

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 6/23/03
Department: HCD
Budget Unit: 055
Agenda Date: 7/8/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: None
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ed Moses, Director of Housing and Community Development

STAFF CONTACT: Carlos Jimenez, Jr., Housing Program Specialist ext.3521

SUBJECT: Homeless Management Information System Regional Memorandum of Understanding

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the County Administrator to sign and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the City of Oxnard, to plan for, develop and implement a regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), pursuant to Santa Barbara County's 2003 Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program (SHP), grant application that will be submitted to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 15, 2003. (See Exhibit A for the Project Description, and Exhibit B for MOU)

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goals No. 1, No. 2 and No. 5: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, and Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In October 2001, Congress issued a directive to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to implement a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), with the goal of providing more systematic, accurate and timely data gathering and information regarding the nation's homeless population. The directive set forth a date of October 2004, as the timeframe within which the HMIS would be required to be implemented by all grantees. All jurisdictions (Continuums of Care), receiving federal SHP funds, are required to apply for the acquisition of a HMIS prior to this deadline. Therefore, the 2003

Continuum of Care grant funding cycle is the final application period in which to apply and meet the mandate.

As no new funding sources have been allocated by congress to plan, develop and implement these systems, the request for funding must come from the existing pool of continuum's pro-rata share of funds. This puts an additional strain on current grant recipients seeking renewals at funding levels they currently receive. To address this Santa Barbara County is applying as the lead agency within the context of a new HMIS Grant application, and will provide equipment, technology and resources to local grantees. In working with other jurisdictions in planning for acquiring a system, Santa Barbara is able to realize cost savings through economies of scale, thereby lessening the impact on current grantee's budgets. The regional model should also provide richer data regarding homelessness across the coastal region and provide for unduplicated counts of homeless persons consistent with Congressional directive.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in mandates or service levels is anticipated; however, should the County receive a grant award, the County would be obligated to adhere to the regulations set forth by HUD and the conditions of the grant agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Although there is a 20% matching fund requirement associated with the system acquisition, county staff time can be used for the match and staff currently devotes considerable resources to oversight and administration of the Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program homeless grant initiative without federal financial support. Within the HMIS grant application, one equivalent full-time employee may be supported through the grant. As indicated, additional staff time spent working on the project billed outside of the grant can be applied as cash match under HUD guidelines.

Currently, staff time dedicated to management, administration, community outreach and participation in directing the "Continuum of Care" totals approximately \$30,000 annually outside federal assistance. Therefore, the grant can be used to supplement current staff time dedicated to grant management, while meeting project cash match requirements over the three-year grant period. The attached budget (Exhibit C) reflects the project costs over a three-year grant/project implementation period.

Special Instructions:

Prepare a Minute Order confirming Board approval and call extension 3520 for pick up.

Concurrence:

None