COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
of the County of Los Angeles
2 Coral Circle • Monterey Park, CA 91755
323.890.7001 • TTY: 323.838.7449 • www.lacdc.org

Gloria Molina
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Zev Yaroslavsky
Don Knabe
Michael D. Antonovich
Commissioners

Carlos Jackson
Executive Director

January 9, 2007

Honorable Board of Commissioners
Community Development Commission of the
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR OPERATING COSTS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AT TWO HOMELESS SERVICES AGENCIES IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (2)
(3 Vote)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that operations and services at JWCH Institute, Inc.'s (JWCH) Medical Mobile Unit, located at 1910 W. Sunset Blvd. #650, in the City of Los Angeles; and New Image Emergency Shelter for the Homeless, Inc.'s (New Image) Project Fresh Start, located at 1545 Newton Street, in the City of Los Angeles; are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as described herein, because the activities will not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

2. Approve the transfer to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) of up to $311,000 in County general funds (CGF) allocated to the Second Supervisorial District, which will then be granted to JWCH for operating costs and supportive services to enable their mobile medical unit to serve three additional homeless shelters in the Second District for one year.

3. Approve the transfer to LAHSA of up to $500,000 in CGF allocated to the Second Supervisorial District, which will then be granted to New Image for operating costs and supportive services for one year for 30 transitional beds at its Project Fresh Start transitional housing program for homeless women.

4. Authorize the Executive Director of the Commission to accept from the CAO the CGF, with all funds to be administered by LAHSA pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

The purpose of the recommended actions is to accept CGF, which will then be granted to JWCH and New Image for operating costs and supportive services to enhance the homeless support system in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The actions described herein will be funded with a portion of the $20,000,000 in CGF approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2005 to fund the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocating $3,600,000 in CGF to each Supervisorial District, with a ten percent administrative fee in the total amount of $2,000,000 reserved for the Commission.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA includes a total of $811,000 in CGF, for operating costs and supportive services associated with expanding services, operations and additional beds for homeless individuals.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In order to address the staggering numbers of homeless individuals and families and the corresponding critical shortage of beds in Los Angeles County, on June 20, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocation of $20,000,000 for the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors directed the Commission to administer the funding and oversee all of the projects. The Board also instituted a method by which each Board Office selects recipients of CGF based on agency experience and the need for homeless services in the community, among other considerations. The programs to receive funding follow.

On May 9, 2006, your Board authorized the Commission to negotiate and enter into an Interagency Agreement with LAHSA for the distribution of CGF and to amend the Interagency Agreement to incorporate additional projects proposed by each Supervisorial District. The Interagency Agreement authorizes the Commission to transfer to LAHSA CGF for operating and supportive services, which are then granted to homeless service providers. The Commission was also authorized to transfer administrative fees to LAHSA on a project-by-project basis.

JWCH's Medical Mobile Unit is located in the City of Los Angeles. The Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA will be amended to include $311,000 in CGF allocated to the Second Supervisorial District for the cost of operation and medical services, for which LAHSA will enter into a grant agreement with JWCH. This allocation will allow the existing mobile medical unit to provide medical services to three additional homeless shelters in the Second District.

New Image will fund its transitional housing program to house homeless women for up to six months through Project Fresh Start. The Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA will be amended to include $500,000 in CGF allocated to the Second Supervisorial District for the cost of operation and supportive services for Project Fresh Start, for which LAHSA will enter into a grant agreement with New Image.

Complete descriptions of JWCH's Mobile Medical Unit and New Image's Project Fresh Start, are provided as Attachments A and B, respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

Pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulation, Part 58, Section 58.34 (a)(4), these actions are exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), because they involve activities that will not alter existing environmental conditions. These activities are not subject to the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15060(c)(3) and 15378 because they are not defined as a project under CEQA and do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

Approval of these actions will allow for an increase in transitional housing, emergency beds and services available for homeless individuals and families in the County.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director

Attachments: 2

ATTACHMENT A
JWCH INSTITUTE, INC.
MEDICAL MOBILE UNIT

JWCH Institute, Inc. (JWCH) is a private, nonprofit agency founded forty-five years ago by concerned Los Angeles County Department of Health Services staff physicians. JWCH operates a Medical Outreach Team that brings medical services to people living in alleys, parks, freeway underpasses, shelters and missions. The health services provided include assessments and testing for tuberculosis (TB), HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases; hepatitis screening and vaccination; treatment of minor illnesses; and directed referrals to primary care providers, medical specialty providers and dental clinics. The Medical Outreach Team refers persons found to have positive TB and/or HIV tests to JWCH Medical clinics.

Most of the patients seen at shelters are chronically homeless. Many are dually diagnosed with a mental illness and substance use disorder. These patients are assessed through a standard intake process that screens for medical history, medication use, vital signs, family history of illnesses, and social history (alcohol and drug use). Patients with commonly encountered complaints such as rashes, cough, cold, sore throat, sinus, skin infections, and muscle aches/pains are treated through the Medical Mobile Unit when on-site at the shelter. Patients with chronic health issues such as diabetes, asthma, hypertension, cancer, etc., are triaged for follow-up care to the JWCH Weingart Medical Clinic.

The Medical Outreach Team is supported by its Medical Mobile Unit, a 40-foot vehicle with two exam/counseling rooms, which visits designated shelter locations in the Second Supervisiorial District in the evenings Monday through Friday. The mobile unit currently provides services at the Midnight Mission and various transitional housing programs of SRO Housing Corporation and Skid Row Housing Trust.

The grant of CGF funds will allow the medical outreach team to expand the medical mobile unit's services by scheduling additional stops at New Image Shelter, MJB Recovery, and People Helping People. Services will be provided twice weekly at each of the designated shelters for one year. This will enable the medical mobile unit to provide medical services for 730 additional clients at shelters for homeless persons.

Operations and Services Funds	$311,000
Total request	**$311,000**

ATTACHMENT B

NEW IMAGE EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS, INC.
PROJECT FRESH START

New Image Emergency Shelter for the Homeless, Inc. (New Image) is dedicated to long-term support of homeless persons in order to reintegrate homeless individuals and families into the community. It operates programs through the entire continuum of care year round, and is the largest provider of temporary emergency shelter services in Los Angeles County during the winter months.

This agency has served over 600,000 homeless and low income individuals and families since it was founded in 1990. In addition to a street outreach team targeting adults and youth, it operates a year round and winter emergency shelter with up to 420 beds, as well as a transitional housing facility for 36 single men and women. Homeless persons are offered access to the homeless support system to help meet their most basic needs, and when they are ready, they can move from the street into shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing.

Project Fresh Start is a new program that will expand New Image's existing continuum of services through a transitional housing program for homeless women. Beds for up to 30 women will be available throughout the year to help them make the transition off the streets. The goal is to provide safe temporary housing with access to social services that will allow the women to stabilize, and to develop skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency and eventually transition to permanent housing. The program will be located at 1527 E. Newton Street in the City of Los Angeles, close to public transportation, community colleges, hospitals, the Department of Public Social Services, and other social service agencies. Services will include comprehensive case management, housing assistance and placement, transportation, life skills, credit restoration, and medical services. Project Fresh Start will be leveraged with additional funding from a private foundation/trust and other public sources.

Operations and Service Funds	$ 500,000
Total request	**$ 500,000**