



**Sacramento
Housing &
Redevelopment
Agency**

REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento
915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www.CityofSacramento.org

Staff Report
October 27, 2009

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Title: Proposed Winter Shelter Strategy

Location/Council District: All

Recommendation: Receive and Comment

Contact: Cassandra Jennings, Assistant City Manager, 808-8888, and La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director, SHRA, 440-1319

Presenters: Lisa Bates, Deputy Executive Director, SHRA, and Tim Brown, Executive Director, Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative.

Department: City Manager's Office and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)

Description/Analysis

Issue: Over the past several years, the County's Department of Human Assistance (DHA) has provided Winter Shelter beds. Last winter, the City provided additional funding to increase bed capacity and extend the shelter at Cal Expo to July 1st. A total of 268 beds were provided which included 204 beds at Cal Expo, 20 beds at the Volunteers of America (VOA) North A Shelter, 32 beds at Salvation Army Lodge and 12 beds at St. John's Shelter. The total cost, including the expanded services, was approximately \$1.2 million with the County providing \$680,000 and the City providing \$ 500,000. The City also allocated funds for permanent housing. This year, the County, faced with continued General Fund reductions, prioritized year-round shelter beds over partial year beds, leaving no funding for a Winter Shelter solution.

In response to the fact that winter shelter beds were full nearly every night last year and that the upcoming winter is purported to be more cold and wet than previous winters, the Policy Board to End Homelessness (Policy Board) formed a workgroup in late Summer 2009 consisting of members from the County, the

Proposed Winter Shelter Strategy

City, SHRA, and shelter providers, as well as members from the Policy Board, to develop a winter shelter strategy. The result of this collaborative effort includes a multi-faceted approach to increase shelter and housing capacity in the upcoming winter months and to provide "24/7" capacity (versus requiring people to leave shelters during the daytime). In summary, the forthcoming plan will free up existing shelter beds, increase capacity at existing shelters and transitional housing locations, and provide for an expanded motel voucher program.

The principles of the strategy are to:

- Maximize the existing homeless infrastructure (facilities, provider network, programs);
- Increase opportunities for 24/7 shelter or permanent/transitional housing;
- Establish a shelter bed reservation system to manage and account for who is being served and how, and to ensure the right resources reach the right households;
- Build capacity in the existing shelter system by efficiently and expediently placing individuals and families in the most appropriate housing options;
- Reduce the concentration of additional capacity in any one particular location;
- Reduce costs for the additional capacity; and
- Identify faith and private donation revenue base to assist with the effort.

The strategy will include a total of **419** additional beds that will be available in the winter. It will include:

267 additional beds in existing programs by providing more transitional housing solutions. Specifically it includes:

- **100** family and individual beds by using the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program to house individuals and families using existing shelters;
- **105** family beds at Mather Campus to be serviced by St. John's Shelter;
- **50** additional individual beds within the Readiness transitional housing program; and
- **12** family beds at the Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Community (SAEHC) at Mather.

52 new shelter beds including:

- 32 individual beds serving men at the VOA North 5th Street location; and
- 20 individual beds serving women at the Salvation Army Lodge.

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100 new motel voucher beds that will be available through existing provider networks. The funding will be through anticipated City resources, private donations, and current nonprofit provider resources. Motel vouchers will be available as needed for couples, people with pets, and those who do not qualify or for whom space is not available in the other options. This program will be managed by the staff of the Policy Board.

Policy Considerations: Strategies recommended in this report are consistent with the adopted Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Continuum of Care Program to address homelessness.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

There is no project or program activity recommended in this report; therefore CEQA does not apply pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b) (5).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

There is no project of program activity recommended in this report and no commitment of federal funding; therefore NEPA does not apply.

Committee/Commission Action: Staff anticipates the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission will approve the Agency’s budget at its October 21st meeting which identifies funding for the Mather Community Campus and motel voucher solution of this strategy.

Rationale for Recommendation: The strategy provides for a collaborative public and private solution to increasing winter shelter options for the region’s most vulnerable population during the coldest months of the year. This approach also provides for significantly more shelter capacity at half the cost to the City and County from last year.

Financial Considerations: This report is to receive and file, but the recommended funding options for the Winter Overflow solution are as follows:

Program		Additional Funding for Winter Overflow		
Name	Beds	City	County	Total
SAEHC at Mather	12	\$0	TANF	TANF
Salvation Army (single women)	20	\$0	\$48,000	\$48,000
VOA - N. 5th St. (at detox facility)	32	\$0	\$96,000	\$96,000
St. Johns at Mather	105	\$0	\$24,000+TANF	\$24,000+TANF
Motel Vouchers (various locations)	100	\$149,000	\$0	\$149,000
TOTAL	269	\$149,000	\$168,000	\$317,000
Existing Programs				
Readiness and HPRP	150	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL BEDS	419			

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The funding source for the motel voucher beds is City PILOT funds identified in the SHRA's budget recommendation for the Council meeting of November 3, 2009. City PILOT funds are fees payments in lieu of taxes that are collected from the Housing Authority and are contributed to public service activities.

M/WBE Considerations: There is no action with this report; therefore minority and Women's Business enterprise requirements do not apply.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
CASSANDRA H.B. JENNINGS
Assistant City Manager

Respectfully Submitted by: 
LA SHELLE DOZIER
Executive Director
Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Recommendation Approved:


RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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