

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 6/09/05
Department Name: Housing and Community Dev.
Department No.: 055
Agenda Date: 06/21/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ed Moses
Director, Housing and Community Development

STAFF CONTACT: Mike Sederholm, Housing Specialist
560-1090

SUBJECT: 2005 Application for CDBG funds for a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) approving a \$35,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (State HCD) certifying that Citizen Participation requirements of the CDBG program were met, and authorizing County Housing and Community Development to dedicate \$700 of staff time to meet the 2% cash match requirement of the CDBG program.
2. Authorize the Director of the County Department of Housing and Community Development to submit the \$35,000 grant application to State HCD to fund a consultant for the establishment of a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Santa Barbara County. (Attachment B)
3. Authorize the Director to sign all documents required for submittal of the Community Development Block Grant application, execution of the grant agreement, drawdown of funds, submittal of minor amendment requests and grant administration.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 5: A High Quality of Life for All Residents

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors authorized Housing and Community Development to develop a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (hereafter 10-year plan) and to hire a consultant to facilitate such a plan during a departmental agenda item hearing on April 19th, 2005. Both the Board Letter docketed for the April 19th hearing and the presentation made at that hearing made it clear that Housing and Community Development planned to submit to the State of California an application for a Planning and Technical Assistance Community Development Block Grant to help fund the 10-year plan.

The recommendations of this Board Letter, including adoption of the attached resolution (Attachment A), are formal requirements of the State of California Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which necessitate approval from the Board of Supervisors.

With your Board's approval, Housing and Community Development will have formal authorization to apply for a CDBG Planning/Technical Assistance grant from the State of California. This grant will provide funding for Santa Barbara County to hire a consultant to work on developing a local 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Once hired, the consultant serving as project manager will lead the planning process, convene the various committees involved in the planning process, formalize the text of the 10-Year Plan, and report back to the Board of Supervisors with the results of the planning effort.

Background Information:

In December of 2004, the Housing Advisory Committee recommended that the County hire a contracted employee lead in the development of a 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness for Santa Barbara County. This recommendation was in response to the emerging recognition of the impact that the chronically homeless have on communities across the country, and the potential benefits communities could see if a plan were prepared to address this small percentage of the homeless population. The recommendation was further influenced by trends in funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), those trends being that communities without local plans to end chronic homeless have become significantly less competitive for funds for shelters and services for the homeless.

The reason why this issue is a priority for HUD is because the Bush administration has set a goal to end chronic homelessness nationwide within 10 years. A person who is chronically homeless is defined by HUD as an individual with a disability, is unaccompanied, and has either been continuously homeless for longer than one year or has been homeless four or more times within the past three years.

Further background information, including examples of planning subcommittees, responsibilities of the project manager, and potential results of the 10-year plan can be found in the draft project description attached to this Board Letter as Attachment B.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The State of California requires a jurisdiction submitting an application for CDBG funds to hold a public hearing to discuss the application. The CDBG program requires that the public meeting be noticed via a legal ad in the local newspaper. The Board of Supervisors hearing of June 21, 2005 will serve as the public meeting for this CDBG application. HCD staff will announce this public

hearing in a legal ad published in the Santa Barbara News Press on June 11, 2005. This public noticing effort will fulfill the CDBG Citizen Participation requirement as noted in Section 2 of the attached resolution (Attachment A.)

The deadline to apply for this round of CDBG PTA funding is June 30, 2005. Acceptance of CDBG funds to carry out affordable housing activities requires the County to comply with the conditions attached to those funds. Funding announcements from the State for this grant application will likely occur during the first week of August.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If the grant is awarded, the County will receive \$35,000 of CDBG funds for the preparation of a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness which includes \$1,750 for general administration, monitoring and reporting for the CDBG requirements.

The State requires a 2% cash match for PTA grants awarded to Santa Barbara County. 2% of the \$35,000 dollars applied for in this application equates to \$700 dollars of County funds required to be committed to the planning process. This requirement will be met by staff time committed by the Housing Finance Division to this project. Details are available on pages D-243 and D-244 in the 2004-2005 fiscal year operating budget.

Special Instructions:

The Authorizing Resolution requires two original signatures. Please prepare one certified copy of the Authorizing Resolution and return to Lisa Snider in room 105. One resolution will be forwarded to HCD; the other is retained in the County Administration files. The County Housing and Community Development Department will provide public notice.

Concurrence:

Auditor Controller

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO FROM THE PLANNING/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM.

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara as follows:

SECTION 1.

The Board of Supervisors has reviewed and hereby approves an application for up to:

1. \$33,250 to prepare a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Santa Barbara County
2. \$1,750 for General Administration

SECTION 2.

The Board of Supervisors has determined that federal Citizen Participation requirements were met during the development of this application.

SECTION 3.

The Board of Supervisors hereby approves the use of Affordable Housing Funds in the amount of \$700 to be used as the County's Cash Match for this application.

SECTION 4.

The Director of Housing and Community Development is hereby authorized and directed to act on the City's behalf in all matters pertaining to this application.

SECTION 5.

If the application is approved, the Director of Housing and Community Development is authorized to enter into and sign the grant agreement and any subsequent amendments with the State of California for the purposes of this grant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors held on June 14, 2005 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Susan Rose, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Santa Barbara

I, Michael Brown, County Clerk of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Supervisors on this 14th day of June, 2005.

Michael Brown, County Clerk of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California

By: _____
Michael Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
STEPHEN SHAVE STARK
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FORM
ROBERT W. GEIS
Auditor-Controller

By: _____
Deputy

ATTACHMENT B

DRAFT Project Description

10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Santa Barbara County proposes to create a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (hereafter 10-year plan) to encompass all areas of the County. The final product of the 10-year planning effort will be a document which will consist of goals, objectives, and policies proposed by a committee formed for the purpose finding solutions to the impacts felt in Santa Barbara County associated with the chronically homeless.

If this application for \$35,000 dollars is awarded, the Santa Barbara County Housing and Community Development Department will use the money as partial funding to hire a consultant to serve as project manager for the 10-year plan. This project manager will be a temporary employee, and will be responsible for leading the planning process and the various sub-committees working on specific components of the 10-year plan. Santa Barbara County anticipates that the Cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria will each provide funding to supplement the cost of hiring the 10-year plan project manager.

Background Information:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness as a situation in which a person is single, has a disability, and has been continually homeless for more than one year or has had episodes of homelessness more than four times within the most recent three years. Disabled conditions include physical impairments and mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and drug/alcohol addiction.

President Bush has set a goal to end chronic homelessness within 10 years, and as a response, HUD has set a high priority of designating federal funds to projects which work towards that goal. One of the prime reasons why ending chronic homelessness is such a high priority for the current Presidential Administration is that studies have found that while the chronically homeless make up between 10-15% of the overall homeless population, they consume more than 50% of the resources made available to the homeless populations.

In response to the goal of ending chronic homelessness on a national level, many city and county governments across the country have developed 10-year plans of their own. The Santa Barbara County Housing Advisory Committee first recommended the creation of a 10-year plan for Santa Barbara County in December of 2004. This committee of volunteer citizens studied various 10-year plans from other cities and counties prior to its December 2004 formal recommendation. 10-year plans such as those created in San Francisco and Mariposa County, Arizona were seen as potential model documents for the 10-year plan in Santa Barbara County, and therefore, the Housing Advisory Committee recommends a committee structure similar to those used in those jurisdictions.

Anticipated Timeline

The process of creating a 10-year plan will begin by the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for people interested in serving as project manager. This will occur during the mid-summer of 2005 prior to the expected notice of whether or not this grant will be awarded. The RFQ is expected to be circulated for response for approximately 30 days. During this 30 day period, the

County Housing Advisory Committee will work on assembling the various committees which will be participating in the development of the 10-year plan.

The project manager is expected to be hired during the early part of September, 2005. Once hired, the project manager will spend approximately six months leading the volunteers working on the 10-year plan in creating goals, objectives and policies specific to the focus of whichever subcommittee they are serving on. Potential subcommittees include: finance, prevention and discharge planning, mainstream health and employment, outreach, assessment and behavioral health, and permanent supportive housing. The planning process will also pay close attention to the specific needs of the three urban areas of the County, which may vary due to differences in the demographic makeup of each of the cities.

At the completion of the six month planning period, the 10-year plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in a full public hearing as an informational item. This is expected to occur in the Spring of 2006. However, if the 10-year plan includes any major policy recommendations affecting the manner in which the County conducts its normal activities, then those specific items will need to come back to the Board of Supervisors for ultimate approval.

Anticipated Timeline for 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

June 30, 2005	Grant application submitted to State HCD
July-August, 2005	RFQ circulated for potential project managers, assembly of volunteers to serve on 10-year planning committee
September, 2005	Project manager hired
September, 2005 – March 2006	Committee meetings to create the 10-year plan
Spring, 2006	10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness presented to Board of Supervisors

Implementation and Monitoring of the 10-Year Plan

Ideally, the 10-year plan will include clear steps for implementation of its policies, and will have simple monitoring tools to measure the effectiveness of the document. Specific language ensuring such implementation and monitoring cannot be pointed to at this time since the plan itself has not yet been created. However, the County Housing Advisory Committee and its Homelessness Subcommittee have taken on the role as the oversight committee of the 10-year plan, and have dedicated themselves to ensure that the plan be written in a manner which facilitates complete implementation. Furthermore, the County Housing and Community Development Department will take the lead role in monitoring the 10-year plan, and will provide annual reports of the results seen in Santa Barbara County through its annual Continuum of Care grant application to HUD.

Potential Results of the 10-Year Plan

Results of other plans have shown that jurisdictions which are successful in reducing the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness see significant savings of funds in terms of services provided and bed-nights used at local agencies and shelters. Such funds saved in Santa Barbara County as a result of creating a 10-year plan could be reallocated to shelters and service providers in Santa Barbara County that serve those people who are homeless yet do not fit the federal definition of chronically homeless, such as families, domestic violence victims, and other non-disabled single people experiencing temporary homelessness.