization today is a dream fulfilled for late Dr. Jones and Mrs. Shirley Jones, his wife and co-founder of Kedren. The original thrust was toward community-based psychiatric services for the residents of the inner city. This, in Dr. Jones’ opinion would minimize the difficulty and inconvenience in getting mental health and early childhood development services; alleviate some of the anxiety and subsequent illness caused by racial oppression and strife; and would generally improve the quality of life for the residents of South Central and Southeast Los Angeles.





**1965**

The late Dr. James L. Jones, MD, a child psychiatrist, founded Kedren and began practicing in his own home, providing a crucial service to a community torn apart from the 1965 Watts Riots.



**1970**

Mayor Tom Bradley and Alban I. Niles review plans on the day of the Groundbreaking Ceremony.



# BRADLEY AUDITORI



**1977**

**Mayor Tom Bradley cuts the ribbon on the much-anticipated Kedren Community Mental Health Center located on 710 E. 111th Pl., Los Angeles**





**1977**

**Assemblywoman  
Maxine Waters enters the  
new Kedren Community  
Mental Health Center on  
Opening Day.**





**1977**

**Pictured from Left to Right:  
Alban I. Niles, Kedren Jones-Zadikov, Shirley Jones,  
Maxine Waters, James Woods. Opening Day Ceremony.**



**1977**

**Alban I. Niles and Supervisor, Kenny Hahn  
who was instrumental in securing funds for Kedren.**



At the time of the death of Dr. Jones, Kedren was operating in the building at 7760 South Central Avenue under the leadership of Executive Director Alban I. Niles. However, prior to Dr. Jones' death they were able to complete the preliminary plans for the construction of the beautifully designed contemporary building at 710 East 111th Place. Now commonly known as Kedren South, the building on 710 East 111th Place, was occupied in September of 1977 and continues to provide care to the community. This new center was therapeutically designed to allow the clientele and the surrounding community to enjoy both comfort and pride in their association with the center.

**This move represented a giant step in the history of the agency since the first programs began in a single office.** The new facility helped to centrally locate Kedren and allowed it to expand outpatient adult and children's services.

During its Opening Day Ceremony, Mayor Tom Bradley and Assemblywoman Maxine Waters arrived to commend the current success of Kedren and recognize the potential for its future. Kedren would soon face an even greater need for service expansion as the 1980s and 1990s proved to be some of the most challenging times in South Central and Central Los Angeles, as depression rates and drug abuse increased - Kedren was able to fulfill the growing needs for mental health services during this time.



**1985**

**Current Kedren Community Mental Health Facility, located at 4211 South Avalon Blvd. and serves as a central point for administrative, outpatient, inpatient adult and children services as well as the future site for Primary Care.**

# 1980-Present

Gloria Nabrit, became Kedren's CEO and began to shape and expand services during a challenging two decades from 1980-1998. During that time, Kedren reached many milestones.

In 1985, Kedren was awarded a contract by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health for mental health services formerly provided by Central City. This included inpatient services for children and adults and the facilities allowed Kedren to expand day treatment services as well as outpatient services in South Los Angeles. Kedren began operation at its current headquarters at 4211 S. Avalon, providing one of the largest outpatient programs in the state of California, serving children, adolescents and adults.

In the late 80s and 90s Kedren became aware of the extremely high recidivism rates. During that time, Kedren was able to increase inpatient funding and began to look at shifting the focus to community based treatment by utilizing an assertive community treatment model, collaborating inpatient and outpatients care through community partnerships, including housing and employment opportunities.

This was the beginning of implementation of the "one-stop" concept that was originally a result of a community needs assessment done by Dr. Jones and his colleagues in 1965. The identified needs were training, employment, childcare, and food services all located in one service center for timely access, without complicated transportation concerns. This concept was further advanced by Medical Director Dr. Frank L. Williams, who began his work alongside Dr. Jones. Dr. Williams was instrumental in the development and implementation of efficient and effective levels of care for the residents of the community. This model continues to grow and is the foundation for Kedren's current service delivery system.

In 2002 Dr. John H. Griffith was appointed CEO and an organization analysis conducted at that time determined that Kedren needed to revamp its structure in order to accommodate for the exceptional growth in the 80s and 90s. Under Dr. Griffith's leadership, Kedren's organizational changes progressively began to strengthen the collaboration between the medical and psychiatric professionals, while at the same time utilizing the expertise of many veteran Kedren employees for outreach and community development. This re-adjustment was crucial to continuing the service while keeping a clear view of the future needs of the organization and the community.

In more recent years, Kedren has almost doubled the amount of inpatient beds for adults, increased the budget for Mental Health and Head Start, as well as creating partnerships for housing clients as part of Kedren's Community Reintegration Program.



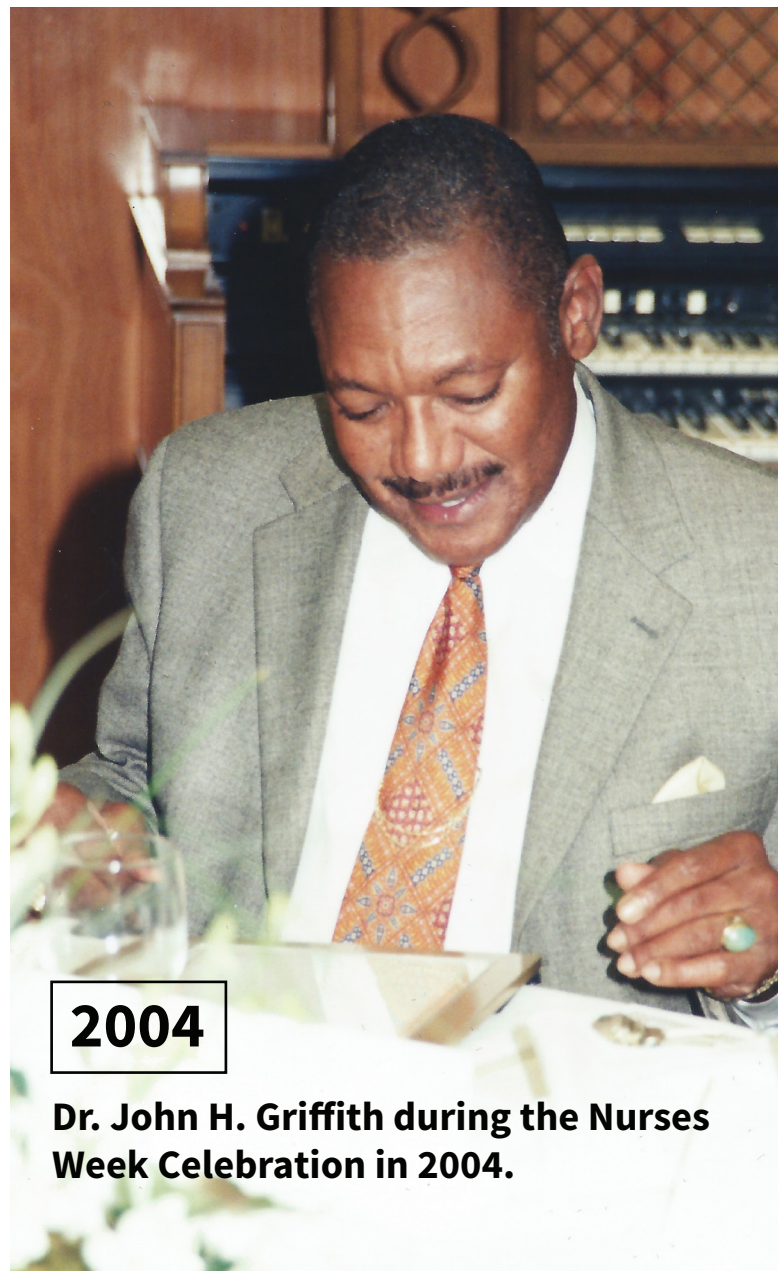
Kedren has successfully and systematically operationalized both their mental health services and their Head Start State Preschool Program and Family Service Center. Originally, each of these was federally funded and currently provides both an innovative and excellent array of services for special populations, thereby, demonstrating an exceptional organizational talent for effectiveness and versatility. Each program has also been accomplished under the fine leadership of an extraordinary governance Board and professional staff who commitment enables Kedren to fulfill its mission of providing culturally competent continuum of care services utilizing an efficient and effective collaborative and holistic approach to address the educational, health and mental health needs of residents of Service Area Six, and the surrounding communities.

Kedren has served the community for 48 years without interruption or discontinuation of care. Currently, Kedren serves almost 6,000 people annually.



**1986**

**Gloria Nabrit, in Kedren's office at 4211 South Avalon Blvd.**



**2004**

**Dr. John H. Griffith during the Nurses Week Celebration in 2004.**



# The Future of Care:

The highest priority proposed for the next five years is to enhance overall organizational excellence. Such a priority is timely and important because of the need to anticipate and be proactive about forthcoming changes in healthcare laws and regulations from the Affordable Care Act shifting demographics in the surrounding community and a focus on innovative and integrated models of care for total health and wellness. Along with an organizational excellence priority, special emphasis should be given to promoting and recognizing excellence and leadership in clinical and program delivery, medical and education innovation, and patient satisfaction; as well as improving the quality and effectiveness of holistic wellness programs critical for ensuring a place among the top tier community health centers in the Los Angeles area. These emphases can and should be pursued with a parallel planning and leadership development.

Kedren will provide a full range of primary care services, directly or through referral, that together comprise a comprehensive primary health care system. The range of primary care services to be offered include: immunizations and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, communicable disease screening and counseling, testing, prevention education, and treatment of chronic conditions, such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes; outreach and community education services, and health education and prevention services on site and in the community.

**While keeping an eye on the future, the legacy of Dr. Jones is never left behind. Our staff acts on these principles daily and believes in the ultimate measure of success to be the patients' satisfaction with our services.**



**2012**

**28th St. Apartments. Part of Kedren's innovative partnership with the YMCA to renovate apartments for low-income outpatient adults.**

# Service Overview

Kedren hospital provides psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services to children, transitional aged youths and adults. The types of services that are provided to our patients include medication therapy, extensive psychiatric evaluation, counseling in private and in group settings, and other best practices in an inpatient and outpatient setting. Our outpatient services also include outreach and transportation; as well as 24-hour availability for crisis response and management.

**Kedren Community Care Clinic** will provide community access to primary care physicians and pediatricians 5 days a week.

**Kedren Head Start** provides before and after school care for children who attend any one of the 28 Kedren Head Start Centers.

**Kedren Rehabilitation and Wellness Center** will provide medication and care management services and counseling for healthy living aimed at reducing obesity, diabetes and diabetes-related diseases, drug abuse and unsafe dietary and lifestyle decisions.

## Community Care Clinic

Provide community access to primary care physicians and pediatricians 5 days a week.

## Head Start

28 Head Start Facilities, serving over 2,000 Children.

## Mental Health

Inpatient and Outpatient Care, Children, Adults, Transitional Aged Youth, Community Outreach, Counseling, AB109 Community Reintegration Program, Kedren Integrated Services Model Program.

## Rehabilitation Wellness Center

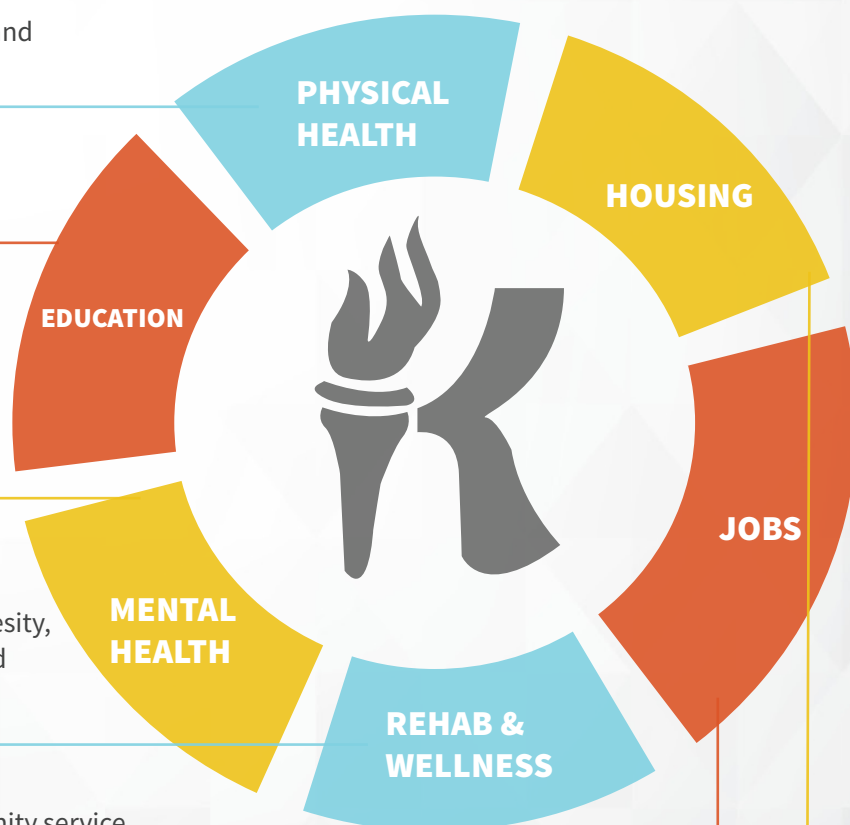
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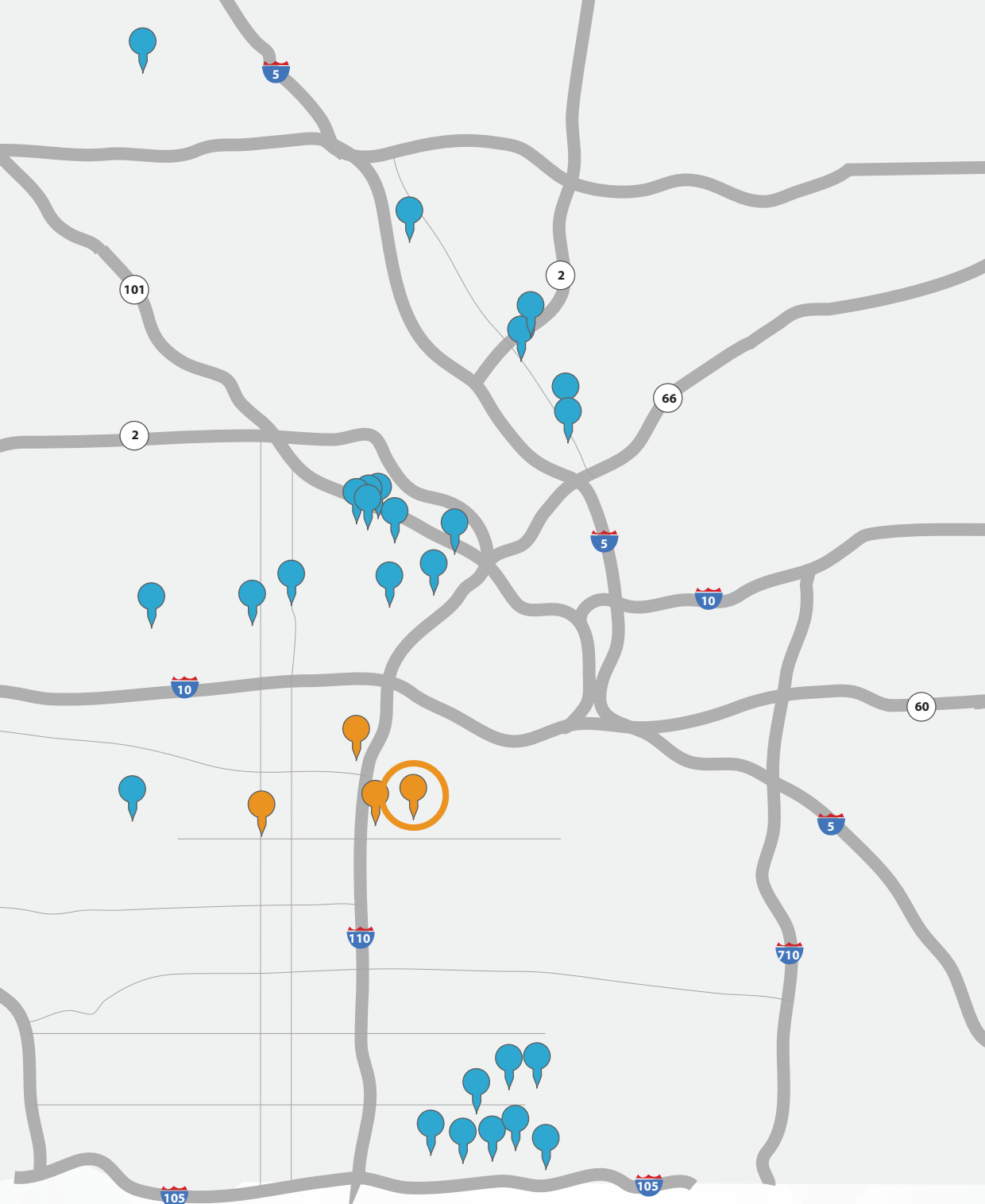
## Jobs

Linkages to job sites, outreach to business and community service organizations, religious organizations, large and small employers.

## Housing

Linkages to community housing providers of temporary and transitional assistance to permanent housing.





#### Kedren Imperial Courts II

11425 S. Gorman Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

#### Kedren Jordan Downs

9910 Grape St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90002

#### Kedren Manhattan

1200 S. Manhattan Place  
Los Angeles, CA. 90019

#### Kedren Magnolia

2828 W. Magnolia Blvd.  
Burbank, CA. 91505

#### Kedren Mariposa

961 S. Mariposa  
Los Angeles, CA. 90006

#### Kedren Maryland

1317 Maryland Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90017

#### Kedren Nickerson Gardens

11263 S. Compton Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

#### Kedren Perlita

4118 Chevy Chase Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90039

#### Kedren Pico

4605 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90019

#### Kedren Pleasant Hills

2737 Hyans Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

#### Kedren St. Anne's

155 North Occidental Blvd  
Los Angeles, C.A. 90026

#### Kedren Westlake I

3031 Beverly Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA. 90057

#### Kedren Westlake II

1505 Beverly Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA. 90057

#### Kedren Westlake III

2233 Beverly Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA

#### Kedren Watts VI

1812 E. 110th Street,  
Los Angeles, CA. 90059

#### Kedren Watts I

1341 East 104th Street,  
Los Angeles, CA. 90002

#### Kedren Watts III

9622 Beach Street,  
Los Angeles, CA

#### Kedren Watts IV

11230 S. Central Ave.,  
Los Angeles, CA.

#### Kedren Watts V

710 E. 111th Place,  
Los Angeles, CA. 90059

## MENTAL HEALTH

#### Kedren Corporate

4211 South Avalon Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90011

#### Kedren Vernon

231 West Vernon Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

#### Kedren Western

4322 South Western Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90062

#### Kedren Figueroa

3800 South Figueroa Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

## HEAD START

#### Head Start/State Preschool Administrative Program

710 East 111 Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

#### Kedren Angelina

1336 W. Angelina Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90026

#### Kedren Baldwin Hills

3740 Don Felipe Drive  
Los Angeles, CA. 90008

#### Kedren Beacon

731 Beacon Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

#### Kedren Cypress I

1145 Cypress Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA. 90065

#### Kedren Cypress II

2415 Avenue 30  
Los Angeles, CA. 90065

#### Kedren Cypress III

3315 Verdugo Road  
Los Angeles, CA. 90065

#### Kedren Imperial Courts

11513 Gorman Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA. 90059