



NSEC AGENDA:
ITEM:

Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
& EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Leslye Krutko

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 3, 2007

Approved

Date

Council District: Citywide

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING ACTIVITIES IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S HOMELESS SERVICES PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee approve the report on the progress of the City's Homeless Services Program.

BACKGROUND

On September 9, 2003, the City Council approved the 10-Year Homeless Strategy, which lays out the City's response to homelessness, and the commitment to end chronic homelessness in ten years.

ANALYSIS

The following highlights the major activities taken during FY 2006-2007 to implement the City's Homeless Strategy:

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Housing and Homelessness

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Ending Chronic Homelessness and Solving the Affordable Housing Crisis held its first meeting on March 22, 2007. The Commission, co-chaired by Supervisor Don Gage (County of Santa Clara) and Mayor Chuck Reed (City of San José), is made up of twenty-six community leaders chosen for their commitment to ending homelessness and providing additional affordable housing throughout the County. The Commission will use the City and County's Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness and the Twenty-Year Plan to Solve the Affordable Housing Crisis, prepared by the Local Initiative Support Corporation and the Institute for Metropolitan Studies from San Jose State University, as models for a set of strategic initiatives to be implemented on a regional basis.

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The three main goals of the Commission will be to prevent homelessness, shift from providing shelter to providing permanent housing, and to increase the housing supply. The Commission will develop and access new sources of funding to assist in the implementation of the strategies and launch a public awareness and educational campaign to educate the public and get them involved in ending homelessness. Working groups will be convened to address the following issues: discharge planning, outreach and engagement, rapid re-housing, wrap-around services, land use and finance. These working groups will report back to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

The outcome of the Commission will be to establish goals for ending homelessness and providing enough housing throughout the County to house all future citizens. The Commission will hold four general meetings and issue an implementation plan by the end of 2007.

Project Homeless Connect

After three successful Project Homeless Connect (PHC) events, the planning efforts for the fourth PHC, to be held on May 17th, are underway. The PHC coordinators are currently coordinating with agencies and sponsors that participated in past events, as well as reaching out to new institutional and corporate partners. New partners recruited for this event include the Red Cross of Silicon Valley and the Tzu Chi foundation, both of which are helping to recruit volunteers to provide logistical and medical assistance to clients.

At PHC 4, an important addition to the plethora of services offered at previous events will be the on-site participation of the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which will assist homeless clients in obtaining a personal identification (ID) card, including expediting the process and subsidizing the cost of the cards. Chris Block, Executive Director, Charities Housing Corporation, has committed to funding the first fifty ID cards.

The PHC Coordinators are working with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to include a Project Homeless Connect poster or flyer on bus lines used frequently by homeless riders, as well as to provide a shuttle or van to be used for outreach purposes during the actual event.

Fundraising efforts for PHC 4 include a silent auction, a PHC Day at 4th Street Pizza, to take place on Thursday, April 19, in which a proportion of the day's proceeds will be donated to the event, and reestablishing relationships with past corporate supporters such as IBM and Adobe.

Grant Programs

Emergency Shelter Grant

On February 1, 2007, the City announced the availability of approximately \$440,000 in funding under the federal government's Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program for nonprofit agencies that provide services to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

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By the February 23rd application deadline, the City received applications from sixteen agencies, including one agency, Cupertino Community Services, which had not been funded in previous years. On March 8, the ESG Review Committee, consisting of members of the City's Housing Department and Work2Future program, the County of Santa Clara's Homeless Concerns Coordinator, and the Executive Director of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County met to review the applications and make a recommendation to the Director of Housing. These funding recommendations are included in the draft 2007-2008 Consolidated Plan, which will be considered by the City Council at its May 8, 2007 meeting.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (Entitlement)

On March 13, 2007, the City announced the availability of \$739,000 in funding from the federal government's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) entitlement program, for nonprofit agencies who offer services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

By the March 29, application deadline, the City had received two requests for funding. The first application, from The Health Trust AIDS Services, proposes to provide stable affordable housing to low-income HIV-positive clients and their families through rental assistance and supportive services. Due to the City's role as administrator of the County of San Benito County's HOPWA allocation, the second application was from the County of San Benito Health and Human Services to provide services and housing assistance for residents of their county with HIV/AIDS. As recommended in the FY 2007-2008 Consolidated Plan, the City proposes to allocate HOPWA monies to both organizations at their previous year's funding amounts, with the remaining amount (approximately \$24,000) to be used by the City to administer the program. This recommendation is also included in the draft 2007-08 Consolidated Plan.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (Competitive)

Since 1999, the City has been working in partnership with The Health Trust on the Shared Housing Assistance Placement and Support Services Program (SHAPSS). SHAPSS is a tenant-based rental subsidy and supportive service program geared towards fostering independence for people living HIV/AIDS in Santa Clara County. The goal of the program is to provide affordable housing opportunities to very low- and low-income residents disabled by HIV/AIDS, which promote permanence, independence, dignity, and improves the overall quality of their lives. Since its inception, the program has received funding through the federal government's HOPWA competitive grants under the Special Projects of National Significance category. The program's previous three-year grant will be up at the end of this fiscal year. The City has been coordinating with HUD and The Health Trust in anticipation of seeking renewal of this important funding source for an additional three years.

Housing Trust Fund

In June 2003, the City established a Housing Trust Fund (HTF), which provides small grants to agencies for a variety of housing and homeless activities. In February 2004, the State awarded

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the City \$1.5 million, under Proposition 46, for new construction, acquisition/rehabilitation, or rehabilitation of rental housing affordable to Extremely Low Income (ELI) households and those with special needs. The City committed a \$2 million dollar match for this State Proposition 46 award.

On December 12, 2006, the City Council approved a funding commitment of \$1,700,000 to Unity Care Group, for the acquisition and rehabilitation of a multi-unit property that will house and assist eighteen youth aging out of foster care in gaining the skills and knowledge needed to live independently.

Promoting Growth and Early Self-Sufficiency (PROGRESS) Program

In October, 2006, the City Council approved funding for the implementation of a two-year "Promoting Growth and Early Self-Sufficiency" (PROGRESS) program for homeless individuals or families. This program will provide up to fifteen homeless individuals or families with rental assistance for permanent housing along with a series of wraparound services with the goal of having the participating households achieve self-sufficiency by the end of the two-year program. In addition, each household will have an escrow savings account established for them to use once they graduate from the program.

The City has been coordinating with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara on the development of the program, requirements for participating agencies, and administrative details. In addition, the work2future program will be providing job training and employment services to the PROGRESS III participants, as well as be involved with other aspects of the program as appropriate. PROGRESS III participants are expected to be selected this month, and will graduate from the program in May of 2009.

Other Homeless Initiatives

Section 8 Voucher Set-Aside for Chronic Homeless Persons

In FY 2005-2006, the City secured 100 Section 8 Vouchers specifically for persons who are chronically homeless. However, since securing the Vouchers, the Housing Authority has faced great difficulties in both identifying and contacting persons on their Section 8 waiting list who meet the criteria to be considered "chronically homeless" under this program. Therefore, to date, the Housing Authority has only been able to distribute three of these Vouchers to chronically homeless households. The City is working with the Housing Authority to make changes to its current process in order to more quickly identify and house eligible applicants.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority - Lifeline Transportation Program

On February 7, 2007, the Joint Lifeline Transportation Committee (this Committee consists of members of the County of Santa Clara and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) recommended approval of the City's proposal for an emergency Auto Repair Assistance Program (ARAP) in the amount of \$75,000. If approved, the requested \$75,000 in grant funds will be

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matched by \$75,000 in Housing Trust Fund monies to provide one-time emergency assistance with auto repair to up to 150 homeless households or those at-risk of becoming homeless with a proven long-term transportation need for employment, job training, medical treatment, or other supportive service. We expect to hear whether the City is awarded this funds in the fall of 2007.

Job Programs

The Housing Department has been working with staff from work2future on other potential programs that would assist in the City's goals of preventing and ending homelessness. Beginning in April, work2future's mobile one-stop employment services van will be regularly scheduled to serve clients of at least two of the City's homeless services programs. In addition, the Housing Department is working with work2future on a proposal to provide Housing Trust Fund monies for employment training programs for ex-offenders and women moving from homelessness to being permanently housed with the assistance of Section 8 Vouchers.

Disasters and Emergencies

Hurricane Katrina

In September of 2005, families fleeing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina began arriving in San José. The Housing Department has worked since that time with a variety of partners to identify potential permanent affordable housing for the families as well as clarify their eligibility for federal rental assistance. After residing temporarily in housing provided by San José State University, a total of 73 households, or 177 individuals, settled into permanent housing in San José with the assistance of Section 8 Vouchers provided by the Santa Clara County Housing Authority. Once they had secured permanent housing, the Housing Department continued to work with the new San José residents to identify and obtain additional resources, including: donated monthly bus passes, employment, emergency assistance (food, school clothing, auto repair, medicine, and deposit and rent subsidies), and household items. Additionally, Department staff helped to research the availability of educational and vocational programs at local community colleges, the Neighborhood Development Center, and the work2future career resource center. On April 13th, the Housing Department will hold a final event for the Katrina families.

Fires

When natural disasters, most frequently fires, affect the lives of San José residents, the City's Homeless Program staff work to make sure the residents' housing needs are being addressed. On such occasions, staff goes to the disaster site to meet with the effected residents, and work with other agencies, such as the Red Cross, to ensure that the residents' immediate needs are met. If the residents are displaced from their homes due to the disaster, the City coordinates with the Housing Services Partnership to expedite the provision of a one-time rental subsidy or deposit. Recent homes fires include those located at the Santa Teresa Apartments in which 150 residents were displaced. The City worked to provide the displaced families with new housing opportunities through a collaborative effort with the Housing Authority, the Tri-County

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Apartment Association, and the Housing Services Partnership. Additionally, the City responded to a fire at Branham House Apartments, in which all twelve displaced households were provided new units from the apartment managers, ABL Properties.

Performance Measures

The following performance measures will be used to assess the City's progress in meeting its goal of ending chronic homelessness, as laid out in its Homeless Strategy:

- Percentage of walk-in clients that are satisfied or very satisfied with the effectiveness, timeliness and courtesy of services received;
- Cumulative percentage of homeless households assisted in securing permanent housing over ten-year period 2004-2013 (based on 2004 census);
- Percentage change in the number of reports and complaints received regarding homeless encampments (annual);
- Percentage change in the number of unduplicated persons utilizing emergency shelters;
- Number of chronically homeless individuals (as defined by HUD) who were assisted in securing permanent housing;
- New federal, State or private foundation funds secured to assist efforts to end homelessness.

Department staff will be available at the Committee meeting to respond to any questions you may have about these issues or other homeless activities.


LESLEYE KRUTKO
Director of Housing