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# County of Los Angeles

## Better than Average

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Los Angeles County allocated a good portion of its budget to treatment, and is using pre-existing, community treatment assessment centers as an integral part of their implementation plan. Unfortunately, the largest and most diverse county in the state did not adequately incorporate community and consumer input into the planning process.



- Prop. 36 Money Given to County to Date: \$45.9 million
- County's FY 01/02 Prop. 36 Budget: \$22.2 million (remainder unallocated to date)

Los Angeles County will spend 88% of its FY 01/02 budget on treatment-related costs - an appropriation that reflects the will of the voters.



While treatment services offered in Los Angeles are broad, those programs included in the implementation plan are not diverse enough to serve all of the affected communities.



Keeping with the public health intent of Prop. 36, addiction assessment and client case management in Los Angeles will be handled by treatment professionals. Unfortunately, drug tests will not be used primarily as a treatment tool, but rather as a means to threaten clients.



While implementation task force meetings were officially open to the public in Los Angeles, they were not advertised, nor were a diverse range of voices solicited. The county's implementation task force was chaired and dominated by criminal justice professionals, rather than public health officials.



Guidelines were developed and shared with The Lindesmith Center – Drug Policy Foundation by the District Attorney's office.

# Report Card

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Prepared by **The Lindesmith Center – Drug Policy Foundation**

Phone: (916) 444-3751 • Web: [www.prop36.org](http://www.prop36.org)