



# REPORT

DATE: For the Agenda of November 17, 2000 **ITEM 104**

REPORT NO.: HCR00-112

SUBJECT: Funding for the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program for the Homeless (Citywide)

## SUMMARY

**Issue:** Should the Housing Commission recommend Housing Authority approval of continued support by the Commission of the City's Homeless Winter Shelter Program?

**Recommendation:** That the Housing Commission recommend Housing Authority approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 1) between the Housing Commission and the City of San Diego to provide up to \$445,000 for the City's FY01 Winter Shelter Program.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Housing Commission's FY01 approved budget includes \$445,000 for the FY01 Winter Shelter Program.

### Certificate of Funding Availability:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Certificate No.: | 01-113          |
| Amount:          | \$445,000       |
| Revenue Sources: | various         |
| Division:        | Housing Finance |
| Line Item:       | Loans & Grants  |

**Affordable Housing Impact:** Although this program provides no permanent affordable housing, the City anticipates serving approximately 550 persons per night through the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program during the 90-day period extending from December 15, 2000 to March 15, 2001.



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**Consolidated Plan Consistency:** The City's 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program is included in the Consolidated Plan among the strategies to address homeless needs.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Task Force on the Homeless reports approximately 6,500 homeless persons within the city of San Diego and a total of 15,000 homeless persons within the County. Current resources are available to serve only one third of the total number within the City, thereby leaving a significant deficit of beds. This is a serious problem, and it becomes even more severe during the winter months. In anticipation of the City Council taking action this month to declare a winter emergency, Housing Commission staff is recommending approval of up to \$445,000 to defray costs associated with the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program. This amount is included in the Housing Commission's FY01 budget for this purpose.

## **DISCUSSION**

For several years, the Housing Commission has participated as a funding partner in the City of San Diego's Winter Shelter Program. A description of the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program is provided as Attachment 2. The core program will consist of three components, for a total of 550 beds, to be provided as follows: 250 beds for single adults, 150 beds for veterans, and 150 beds for seniors and others. Also, 100 additional beds will be available to accommodate overflows. Sites are currently being confirmed for each component. It is anticipated that the Newton Street cul-de-sac will be utilized again this year for the singles component, and a Post Office parking area on Midway will be utilized again for the veterans' component. Also under study this year is a site to house a new component to 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program for seniors. The seniors' component is contingent on the availability of in-kind resources, including leasing of space.

Efforts are being pursued this year to locate a family site and extend it into a year round shelter for families after March 15, 2001. The site under consideration for the family shelter is the Days Inn on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Cortez Hill. A financing package is being developed to generate the \$3.5 million needed to acquire that site. The Housing Commission has been approached regarding a possible \$500,000 loan or grant. Other sources of possible financing include redevelopment funds, state funds, federal funds, County resources and private support.

As in recent years, the City would partner with a nonprofit consortium named Solutions to operate the Winter Shelter Program. Services from the County would also be available.

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The anticipated cost for the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program is \$600,000, including funding for families, for the three-month period. In addition to the San Diego Housing Commission, the Centre City Development Corporation, CDBG funds and in-kind support from the County will be utilized to support the program. Moreover, another \$550,000 has been allocated for a Countywide hotel voucher program, which utilizes monies from various jurisdictions throughout the region.

In conclusion, resources can accommodate only one-third of the homeless in the City of San Diego. With inclement weather approaching, it is important that those who are not housed receive shelter. The Winter Shelter Program, a component of the City's continuum of care and its affordable housing strategy, provides temporary shelter during the period of December 15, 2000 and March 15, 2001 when weather conditions in San Diego are coldest.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not approve the additional funds totaling \$445,000, in part or in whole, towards San Diego's 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven L. Mikelman  
Director of Operations

**Signature on File  
With Original Document**

Approved by,

Elizabeth C. Morris  
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1) Draft MOU for the 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program  
2) 2000/2001 Winter Shelter Program Description