

## Northridge, January 21, 2004

The 5<sup>th</sup> Community Input session was held at Saint Nicholas Church with about 10 persons in attendance, including representatives of Los Angeles Council Districts, the City of Santa Monica, and LA Mayor's Office.

Speaker	Topic	Comments
Audience discussion	Outreach	Importance of outreach and education and overcoming stigma
Judith McKolla, First Christian Church of N. Hollywood and N. Hollywood Food Pantry	Participation	We want to help, and not reinvent the wheel.
Audience discussion	Geographic level of plans	It is important to empower community groups to solve problems. Will the plan recommendations in the plan be specific to regional geographic areas, at a SPA level, or small community level, or city level, or what? I would hope for geographic breakdown of recommendations. Problem: Do parochial breakdown of funds mean we fail to focus on "big picture" countywide? Solution: Find a delicate balance. Be careful not to defund good but concentrated work as a consequence of dividing funds regionally.
Audience discussion	Political interference	Political criteria sometimes lead to weak programs being funded and/or effective programs being defunded without regard to objective honest evaluation. The Tough love recommendation: fund the effective work
Audience discussion	Welfare reform	Recommendation: Move CalWORKs to promote education and training first, then jobs, and with strong protection of the absolutely essential child care.