



**SACRAMENTO
HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

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May 11, 1987

Law and Legislative Committee
of the Sacramento City Council
Sacramento, CA

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: City/County Endorsement of SB 752, Just One Break
Employment Program

SUMMARY

This report recommends City and County endorsement of SB 752, the Just One Break (JOB) employment program, authored by Senator Leroy Greene, for homeless persons and transmittal of a letter of support to designated members of the State Assembly and Senate as indicated on Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The legislation proposed under SB 752 is modeled after the JOB program currently in operation in Sacramento which was designed by the Agency Coordinator of Homeless Programs. Sacramento's JOB program was implemented in 1985 and has been very successful in securing employment for homeless individuals. Because this program has enabled people to get off General Assistance in favor of paid work, there has been a substantial savings to the County (see Attachment 2). As an example of its overall effectiveness, Sacramento's JOB program achieved employment for a total of 587 individuals, in both permanent and temporary capacities, from July 1986 through March 1987.

Sacramento's successful model program is proposed for statewide adoption by Senator Leroy Greene. City and County endorsement of SB 752 will reflect Sacramento's continuing commitment to address and formulate long-term solutions to the problem of homelessness.

This report provides detailed information on SB 752, the Just One Break (JOB) program for the homeless. The bill would require the Employment Development Department to develop a program to provide jobs to homeless individuals residing in emergency shelters.

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The Legislature has found that conservative estimates suggest approximately 75,000 persons are now homeless in California as a result of economic, physical, and mental conditions that are beyond their control. Churches, local governments, and nonprofit organizations providing assistance to the homeless have been overwhelmed by a new population of homeless persons: families with children, individuals with employable skills, and formerly middle class families and individuals with long work histories.

There are a variety of factors which contribute to homelessness, including a lack of jobs, family breakup and domestic violence, and the shortage of affordable housing. Once homeless, a person's chances of finding work, income, and housing are seriously limited without some assistance. Many homeless persons have been unemployed for an extended period of time. To help break this trend there is an immediate need to develop specific employment and job training programs for the employable homeless.

The proposed provisions of SB 752 mandate that the Employment Development Department (EDD) address the employment needs of the homeless by developing a program to provide jobs to homeless individuals residing in shelters. The program will be operated through local field offices, located as close as possible to the major shelters and pertinent community resources. A designated employee in each field office will serve as liaison to the shelters.

The program will work to improve the job search skills of homeless individuals and link together employable homeless individuals with employers. Toward these goals, the department shall do the following:

- a. Provide training in job search skills, including interviewing, resume writing, and job searching.
- b. Provide for new job development through affirmative marketing to the local business community.
- c. Conduct job referral and job placement activities, including screening and interviewing of homeless individuals for job openings.
- d. Conduct outreach services to ensure maximum participation by the homeless residing in emergency shelters.

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The department shall prepare a bimonthly progress report for each participating jurisdiction. These reports shall include:

- a. The number and type of jobs identified for the homeless.
- b. The number and type of jobs to which homeless individuals have been referred.
- c. The number of applications for employment accepted by the department for homeless individuals residing in shelters.

Each local legislative body that requests EDD to operate a program shall form an advisory board comprised of the following members:

- a. An elected official from the participating local jurisdiction.
- b. A representative from local government responsible for administering homeless programs.
- c. A representative from a nonprofit operator of a major homeless shelter participating in the program.
- d. Three representatives from the local business community. These representatives shall come from a large business, a small business, and the local chamber of commerce.
- e. A representative from EDD.

This advisory board shall ensure the successful implementation of the program, meeting bimonthly to review progress reports. In addition, the board will recommend ways to expand employment opportunities for the homeless, remove obstacles to the effective implementation of the program, and help improve marketing of the program to the local business community.

The EDD shall work with the local coordinator of homeless programs to overcome problems involving an absence of transportation services for homeless individuals in the program. The department may use petty cash to assist homeless persons with transportation costs and other needs immediately necessary to enable the individual to be referred to a job. A local jurisdiction participating in the program shall provide a matching financial commitment to ensure that homeless persons can utilize public transportation to travel to and from places of work.

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FINANCIAL DATA

SB 752 states that "A local jurisdiction participating in the program shall provide a matching financial commitment to ensure that homeless persons can utilize public transportation to travel to and from places of work and can otherwise be referred to a job." Further, it is the intent of SB 752 that the program be funded through existing federal, state, and local resources as may be available.

In that SB 752 is based on the existing program in Sacramento, it would require no additional funding allocation. The matching financial commitment referred to in the bill is already a matter of policy in Sacramento through our contract with the Social Services Coordinator. For those counties with no existing program, the cost savings in General Assistance benefits would more than justify this matching expenditure.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

SB 752 is based on the existing program in Sacramento and therefore, if passed, would merely mandate the policy for the State Employment Development Department.

VOTE AND RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSION

At its regular meeting of May 4, 1987, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission adopted a motion recommending approval of the attached resolution. The votes were as follows;

AYES: Glud, Moose, Pettit, Sanchez, Sheldon, Simpson,
Wiggins, Wooley, Yew, Amundson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Simon

ABSENT: None

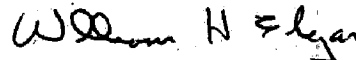
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RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval of the endorsement of SB 752 and authorization to transmit the attached letter to the State Assembly and Senate.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM H. EDGAR
Executive Director

Contact Person: John Molloy
440-1360

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DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB 752

Dear Members of the State Assembly and Senate:

The City of Sacramento wishes to convey its support for passage of SB 752, the Just One Break (JOB) employment program for the homeless, as authored by Senator Leroy Greene.

Through its numerous programs, the City of Sacramento has demonstrated a strong commitment to assisting the homeless. The City is not solely concerned with providing emergency shelter, but also has sought to help homeless persons resolve their crisis situation. In pursuit of this goal, the City has recognized the development of employment opportunity as an unequalled priority. Employment is essential for homeless persons seeking the goal of independence.

Sacramento's Just One Break (JOB) program has proven very effective in helping homeless people obtain work. In Sacramento, from July of 1986 through April 30, 1987, 683 men and women found either temporary or permanent employment through this program.

Through its cooperation, the Sacramento branch of the State Employment Development Department has contributed to the

success of the Just One Break Program. The Sacramento EDD has provided a variety of support services which has significantly increased the ability of the JOB program to aid homeless people in securing employment.

It is our belief that a statewide law should be enacted requiring that all duly requested EDD branches provide the same services as the Sacramento branch. While a mandate may not appear necessary to some, the fact remains that presently there are only a few EDD branches contributing to such an effort.

It is our belief that the success of Sacramento's Just One Break (JOB) program in finding employment for homeless persons merits duplication in other areas of California. The passage of SB 752 will not only help numerous homeless people attempting to resolve their homelessness, it will benefit the entire State as well.

The City of Sacramento urges you affirmative response to this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

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Mayor

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JUST ONE BREAK (JOB) PROGRAM ANALYSIS
FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD

The following is an analysis of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency's Just One Break (JOB) program in contributing to the financial well-being of the County by helping people out of homelessness and into the work force. This report focuses on a six-month period, from July through December 1986, in which 106 men entered into the employment program. Contrasts are made between the earnings of the participants and the amount of savings to Sacramento County which terminated 106 General Assistance (GA) recipients as a result of this program.

Each person was hired at least at the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour and worked 40 hours per week. At this rate, a given person made \$3,484.00 over the six months. The combined before tax earnings of the 106 men equals \$369,304.00.

Four counties are used in demonstrating what it would have cost each county to provide general assistance payments for 106 men over the same six-month period. All of the following figures apply to 1986.

1. In Sacramento County, the GA allotment for a single person was set at \$221.00 per month for July and August, increasing to \$247.00 per month from September through December. The combined six-month period would have provided each GA recipient with \$1,430.00. Therefore, the total GA amount for all 106 men over this period would have been \$151,580.00.
2. In Los Angeles County, the GA allotment for a single person was set at \$228.00 per month for July through September, increasing to \$247.00 per month for October through December. The combined six-month period would have provided each GA recipient with \$1,425.00. Thus, the total GA amount for all 106 men over the six-month period would have been \$151,050.00.
3. In San Diego County, the GA allotment for a single person was set at \$225.00 per month over the July through December period. The combined six-month period would have provided each GA recipient with \$1,350.00. Therefore, the total GA amount for all 106 men over this period would have been \$143,100.00.

4. In San Francisco County, from July through December the GA allotment for a single person was set at \$303.00 per month. The combined six-month period would have provided each GA recipient with \$1,818.00. Thus, the total GA amount for all 106 men would have totaled \$192,708.00 over six months.

The obvious benefit of the JOB Program is that instead of an outlay of county funds in welfare payments, the county benefits by the employment of persons. We believe that in addition to that benefit, there will be a positive ripple effect in the community as a whole ranging from cost savings to environmental improvements in downtown areas.

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