
DATE ISSUED: October 12, 2001

REPORT NO. 01-220

ATTENTION: Land Use and Housing Committee
Agenda of October 17, 2001

SUBJECT: 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program

SUMMARY

Issues -

- 1) Should a winter shelter emergency be declared?
- 2) Should the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program contained in this report be approved and implemented as proposed?
- 3) Should the City Manager be directed to negotiate and execute agreements and leases associated with implementing the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program?
- 4) Should the City Manager be directed to separate the Homeless Family Program funds (\$349,564) from the overall program funds (\$778,913)?
- 5) Should the City Auditor and Comptroller be authorized to accept and disburse funds associated with the approved 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program?

Manager's Recommendation(s) -

- 1) Declare a winter shelter emergency.
- 2) Approve the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program and implement as proposed.
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute agreements and leases associated with implementing the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program.
- 4) Direct the City Manager to separate the Homeless Family Program funds (\$349,564) from the overall program funds (\$778,913).
- 5) Authorize the City Auditor and Comptroller to accept and disburse funds associated with the approved 2001/2002 Winter Shelter.

Other Recommendations - None.

Fiscal Impact - A total of \$778,913 has been allocated for the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program from the following sources: General Fund \$21,850, Community Development Block Grant \$6,503, Emergency Shelter Grant \$25,560, Housing Commission \$445,000, Centre City Development Corporation \$25,000 and the County of San Diego, 2000-2001 Voucher Program \$30,000. The total operating budget for the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program is \$429,343. The remaining \$349,564 be is designated for operating the approved Homeless Family Program. The City will apply to renew two grants of \$100,000 each from the State of California, Housing Community Development, Emergency Housing Assistance Program for the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter and Homeless Family Programs.

BACKGROUND

City Council Policy 000-51, Comprehensive Homeless Policy, adopted June 12, 1995, serves as the current source document in addressing homelessness issues. Said policy supports the development of an emergency shelter and recommends the Continuum of Care approach whereby, "the City, in coordination with businesses, social service agencies, community groups, and other jurisdictions, assess needs and promote programs which restore people who are homeless to their optimum participation in the community." The policy further requires the City Manager to provide annual recommendations for the operation of a dispersed site, flexible homeless shelter program.

For the past fourteen years, the City has managed a temperature/weather driven shelter program and/or seasonal shelter program. In time, and with experience, the program evolved into the successful model utilized in the 2000/01 season. The program operated a 250-bed shelter for single adults and a 150-bed shelter for male veterans from December 15, 2000 through March 15, 2001. The 150-bed Family Shelter Program was extended to year-round. The City also participates in the County of San Diego Hotel/Motel Voucher Program, which is designed to shelter and case manage homeless families, the disabled and seniors.

Two grants from the State of California, Housing Community Development, Emergency Housing Assistance Program of \$100,000 each were awarded to the City's Homeless Services Program for funding the 2000-2001 Winter Shelter Program and the extended Family Shelter Program presently housed at 12th and Broadway.

DISCUSSION

In a cooperative arrangement, the City, the County of San Diego and the United Way of San Diego created the Regional Task Force on the Homeless in March 1985. In August 1999, the Task Force issued a Countywide update on the current state of homelessness. As outlined in that report, there is an estimated homeless population of 15,000 within the region, of which 6,500 are located in the City of San Diego. The Task Force further reports that, within the City of San Diego, there are currently 2,331 shelter beds available, leaving an unmet need of 4,169 beds or 64%.

The specific components of the shelter program have been developed based on past successes

and include:

- \$ Dispersed seasonal shelter program to serve approximately 300 persons. The program will operate from December 15, 2001 to March 15, 2002 (90 days).
- \$ 150 shelter beds to be housed in a sprung structure serving homeless single men and women. Placement of the shelter will be dependent upon availability.
- \$ 150 shelter beds to be housed in a sprung structure serving homeless veterans. Placement of the shelter will be dependent upon site availability.
- \$ Existing shelter providers would be compensated for expanding their shelter capacity to accommodate up to 100 family members per night.
- \$ Regional Hotel/Motel Voucher Program to be administered by the County of San Diego. The program, entering its fifth year of operation, is designed to assist families, the disabled, seniors and others as needed. The Hotel/Motel Voucher Program will begin November 1, 2001 and continue through April 1, 2002. The City will contribute \$70,000 to support regional programs as it compliments the overall effort to provide emergency shelter.
- \$ Shelter participants staying at either of the sites would be allowed to stay on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, thereby avoiding transportation and other issues.
- \$ The contract with Solutions Consortium for provision of 300 shelter beds and 100 overflow beds would be paid at a maximum rate of \$8.00 per day, per person.
- \$ Program funding partners include the San Diego Housing Commission, the Centre City Development Corporation, and the County of San Diego. The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency will assist in coordination and the provision of services to participants. Further, numerous non-profit agencies participate in the sheltering effort by providing services at no cost.
- \$ The Solutions Consortium in partnership the County Health and Human Services Agency and other nonprofit service providers will host a *housing and employment* fair.
- \$ Homeless Outreach (HOT) Teams will continue to support the Winter Shelter Program. Teams consist of two Police Officers, a County Social Worker, a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) clinician and a Project Manager. The Consortium will designate a mutually agreed upon number of shelter beds for HOT Team referrals.
- \$ A computerized coordination dispersed site intake system will be used to track participants as they progress through the Regional Continuum of Care System.
- \$ An incentive program will be implemented to encourage participants to move from the temporary shelters into established shelter programs as a means of breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Three significant changes have taken place in the provision of shelter services and homeless housing in the City since the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program.

1. The 150-bed, family shelter component of the Winter Shelter Program has been extended to year-round service. Presently the program is operating out of a retail property located at 12th and Broadway. The City has acquired the former Days Inn Motel located at 449 9th Ave. If all required approvals are received, the Family Program will be permanently sited at that location.
2. The County of San Diego in partnership with the City, the Housing Commission, Centre City Development Corporation, and several nonprofit agencies began operations of the “AB 2034 – Integrated Services Program” – a three-year, \$10.1 million program funded by the State of California to assist 250 of the most difficult-to-serve special needs homeless individuals. After eight months of operations the program has assisted more than 260 homeless individuals and has placed over 200 in transitional and permanent supportive housing.
3. Recently, LU&H approved a proposed 50-bed, Transitional Housing Program for Displaced Seniors. The program would be fully caseload managed and provide up to 35 leased rooms in two downtown SRO’s. We anticipate that the County of San Diego will provide funding for program operations and supportive services.

As a result of these changes, the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program will be re-designed to accommodate the homeless populations not served by these new or proposed programs. As in past years, the program will operate from December 15, 2001 through March 15, 2002. The 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program will be housed in two Sprung Structures. One structure will accommodate 150 single homeless adults while the second structure will house 150 homeless veterans. Numerous supportive services will be made available to these homeless individuals including, meals, case management, and adjunct referrals to health care, mental health services, employment and other counseling services.

The inclement weather conditions associated with the winter season has the potential to affect the health and safety of individuals subjected to long-term or constant exposure. Given the existing shortage of available beds, it is recommended that a winter shelter emergency be declared and a winter shelter program adopted to address the needs of the homeless.

In conclusion, it is recommended that the City Council continue implementing the Winter Shelter Program as outlined above.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Do not provide a Winter Shelter Program (this is not recommended as there is a clearly identified need and the proposed program conforms to the guidelines contained in Council Policy 0051)
2. Provide for a longer or shorter Winter Shelter Program period or provide a greater or lesser number of beds (fiscal impacts will vary accordingly).

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald G. Thurlow
Administrator
Homeless Services Program

Concur: Hank Cunningham
Director
Community and Economic Development

Concur: Debra Fischle-Faulk
Deputy Director

Community Services

Approved: Bruce A. Herring
Deputy City Manager

CUNNINGHAM/DFP/RGT