


Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
September 9, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From:  Weldon Rucker, City Manager
Subject: Application to HUD for additional Shelter Plus Care rental subsidies

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,892,000 for a five-year contract to provide tenant-based rental assistance through the Shelter Plus Care Program, and execute any resultant agreements.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

In order to be considered for funding, the deadline for submission of the application is August 20, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Shelter Plus Care grant allows 8% of funds, which would be \$231,360 over the five years of the proposed grant, to be used to administer the rental subsidy. The Housing Department will use these funds for a part-time Berkeley Housing Authority Representative to conduct the grant-related administrative activities. No matching funds are required from the City.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The U. S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are jointly funding an initiative entitled: "Ending Chronic Homelessness Through Employment and Housing." The Housing Department is collaborating with the Center for Independent Living, the Jobs for the Homeless Consortium, the Homeless Action Center, the County's Workforce Investment Board, and the City's WorkSource One-Stop Center to request funding through this initiative to serve 40 adults who are chronically homeless and disabled due to a serious mental illness, history of drug and alcohol dependency, and/or HIV/AIDS.

The funds will be used to combine stable housing with intensive services to assist chronically homeless individuals to become self-sufficient. The Department of Labor will provide up to \$625,000 per year to the community agencies to provide employment and housing stabilization

services, with the County Workforce Investment Board as the fiscal agent for the grant. HUD will fund the housing component of the project through tenant-based Shelter Plus Care rental subsidies, with the Housing Department as the grantee for these funds. If the grant is funded, it will significantly increase the City's resources for providing stable housing and services for chronically homeless adults. The Housing Department will be able to integrate the program with the City's existing Shelter Plus Care Program.

BACKGROUND

Since 1995, the City of Berkeley Shelter Plus Care Program has been an important component of the continuum of care available to disabled homeless people. The Shelter Plus Care Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing subsidies for people who are homeless with a disability related to a serious mental illness, substance abuse, or HIV/AIDS. The program combines a rental subsidy with ongoing supportive services to assist chronically homeless individuals and families to obtain and maintain housing.

The Berkeley Shelter Plus Care Program is collaboration between the Housing Department, Berkeley Mental Health, the Jobs Consortium, the Homeless Action Center, and six additional community agencies. The Housing Department provides operational and programmatic oversight; the Berkeley Housing Authority inspects rental units to ensure that each unit meets basic health quality standards, and makes monthly rental subsidy payments to property owners; Berkeley Mental Health and the community agencies provide ongoing case management and support services to participants in the program.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION


Currently, the City of Berkeley operates four Shelter Plus Care grants providing 160 units of supportive housing for people who are homeless and disabled. This has been an extremely successful program targeting the City's most difficult to serve population. If the proposed application is funded, it will significantly increase the resources available for the City to provide stable housing to chronically homeless individuals who need both rental assistance and ongoing supportive services in order to remain housed.

CONTACT PERSON

Stephen Barton, Housing Department Director
Andrew Wicker, Community Services Specialist

981-5400
981-5418

Approved:



Stephen Barton, Director
Housing Department

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A NEW GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,892,000 TO PROVIDE TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE SHELTER PLUS CARE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE ANY RESULTANT AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has released a request for applications for Shelter Plus Care rental subsidies in conjunction with employment and supportive services funding through the U.S. Department of Labor;

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley currently administers the Shelter Plus Care Program, consistent with the City adopted Continuum of Care Plan, to provide rental subsidies and supportive services to people who are homeless and disabled; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Independent Living, the Jobs for the Homeless Consortium, the Homeless Action Center, and the WorkSource One-Stop Center are collaborating with the Housing Department to provide employment and supportive services to the 40 participants to be enrolled in the program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit a new grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,892,000 to provided tenant-based rental assistance through the Shelter Plus Care Supportive Housing Program and execute any resultant agreements.