

## HOMELESS

### Homeless Needs

\*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

- 1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.***
- 2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.***
- 3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.***

### Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

**(1)** The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is the lead entity for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LACoC) planning process. LAHSA is also charged with conducting the homeless count and facilitating the development of a ten-year plan to end homelessness in the LACoC. LAHSA uses ESG and CDBG funds to facilitate entrance into the Continuum for families and individuals who are homeless in the City of Los Angeles.

Projects funded by LAHSA using Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds support a variety of critical programs, such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, job training, access centers, and supportive services.

**(2)** Homeless individuals and families graduating from transitional or emergency housing programs are provided a series of support services designed to assist them in both obtaining mainstream resources like public assistance, mental health services, and health care services, as well as assisting to build life skills necessary to sustain placement in permanent housing. Agencies receiving ESG and CDBG funding through the Homeless Shelter and Services programs employ housing relocation specialists or case managers to assist the resident in locating a suitable home, placing them on a waiting list if necessary, and assist them in completing the rental application.

Case managers may also work with the client to overcome poor credit history, obtain funds for move-in expenses and/or connect them to service providers who can provide life skill training, provide job placement, day care and other services to support their transition to permanent housing and independent living. Additionally, agencies will refer clients to affordable housing projects owned by non-profit organizations.

These projects often have units that are subsidized through Section 8 Federal Housing Assistance Program, or other state and federal programs. Agencies are able to assist clients in accessing tenant-based Section 8 certificates and are required to provide one year of follow-up supportive services to clients who utilize the certificates.

Permanent supportive housing projects are often geared to a specific population such as persons who are mentally ill or people living with HIV/AIDS.

Generally, each project has a waiting list, and case managers must be proactive in placing their clients on these lists at the appropriate point in their transition process so that a unit will be available upon graduation from the program. Case managers from transitional housing projects often provide follow-up to their clients for six months in the permanent housing setting to ensure that the clients have the life skills necessary to maintain residence in their new home.

In order for formerly homeless people to remain housed for the long term, it is vital that they have a reliable income from employment or from mainstream benefit programs. Case managers in emergency and transitional programs determine eligibility for mainstream<sup>1</sup> benefit programs and assist clients to enroll. This may include helping the client gather required documentation such as a driver's license or California I.D. card, birth certificate, social security card, and pay stubs, etc. Case managers explain the eligibility requirements for receiving mainstream benefits and assist clients in completing application forms and scheduling initial appointments. Clients are generally provided with referral packets to each program for which they are eligible, including addresses and directions to the benefits office, transportation assistance (i.e. taxi vouchers, bus tokens), and program information sheets.

Homeless families are also assisted in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing through the Housing Assistance Pilot Program (HAPP). This program constitutes a new approach to helping homeless families obtain and remain in safe affordable permanent housing. The HAPP provides a monthly financial assistance to homeless families for up to one year. The amount of financial assistance provided will gradually decrease during this one-year period as the family's income increases or stabilizes. The amount of financial assistance provided decreases by 10% each month after the fifth month.

This program provides a new approach to transitioning families from homelessness by providing vital rental assistance during the first few months of securing permanent housing. The HAPP will also increase economic opportunities for the families served by enabling them to increase and/or stabilize their skills and income during the period that financial assistance is provided.

**(3)** No new resources were obtained from the 2006 SuperNOFA. All projects funded through the 2006 SuperNOFA were renewals.

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<sup>1</sup> Mainstream benefits include Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, Social Security, General Public Assistance, Temporary Aid to Needy Families, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Veterans Benefits, Unemployment Benefits, Veterans Health Care, Medicaid, and Food Stamps.

## Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

### *1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.*

1. LAHSA funds the Rent-to-Prevent Eviction Program which helps persons at risk of becoming homeless to maintain their housing. The goal of this project is to provide one-time emergency assistance to approximately 127 households per year. In addition to providing funds for rent payments, the assisted households are assessed for other needs and provided services to ensure that they do not become homeless. During the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the project provided rental assistance to 103 households at risk of becoming homeless or 81.1% of its annual goal.

Through the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) and Shelter Plus Care programs (S+C), HACLA provides housing assistance to over 3,000 households. While not part of the city's Consolidated Plan, these programs are important components of HACLA's overall strategy to address the needs of the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. They complement and strengthen LAHSA's efforts to address the housing and supportive needs of the homeless. HACLA has administered these programs for several years, and HUD has asked the city to report on their progress in both the annual Action Plans and CAPER documents.

- **Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation SRO:** The goal of this program is to increase the local stock of single room occupancy (SRO) units available for homeless individuals. Similar to the Moderate Rehabilitation program, HUD's strategy is to provide funding for upgrades to existing distressed housing, such as dilapidated SRO hotels, in order to preserve the supply of affordable and decent units. The Mod. Rehab. SRO program targets homeless individuals coming directly from the streets, emergency shelters, or transitional housing. Since 1990, HACLA has secured \$69,223,002 in Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation funding, totaling 1,181 subsidized units.
- **Shelter + Care:** The Shelter+Care (S+C) program is designed to provide permanent housing combined with supportive services for homeless persons and their families. S+C targets the chronically homeless suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, or some combination of these disabilities, coming directly from the streets, emergency shelters, or transitional housing. HUD requires contracted nonprofit agencies, termed "sponsors," to provide supportive services equal to or greater than the aggregate amount of rental assistance awarded. HACLA has participated in the Shelter + Care program since 1992, receiving cumulative funding totaling \$80,961,871 for 1990 subsidized units.

### **Section 8 Collaboratives (Demonstration Grant Projects)**

- **LA HOPE Collaborative**

This demonstration grant targets the chronically homeless population who wish to work. Individuals receive initial support through the Assembly Bill (AB) 2034 Program. They are housed through the Shelter + Care Program. A total of \$2,992,440 has been awarded to HACLA.

Of the 76 funded certificates, 70 have been approved and issued contracts, with 68 of these leased and 2 looking for housing.

- **Skid Row Collaborative**

This demonstration grant targets the chronically homeless population with chronic substance abuse issues. Individuals are housed through the Shelter+Care Program. A total of \$689,760 was awarded to HACLA. The project now houses 20 individuals.

- **Connections Collaborative (HUD CDC Housing and Health Study Connections)**

This demonstration grant targets the homeless, or those at imminent risk of being homeless, who have AIDS/HIV. The Housing Authority has been awarded \$1,080,000 rental assistance for 105 individuals and their families. So far 93 of the 105 participants have located housing, almost half of who received 18 months of subsidy. HACLA is in the process of converting 44 participants into the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

## Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

- 1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets).**
- 2. Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives**
  - a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.**
  - b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.**
- 3. Matching Resources**
  - a. Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.**
- 4. State Method of Distribution**
  - a. States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as subrecipients.**
- 5. Activity and Beneficiary Data**
  - a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart or other reports showing ESGP expenditures by type of activity. Also describe any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this information.**
  - b. Homeless Discharge Coordination**
    - i. As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.**
    - c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.**

1. In 2006-2007, LAHSA funded 24-hour emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. These programs target a wide variety of homeless persons including those with special needs such as mental illness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and youth. LAHSA funded 16 emergency programs with 191 beds, and 12 transitional programs with 470 beds. LAHSA also funded supportive services only projects. The purpose of these projects was to provide supplemental services to homeless persons already housed in emergency and transitional housing. Additionally, LAHSA funded two emergency shelter programs that specifically

targeted outreach to homeless persons living on the streets in downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood.

2. The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program is intended to support Continuum of Care activities to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living, as well as to prevent homelessness. LAHSA uses the ESG funds specifically for homeless persons with little or no income who are in immediate need of assistance. The ESG funds were used to provide safe and sanitary housing through emergency shelters, overnight shelters, and the seasonal winter shelters. Additionally, ESG funds were used to fund access centers, whose staff provides housing referrals and placement to homeless persons entering the continuum. LAHSA also used CDBG funds for emergency shelter services. Additionally, CDBG funds were used to provide enhanced services for homeless persons already in the Continuum. These services included transitional housing and placement into permanent housing.

**2(b)** LAHSA used ESG funds with a focus on the homeless population with the greatest need. The ESG funds provided the foundation of basic services needed to support 34,647 homeless persons. The LACoC addresses the full spectrum of services needed to address homelessness, which begins with basic emergency services and ends with permanent housing and self-sufficiency. LAHSA targeted the ESG funds for homeless persons entering the Continuum. The services that were funded by ESG provide the first steps needed for homeless persons to move successfully through the Continuum. Without these services homeless persons would lack the foundation needed to obtain and maintain stable housing and income.

Additionally, some CDBG funds supplement the ESG funds (emergency shelter services); however, most of the CDBG funds are used to address supportive services for 9,283 homeless persons in transitional housing programs, and permanent housing assistance. ESG and CDBG funds are leveraged with City General funds and Supportive Housing Program funds that are also administered by LAHSA to support the array of homeless services in the LACoC.

3. LAHSA meets the match requirements of ESG by using General Funds from the City of Los Angeles to fund the Overnight Emergency Shelter Program. This program provides 825 beds in overnight shelters throughout the City of Los Angeles. The program provides a bed, two hot meals, transportation to and from the shelter and optional case management services.

4. Not applicable

5. **Program Performance for ESG follows:**

**Winter Shelter Program:** The Winter Shelter Program is a multi-funded cold-weather shelter program that provides over 1,700 additional emergency shelter beds per month to the Continuum from December 1 through March 15 of the following year. Case managers employed by the winter shelters during the 2006-07 program year engaged 5,042 unduplicated homeless persons in case management and placed *668 persons in non-Winter Shelter Program emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing for the duration of the Winter Shelter Program; 978 were referred to transitional housing and 238 were referred to permanent housing; 59 were referred to housing for victims of domestic violence.*

During the winter season, Homeless Health Care provided 27 trainings with subjects such as: Case Management Skills for Shelter Staff, Dealing with Difficult People, Health and Safety, Mental Health, Substance Use, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis, Working with Diverse Populations: Focus on Transgender, and Food Safety for 427 winter shelter agency staff persons at 7 agencies.

**Emergency Response Team (ERT):** ERT staff targets urban homeless encampments and makeshift campgrounds in rural areas with the objective of moving homeless persons into shelter before they are removed by law enforcement, city or county services departments, the U.S. Forest Service, utility companies, or other private or government organizations. The goal of this project is to serve 2,000 homeless persons per year. From April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the ERT responded to 1,045 requests by elected officials, businesses, and the community; made 8,629 visits to encampments and other locations; and provided housing referrals or placement to 880 homeless people living on the streets and in encampments in Los Angeles.

**Access Centers:** The project funds three homeless access centers. Designed as a "one-stop shop", these centers reduce barriers to participation in the homeless continuum of care. The services provided at the Centers include mental health counseling, crisis counseling, mail/message pick-up, and referrals to other social services and housing programs. From April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, Access Centers provided services to 3,369 unduplicated homeless persons. Of those served, 1,606 were placed into emergency and 880 were placed in transitional housing.

#### **Job Training and Placement Program**

This program provides employment training, which includes working in the Chrysalis StreetWorks program cleaning streets in Central City East. The program assists homeless persons to find permanent and temporary paid positions. The goal of this project was to serve 60 unduplicated homeless persons. The long-term goal of this program is to increase homeless persons' skills and income through training and employment.

In the period of April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the program served 60 homeless persons. Of those served, 12 were placed into employment and 9 remained employed for at least four months.

#### **Drop-In Center**

The Downtown Drop-In Center is a 24-hour, 7 day, drop-in center that offers an array of services to homeless persons. Services offered include showers, toilets, laundry, case management, health screening, and counseling. There are six respite beds for women and 24 respite beds for men. Homeless persons may use the respite bed for up to 8 hours. The goal of this project was to serve 5,000 unduplicated homeless persons.

In the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the Drop-In Center served 5,742 unduplicated homeless persons. The Drop-in Center placed 2110 persons into emergency shelter, of those placed into emergency shelter, 361 persons remained housed for 1 month. The program also provided 1,877 unduplicated homeless persons access to 32 respite beds.

**Homeless Shelter and Services:** The goal of this project is to provide emergency shelter and supportive services to a target of 1,820 homeless persons. In the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 the project served 4,262 (including children) unduplicated homeless persons.

The program placed 355 homeless persons into transitional housing, 531 homeless persons into permanent housing; and assisted 878 homeless persons to obtain benefits through mainstream resources (i.e. Social Security, Veteran benefits, General Relief, etc.) or employment.

**Program Expenditures for ESG**

ESG FUNDS	
Program	Expenditure
Winter Shelter Program	\$ 1,407,886
Emergency Response Team (ERT)	\$ 145,783
Access Centers	\$ 139,205
Job Training And Placement Program	\$ 139,205
Drop-In Center	\$ 470,959
Homeless Shelter and Services:	\$ 442,972
<b>Total ESG expenditures for services</b>	<b>\$ 2,736,805</b>

**5(b)** As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.

**5(c)** ESG funds are not used for this activity.

**Homeless Program Performance for CDBG**

**Emergency Shelter Targeting Homeless on the Streets in Downtown LA:** (Con Plan name – “Year Round Emergency Shelter - Downtown”) The goal of this project is to provide 64 beds of emergency shelter and case management to encourage 150 chronically homeless persons living on the streets of Skid Row to enter the Continuum of Care per year. During the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the project served 443 homeless persons. Of those served, 85 were placed into transitional housing, and 39 were placed into permanent housing.

**Emergency Shelter Targeting Homeless on the Streets in Hollywood:** (Con Plan name “Year Round Emergency Shelter - Hollywood”) The goal of this project was to provide 65 beds of emergency shelter and case management to 125 chronically homeless persons living on the street or in encampments per year. For the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the project served 358 homeless persons.

Of the persons served, 75 were placed in transitional housing; and 27 of those placed in transitional housing remained in said housing for 4 months. 10 homeless persons were placed in permanent housing, 7 of those placed in permanent housing remained housed in said housing for 4 months.

**Homeless Shelter and Services:** The goal of this project is to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to a target of 1,820 homeless persons. In the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 the project served 3,497 (including children) unduplicated homeless persons.

The program placed 178 homeless persons into transitional housing, 414 homeless persons into permanent housing; and assisted 878 homeless persons to obtain benefits through mainstream resources (i.e. Social Security, Veteran benefits, General Relief, etc.).

**Special Activities by CBDOs:** Funds under this category were used to fund five different homeless providers in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. The projects included transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services programs specifically targeting homeless persons living in Skid Row. Services provided included case management, counseling, benefits advocacy, money management and recovery services, public showers and toilets.

The goal of this project was to serve 2,172 homeless persons. During the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the project served 4,118 homeless people; placed 395 unemployed homeless into employment; placed 92 homeless persons into transitional housing, and 275 in permanent housing.

**Winter Shelter Program:** The Winter Shelter Program is a multi-funded cold-weather shelter program that provides over 1,700 additional emergency shelter beds per month to the Continuum from December 1 through March 15 of the following year. Case managers employed by the winter shelters engaged 5,042 unduplicated homeless persons in case management and placed 668 persons in non-Winter Shelter Program emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing for the duration of the Winter Shelter Program; 978 were referred to transitional housing and 238 were referred to permanent housing; 59 were referred to housing for victims of domestic violence. State program year

During the winter season Homeless Health Care provided 27 trainings with subjects such as: Case Management Skills for Shelter Staff, Dealing with Difficult People, Health and Safety, Mental Health, Substance Use, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis, Working with Diverse Populations: Focus on Transgender, and Food Safety for 427 winter shelter agency staff persons at 7 agencies.

**Assistance for Skid Row Families:** The goal of this project is to provide outreach, referral, case management, crisis intervention, hotel vouchers, and housing placement to 580 homeless people in families living on the streets of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. During the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 the program served 513 homeless persons, placed 75 homeless persons into transitional housing and 81 homeless persons into permanent housing.

**Rent-to- Prevent Eviction Program**

LAHSA funds the Rent-to-Prevent Eviction Program, which helps persons at risk of becoming homeless maintain their housing. The goal of this project is to provide one-time emergency assistance to approximately 127 households per year.

In addition to providing funds for rent payments, the assisted households are assessed for other needs and provided services to ensure that they do not become homeless. During the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, the project provided rental assistance to 103 households at risk of becoming homeless.

**Program Expenditures for CDBG (These numbers may change pending closeout of the grants)**

CDBG FUNDS	
Program	Expenditure
Emergency Shelter Targeting Homeless on the Streets in Downtown LA	\$ 500,000
Emergency Shelter Targeting Homeless on the Streets in Hollywood	\$ 550,826
Homeless Shelter and Services	\$1,942,478
Special Activities by Community Based Development Organizations	\$4,261,178
Winter Shelter Program	\$ 68,555
Assistance for Skid Row Families	\$ 126,141
Rent-to-Prevent Eviction	\$ 106,620
<b>Total CDBG expenditures for services</b>	<b>\$7,555,798</b>