

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: 3/18/03
Department Name: Housing and Community
Development
Department No.: 990
Agenda Date: 4/8/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ed Moses, Director
Housing and Community Development Department

Roger Heroux, Director
Department of Public Health

Dr. James Broderick, Director
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department

STAFF: Pat Gabel, Housing Program Supervisor
CONTACT: Extension 3522

SUBJECT: 2003 Collaborative Initiative to Help End Chronic Homelessness Grant Application

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors: 1) Authorize the Director of Housing and Community Development to submit a collaborative grant application to the United States Interagency Council on the Homeless for their 2003 *Collaborative Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness* competitive grant program 2) Authorize the County Administrator (or his designee(s)), to execute all certifications and forms included with the submission of the grant application and 3) Authorize the Director of Housing and Community Development, the Director of the County Public Health Department, and the Director of the County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department to execute a Memorandum of Understanding in substantially the form as attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

Goal II; Community Health and Safety: A safe and healthy community in which to live, work and visit.
Goal V; Quality of life: A high quality of life for all residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

This application represents a countywide, collaborative interdepartmental response to a funding opportunity to serve homeless individuals suffering from addiction and/or physical and mental health issues, and to provide much needed permanent housing opportunities within the context of ongoing service provision.

On January 27, 2003, the United States Interagency Council on the Homeless, announced a Notice of Funding Availability (Federal Register, volume 68, no.17), for \$35 million in competitive grant funds to promote innovative, collaborative approaches to addressing chronic homelessness. The Interagency Council on the Homeless defines chronic homelessness as “an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.” Disabling conditions may involve substance abuse disorders, addiction, serious mental health illness, developmental disability, chronic physical illness or disability, or a co-occurrence of any of these symptoms. In short, the chronic homeless are the most difficult to provide housing for, and, in the absence of intensive support services, are unlikely to be able to remain independently housed.

The Interagency Council on the Homeless is coordinating the funding through three federal departments that address homelessness: The Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs. This model is mirrored in the local grant application that involves coordination and collaboration between the county’s Housing and Community Development Department, Public Health Department, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department, as well as the Veteran’s Administration.

The county’s grant proposal will encompass acquiring an existing property within the City of Lompoc, and the leasing of twenty-two (22), scattered-site, one-bedroom apartments in the south coast and Santa Maria housing market areas. All told, thirty individuals will be provided permanent housing under the program. The proposal will link existing services directly to these properties to ensure that program participants receive all of the support services necessary to their remaining permanently housed. Project partner, Telecare Corporation, will enroll clients into the program from existing client lists. Although the sites identified attendant to the project will be in the three locations discussed above, project beneficiaries will cross all supervisorial boundaries.

Currently, the county provides these services to the homeless at various locations throughout the county such as shelters or through outreach efforts by field staff; however, this innovative model will link the services directly to housing to promote permanency and avoid episodic cycles of homelessness amongst this most vulnerable population.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in mandates and service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

With regard to the funding for the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health component of the grant, federal funding levels provide for 70% of the initial funding during the second year of the grant, and 40% for the third year. It is expected thereafter that the funding be self-sustaining through other means outside ongoing federal aid. In terms of the operations and leasing items pursuant to the housing component, after the initial three-year grant period, these funds will be renewed through the county’s annual Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program, in its annual application to HUD; there is no match requirement pursuant to the leasing portion and the 25% cash match for project operations will be met through project sponsor resources at time of renewal. As with the housing component, public health funding will be subject to renewal through the grant renewal process, and any required matched will be met as they have been within the context of current funding.

Special Instructions:

Please return a copy of the meeting minutes to Lisa Snider, Housing and Community Development Department