

CSAC Challenge Award 2022
Los Angeles County - L.A. Found Program – Executive Summary
Issue Area: Health & Human Services

Program Overview: The LA Found Program focuses on providing Los Angeles County (County) resources, enhanced emergency coordination and employing technology, to locate cognitively impaired individuals when they wander.

Challenge: Nancy Paulikas, a resident of Manhattan Beach diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s was visiting the Los Angeles County Museum of Art with her family in October 2016, when she went to use the bathroom and simply vanished. Her disappearance led to the identification of deficiencies in emergency coordination of cognitively impaired missing persons. The likelihood of locating a wandering Alzheimer’s patient alive decreases hourly by as much as 33 percent after 24 hours. The older adult population will double by 2030. It is estimated that 60% of individuals with Alzheimer’s and 49% of children with autism wander. These statistics made it evident that more effort needed to be made to address this problem.

Solution: A taskforce was established at the request of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to explore solutions addressing the wandering of cognitively impaired individuals. In February 2018, the Board adopted the Bringing our Loved Ones Home Taskforce Report, which provided 17 strategies to address wandering, including the use of technology, for successful outcomes. In September 2018, the LA Found Program was launched, along with the implementation of the Project Lifesaver Pilot, spearheaded by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS, now Aging and Disabilities Department - AD), which provides cognitively impaired individuals with a free tracking bracelet. A website (lafound.lacounty.gov) was also launched as a dedicated resource for LA County residents to obtain information on tracking technology, County resources and emergency coordination, with a simple message: LA County is here to help.

Innovation: Recommendations developed by the taskforce (which convenes monthly) were developed in collaboration with County departments, community advocates, law enforcement, and agencies that work directly with the population. The County and Sherriff’s Department

CSAC Challenge Award 2022
Los Angeles County - L.A. Found Program – Executive Summary
Issue Area: Health & Human Services

collaboration is unprecedented and has proven essential to the success of the program. A liaison system with representation from all County departments is used to expand awareness of the issue and the program. An on-line client portal enables individuals to easily apply for the program, watch and video tutorial, learn device assembly, and even order spare parts. Partnership with Alzheimer’s LA and Alzheimer’s Association launched multi-lingual webinars and social media outreach to help educate caregivers and families. L.A. Found has also partnered with the LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) on a communication and outreach campaign (Healthy Brain Initiative – Los Angeles) to increase awareness of dementia and elder abuse in the African American and Latino communities of South Los Angeles. Testing of alternative GPS technology and strategizing for safety is currently in progress for those that are cognitively impaired.

Results: Four years later, there are 990 individuals enrolled in the Project Lifesaver Pilot program, with 26 participants found safely, as a result, of the use of the tracking bracelet. Over 4,911 first responders and 2,368 County employees have been trained on the program using a series of videos “MILO” developed by Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, WDACS/AD and other subject matter experts, including simulation modules for first responders to practice de-escalation techniques.

Replicability: LA Found is ideal for replication by other counties in California. The County allocated funds from its Net County Cost discretionary budget to launch and procure the tracking equipment and 30 pilot tracking devices. Donations and funding from other programs/agencies have helped to expand the program to 990 individuals. Promotional materials about the program including social media and the LA Found Channel can be shared with other interested counties.

Program Contact Information:

Cinthie Lopez Paz, Human Services Administrator I (LA Found)
Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department
510 S. Vermont Avenue, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90020
C: (323) 449-3554, email: CLopezPaz@ad.lacounty.gov

**CSAC Challenge Award 2022
Los Angeles County - L.A. Found Program – Executive Summary
Issue Area: Health & Human Services**

See below for Optional Submissions:

Website: <https://lafound.laCounty.gov/>

Application Portal: <https://lafound.wdacs.laCounty.gov/>

Press Conference Launch: <https://vimeo.com/311301254>

Training Overview Video: <https://vimeo.com/370347035>

Project Lifesaver Assembly Video: <https://vimeo.com/386584191>

Social Media:

QR Code PPT attachment

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LAFoundCommunity/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lafound1>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/la.found/>

You tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRymakSyfBrSc6blciyEZPA>

Media Coverage:

August 2019

<https://signaltribunenewspaper.com/43070/news/long-beach-representative-highlights-recent-la-found-program-rescues/>

October 2019

<https://comptonherald.org/program-finds-missing-woman/>

January 2020

<https://www.cityoflamirada.org/Home/Components/News/News/3820/>

February 2020

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/sheriffs-station-honors-8-year-old-boy-after-he-finds-83-year-old-missing-man/2304718/>

<https://www.presstelegram.com/lakewood-boy-8-finds-missing-83-year-old-man-with-alzheimers>

March 2020

<https://laopinion.com/2020/03/14/una-pulsera-puede-ayudarte-a-encontrar-a-tu-ser-querido/>