

DATE ISSUED: December 5, 2001

REPORT NO. 01-267

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of December 10, 2001

SUBJECT: Transitional Housing and Supportive Services for Victims of
Domestic Violence

SUMMARY

Issues –

- 1) Should the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement with Episcopal Community Services (ECS) to provide transitional housing to victims of domestic violence for the remaining FY02 program year?
- 2) Should the City Council authorize the Auditor and Comptroller to reallocate and expend the remaining \$71,778 of Emergency Shelter Grant Funds (ESG) to ECS for FY02?
- 3) Should the City Council direct the City Manager to review and develop a long-term strategy for delivery of transitional housing services for victims of domestic violence?

Manager's Recommendations –

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement with ECS.
- 2) Authorize the Auditor and Comptroller to reallocate ESG funds to ECS for the provision of transitional housing and supportive services to victims of domestic violence.

- 3) Direct the City Manager to review and develop a long-term strategy for delivery of transitional housing services for victims of domestic violence.

Other Recommendations – None

Fiscal Impact – ESG Funds previously allocated for this domestic violence program will be used for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2001, City Council awarded Sanctuary, a non-profit domestic violence organization, \$86,600 in ESG funds to operate their domestic violence transitional living program, Bridges. The program has been in operation for four (4) years and currently serves 33 residents. The program provides a bridge between emergency shelter and permanent housing and assists in the stabilization of the family. The 18 month comprehensive residential treatment program was developed to assist very low-income, high-risk victims and their children from devastating physical and emotional abuse. These clients reside in individual apartment units within a secured complex. The building provides 10 one-bedroom apartments for families (10 adults and 23 children). Each family is assigned a case manager to help develop a plan for self-sufficiency. Clients are required to be enrolled in school, a training program, working, or a combination of these activities. Other services include group, individual, and family counseling. Each client attends a group counseling program, which includes such areas as domestic violence education, parenting, financial management, life skills, and healthy relationships. Six (6) months post residency services are offered to all program participants. This includes on-going case management, individual/group/family counseling, job support, and community activities.

DISCUSSION

Until recently, Sanctuary participated in a domestic violence collaborative known as the Women and Children's Project of San Diego. This collaborative was awarded a Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Supportive Housing Program (SHP) grant for costs associated with housing women and children who are victims of domestic violence. They were also awarded a combination of ESG (\$86,600) and Housing Commission Trust Funds (\$65,000) totaling \$151,600. These dollars were to pay for operational costs associated with the program.

On September 5, 2001, Sanctuary's Board of Directors informed the City that effective September 6, 2001, Sanctuary would cease operations of their programs and the Board would dissolve the organization. As the fiscal agent for the collaborative, ECS would therefore assume operation of the Bridges program.

As of September 25, 2001, the City has reimbursed Sanctuary for all expenses associated with the program and the contract has been closed. The remaining ESG funds from this program total \$71,778 and it is recommended that the funds be reallocated to ECS for the provisions of transitional housing and supportive services to women and children of domestic violence.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement with ECS to provide transitional housing and supportive services for victims of domestic violence for the remainder of FY02.

Respectfully submitted,

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Community and Economic Development

Hank Cunningham, Director
Community and Economic Development

Approved: Bruce Herring
Deputy City Manager

HERRING/DFP/AIM