County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE REPROGRAMMING OF FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 UNSPENT HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE FUNDING (ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the reprogramming of unspent Fiscal Year 2006-07 Homeless Prevention Initiative ongoing funding which has become one-time funding as follows:

   - $905,000 to sustain ten (10) existing Recuperative Care Beds at Weingart Center for two years;
   - $384,000 to fund underestimated costs for new Recuperative Care Beds to be located at the Bell Shelter for two years; and
   - $851,310, from December 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009, to fund Department of Children and Family Services staff who participate on the Skid Row Assessment Team which provides services for the Skid Row Families Demonstration Project.

Approved on 12-4-07

2. Approve a change in HPI program language from "Stabilization Centers" to "Community Homeless Services/Centers" to better reflect the creation of centers that meet individual communities needs to address homelessness.

3. Approve program modifications for the Homeless Prevention Initiative Move-In Costs for Single Adults and the CalWORKs 12-month Rental Subsidy Programs, administered by the Department of Public Social Services.

Approved on 12-4-07

4. Approve the attached Request for Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of $560,000 fully funded by one-time unspent Homeless Initiative Funding in order to fund the three initiatives listed in the above.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On April 4, 2006, your Board approved the Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI), which consisted of two categories of funding: $15.4 million in County General Funds for ongoing programs; and $80 million one-time County General Funds to develop innovative programs. Both funding categories focus on reducing or preventing homelessness. Due to delays in implementation, $2.197 million from the ongoing programs was unspent during Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 and is now available for reprogramming. This amount does not include the unspent Stabilization Center (Community Homeless Services/Centers) funding; your discretionary homeless and housing funds.

After a thorough review of the homeless and housing efforts, the following priorities were identified and are recommended for funding using the HPI funds available for reprogramming:

- **Weingart Center Recuperative Care Beds:** The most critical funding gap is the potential elimination of funding for 20 of the existing 45 Recuperative Care Beds at the Weingart Center in Skid Row. This loss of funding was only recently brought to our attention. The 20 beds are critical to the Department of Health Services (DHS) for use by homeless persons released from the County's acute care hospitals. Funding for the 20 Recuperative Care Beds has been provided for the last two years by a group of foundations led by the Weingart Foundation. Funding expired September 30, 2007. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) met with the Weingart Foundation staff who has agreed to recommend to their Board continued funding for 10 of the 20 beds for an additional two years contingent upon the County picking up the costs for the other 10 beds. In addition, Weingart agreed to continue funding the front-end cost to allow the time needed to secure your Board's approval of this arrangement.

- **Fifteen New Recuperative Care Beds - Gap Funding:** The gap funding is needed as the DHS Recuperative Care Beds contractor, JWCH, estimates that these beds are more expensive to operate at the Bell Shelter than the current facility on Skid Row. The amount provided will cover the increased operating costs for the two year duration of this project as approved by your Board in September 2006.

- **DCFS Staff to Support the Skid Row Families Assessment Team (SRAT):** The SRAT is a multi-departmental County team comprised of staff from the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), DHS, Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), and DPSS. The SRAT is co-located at various agencies serving homeless families in Skid Row. The SRAT identify and assess homeless families in an effort to connect them to services that will enable their transition off the street into permanent supportive housing. The SRAT also works in conjunction with the Skid Row Families Demonstration Project (SRFDP) to move families out of Skid Row into safe and stable

shelter and supportive housing as quickly as possible. In FY 2006-07, DCFS staff participating on the SRAT was funded with County General Funds. These positions were not funded in FY 2007-08. DCFS is unable to claim State/Federal funds for these positions because the SRAT's work is not strictly child maltreatment investigation. The recommended HPI County General Funds will ensure DCFS' continued participation with the SRAT through June 2009.

Stabilization Centers (Community Homeless Services/Centers)

On April 4, 2006, your Board approved the concept of creating five Stabilization Centers (Centers) strategically located in each of your Supervisorial District. Your Board instructed this Office to obtain majority consent from the local governing body and support from the respective community in which a proposed Center was to be sited. CEO staff has met with various local city governments, Councils of Government (COG), community-based providers, and homeless advocates to discuss the siting of these Centers. Based on the information gathered, we learned the Centers are likely to be very different from one another depending on the needs of the homeless community within the unique geographic areas. To better identify this resource, we believe the term Community Homeless Services/Centers, should be used instead of Stabilization Centers.

DPSS Program Changes

In addition to the priority funding gaps mentioned above, program changes are recommended to increase utilization of two DPSS programs funded by one-time dollars through the HPI/Homeless and Housing Program Fund (HHPF): (1) Move-In Costs for Single Adults; and (2) CalWORKs 12-month Rental Subsidy Programs.

- The Move-In Costs for Single Adults program was implemented in March 2007, and is designed to pay for move-in expenses for single adults exiting emergency or transitional shelters. The current target population for this program is single adults currently receiving General Relief (GR) and/or Food Stamps (FS), and single adults currently receiving Social Security Income (SSI) and who previously received GR and/or FS. To be eligible for this program, individuals must have income sufficient to sustain their monthly rent. As of August 31, 2007, DPSS has only issued Move-In Costs for Single Adults Program payments to six individuals. To increase utilization, it is recommended that the Program be expanded to add as potential recipients single individuals who: 1) are exiting emergency or transitional shelters; and 2) have received GR and/or FS within the last two years and have income to sustain monthly rent. This change would eliminate the requirement that former recipients of GR or FS be receiving SSI to qualify for this benefit, thus permitting individuals who may now be able to move into permanent housing due to income from employment rather than SSI. This amendment furthers the HPI goal of preventing homelessness as the move-in costs may be an important part of the ability of a low wage employed person to secure permanent housing.

- The 12-Month Rental Subsidy Assistance Program is available to CalWORKs families exiting emergency shelters, transitional housing, or similar temporary group housing. The Program provides up to $300 per month in rental subsidy for non-subsidized housing. The amount of rental subsidy is determined by the family size. To be eligible for the rental subsidy, the family must be referred by the shelter/emergency housing being exited. To date, utilization of this Program has been extremely low, with only 25 families receiving the subsidy. The key factor in the low utilization appears to be the inadequacy of the subsidy, when coupled with the CalWORKs grant, to enable families in shelters to secure permanent housing. Accordingly, we propose to increase the 12-month rental subsidy as follows: For families of one or two persons, increase the monthly subsidy from $200 to $400. For families of three persons, increase the monthly subsidy from $250 to $450. For families of four persons or more, increase the monthly subsidy from $300 to $500. We believe the increase will allow families, given the current rental housing market, a better chance to find suitable housing.

These proposed changes will not modify the total one-time HHPF funding for these projects; $1.1 million for Move-In Costs for Single Adults and $4.5 million for the CalWORKs 12-Month Rental Subsidy Assistance Programs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions are consistent with the County Strategic Plan Services Excellence (Goal 1), Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4), Children and Families' Well-Being (Goal 5).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The approval of these recommendations to reprogram unspent funds, change the reference from "Stabilization Centers" to "Community Homeless Services/Centers", and authorize amendments to the two DPSS administered HPI Homeless Programs will not require any additional funding. The funding source is County General Funds and is included in the HHPF. To fund the FY 2007-08 costs, a Budget Adjustment to transfer $301,000 to DCFS and $259,000 to DHS is attached for your approval. The balance of the funds will be incorporated into the FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 departmental budgets.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed recommendations will continue to address the long-term needs of homeless clients and reduce the cost to the County's health and human service infrastructure associated with clients cycling in-and-out of expensive systems. Through enhanced coordination and alignment of resources, savings generated through this preventive approach may be used to further support additional homeless prevention initiatives and/or augment Countywide efforts.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The approval of these recommendations will enhance programs serving the County's homeless population, and will maximize the County's efforts towards reducing the current homeless population. In addition, the requested action will minimize the potential for increased homelessness throughout the County. Approval will also result in continuing efforts to house homeless families and individuals and will result in cost avoidance related to reduced emergency room visits, hospital stays, incarceration of homeless individuals, and to the County's Justice and Health and Social Service System in general.

CONCLUSION

Based on the 2007 Homeless Count, there are approximately 74,000 homeless people living in Los Angeles County. Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with your Board's continued leadership to improve the lives of homeless and at-risk homeless persons as the recommended programs will further strengthen critical services for this population. Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office-Service Integration Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:LS:KH
GS:MDC:hn

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Dr. Bruce A. Chernof, Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services
Patricia Ploehn, Director of Children and Family Services

PINK

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICIAL COPY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S. NO.

DEPARTMENT OF **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

NOV. 20, 2007

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

FY 2007-08

3 - VOTES

SOURCES

Homeless and Housing Program
A01-AO-26685-2000
Services and Supplies
$259,000.

Department of Children and Family Services
A01-CH-2600-6800
Intrafund Transfer
$301,000

USES

Health Services Adminstration
A01-HS-20000-2000
Services and Supplies
$259,000.

Department of Children and Family Services
A01-CH-26200-1000
Salary and Employee Benefits
$301,000.

JUSTIFICATION

As part of the Los Angeles County Homeless Preventin Initiative, this adjustment is to provide funding to the Department of Health Services for the Recuperative Care Pilot Project and to the Department of Children and Family Services for the Skid Row Assessment Team.

Lari Sheehan
Manager, CEO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR – ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY

NO. 20

APPROVED AS REQUESTED AS REVISED

20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APPROVED (AS REVISED): BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 20

BY DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

SEND 6 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER