



**Los Angeles County Medical Association
Nhat Tran, MD Medical School Public Policy Challenge:
Homelessness and Health in LA County**

Problem:

Homelessness is a serious health problem throughout the United States, and has shown to disproportionately affect Los Angeles County. Since taking office, Mayor Eric Garcetti has made it his priority to address the homelessness crisis. The administration has a three pillar approach: housing those who are homeless; preventing people at risk for homelessness from landing on the streets; and balancing health and safety concerns with the rights and needs of people who are living in unacceptable conditions. However, over the past year, homelessness rates have grown by over 23% within the county. According to the city's annual report, conducted in early January, rising rates were largest in the Antelope Valley and eastern Los Angeles County and lowest in the South Bay and San Fernando Valley. The drastic increase to nearly 58,000 homeless individuals suggests that the pathway into homelessness continues to outpace intensifying efforts made by Los Angeles' homelessness officials and political leaders. The report also indicated that the substantial shift in homelessness affected nearly every significant demographic group within the county— children, families, veterans and the chronically homeless.

Proposal:

The Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) will sponsor a challenge for medical students from Charles Drew University, University of California—Los Angeles, University of Southern California and Western University of Health Sciences to propose legislation for adoption by the County of Los Angeles in order to reduce the onset of homelessness increases throughout the county.

Prompt:

In 2016, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition HHH, which seeks to provide \$1.2 billion in bond proceeds over a decade to build permanent housing for homeless individuals and those at-risk of becoming homeless. Likewise, in 2017, voters passed Measure H, which seeks to provide an estimated \$3.5 billion over 10 years for rent subsidies and services. However, Los Angeles' homeless population continues to grow, while similar propositions have failed to pass in cities throughout our nation.

What County legislation (policy or program) would you pass to address the increasing homeless problem?

Instructions:

Submit a proposal detailing your solution, including the following components (2 page minimum):

- What is your solution?
- What obstacles would impede your solution?
- What potential impact would your solution have? What are metrics for success?
- What stakeholder groups would be for and against your idea?
- What are the social and financial costs associated with implementation?
- Please include citations of any sources you use. Research into your idea (i.e. has something similar already been attempted?) is highly encouraged.

Eligibility:

No more than 4 individuals per team submission, with one medical student who is a LACMA member and one who is an MPH student. Membership for medical students is free; for more information click [here](#).

Judging Criteria & Process:

The best ideas will be judged using multiple criteria: innovation, feasibility, cost, measurability and potential impact.

The judging committee may reward multiple submissions, at its sole discretion, and ask each selected team to further research their ideas and present a final proposal. The committee may award additional cash prizes to those teams who choose to further develop their ideas with the help of a professional staff of government relationship experts.

Cash prize:

\$2,500 for the winning team, with the winners highly encouraged, but not obligated, to push their proposals forward for legislation and implementation at the County level. If there are multiple feasible proposals, the committee assigned the responsibility of judging the proposals may, at their sole discretion, award multiple cash prizes.

Recognition:

Winners will be honored at the LACMA installation dinner in June 2018. Announcement of the winners and their proposal will be published in the Los Angeles Medicine magazine and/or by the Physician News Network.

LACMA Responsibilities:

LACMA will help winning group with HOD resolutions and facilitate appropriate introductions to healthcare and public policy professionals working in related fields, ie LA County Department of Public Health.

Proposed Timeline:

- October 2017** Official announcement to all medical schools. Lunch time talks to be scheduled at each campus.
- March 2, 2018** Application deadline
- May 2018** Winning group is selected
- June 2018** Winners are presented at the Presidential Installation Dinner and proposal is published in the Los Angeles Medicine magazine and/or the Physicians News Network