



Good Neighbors

San Diego
Housing Commission

REPORT

DATE: For the Agenda of February 9, 2001

ITEM 101

REPORT NO. HCR01-022

SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for a ROSS Public Housing Apprenticeship Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Citywide)

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the Housing Commission authorize a grant application for Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Apprenticeship Program funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to amend the FY01 Housing Commission Budget to reflect the addition of awarded funds (Attachment 1), and execute all required documents?

Recommendation: That the Housing Commission authorize an application for HUD's ROSS Apprenticeship Program, and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the CEO to amend the FY01 Housing Commission Budget and execute all required documents.

Fiscal Impact: A successful application will result in receipt of approximately \$400,000 in program funds, with a portion of that funding available for program staffing. No local funds will be required to administer this program.

Previous Related Action(s): In 2000, the Housing Commission approved submission of applications for two ROSS programs in HUD's SuperNOFA process: the Resident Opportunity and Services Delivery Model Program, a \$500,000 program to support the Housing Commission's Learning Opportunity Centers; and the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Service Coordinator, a \$55,000 program to help Public Housing residents, who are elderly and disabled, obtain supportive services that are needed to maintain independent living. Both applications were funded.



BACKGROUND

HUD's Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program links services to public housing and Section 8 residents by providing grants for supportive services, empowerment activities and assistance to families in becoming economically self sufficient. The ROSS Apprenticeship Program will provide employment opportunities in the building trades through job training and participation in approved apprenticeship programs.

Since the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996, San Diego has mirrored the nation in witnessing a dramatic reduction in the number of families receiving public assistance. However, there remains an extremely large number of long-term welfare recipients, and working poor, who lack vocational skills, as well as access to an ever increasingly complex system of resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

DISCUSSION

The Housing Commission has demonstrated a high degree of success in providing a full range of workforce development services to "hard to serve" Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, through state Welfare-to-Work Funds. This proposed ROSS Apprenticeship Program will enable the Housing Commission to continue and expand these efforts through contracts with an established case management program and workforce training service providers.

The ROSS Apprenticeship Program will focus on training women for nontraditional building trade occupations. The program will provide outreach to recruit and enroll 40 Public Housing and/or Section 8 residents, during a 36-month program. Extensive case management will provide supportive services to remove barriers to training and employment. Participants, who may be 16 years of age and older, will learn job seeking skills and introduction to Adult Basic Education software.

Participants will enroll in JobLinks, a six (6) week Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program. JobLinks will provide an introduction to 14 apprenticeship programs offered by the local trade unions, such as carpenters, electricians and cement masons. Also included are 16 hours per week of classroom training and 16 hours per week of paid work experience. Upon successful completion, participants will receive job placement assistance or be enrolled in an approved building trades apprenticeship program. A Flow Chart of the proposed program is included as Attachment 2.

CONCLUSION

The ROSS Apprenticeship Program supports the vision of the Housing Commission to assist resident families in their pursuit of economic self-reliance through access to workforce development activities and other supportive services.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not authorize a Housing Commission grant application for ROSS Apprenticeship Program funds. This is not recommended, because a successful application, due to HUD on February 26, will provide additional resources to continue and expand access to workforce development services for Public Housing and Section 8 families seeking self-sufficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Duplechan
Director of Housing Programs

**Signature on File
With Original Document**

Approved by,

Elizabeth C. Morris
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Draft FY01 Budget Revision
2. Proposed ROSS Apprenticeship Program Flowchart