



# County of Santa Cruz 0079

## HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

Cecilia Espinola, Administrator  
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September 26, 2001

AGENDA: October 2, 2001

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

### UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PRE-EVICTION PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

During Fiscal Year 2001-2002 budget hearings, the Human Resources Agency (HRA) Administrator provided an update on the recent start-up of Emergency Pre-Eviction Program services, operated by the Community Action Board (CAB). At that time, your Board directed the HRA Administrator to return with a report on emergency pre-eviction program models and potential funding for the continuation of the Emergency Pre-Eviction Services. This letter will provide your Board with information on the effectiveness of the start-up program, a discussion of the best practices for pre-eviction services, and a recommendation for continuing this service which prevents families from falling into homelessness.

#### Background

On September 26, 2000, your Board directed HRA to work with the Continuum of Care Coordinating Group to identify a short-term project or projects to meet the most critical needs identified in the Santa Cruz County Homeless 2000 Census and Needs Assessment. Following an extensive review of the Needs Assessment, the Coordinating Group agreed that preventing further homelessness, especially that of families with children, was a high priority.

The most significant short-term need identified by the Coordinating Group to address this priority was the provision of emergency pre-eviction services. Low-income families experiencing emergencies such as temporary loss of income due to illness, seasonal layoff, or interrupted transportation services are more prone to face eviction because they have no other available resources. A program providing timely assistance to prevent eviction allows the family to maintain its permanent housing while addressing the short-term emergency and avoiding the crisis of homelessness.

To address this need, the Coordinating Group suggested that the County build on a pre-existing program offered through CAB. This program which has been in operation for five years, serves residents of the Cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola, and receives ongoing funding support from those jurisdictions. The city of Capitola's contribution is \$50,000 and the City of Santa Cruz contributes \$85,000. Based on this recommendation, on March 27, 2001 your Board authorized HRA to enter into a contract with the CAB for \$14,500 to provide emergency pre-eviction services to eligible Santa Cruz County residents,

particularly families with children in imminent danger of eviction. This new initiative was coordinated with the existing rental/mortgage assistance program funded by the Cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola.

The County funded Emergency Pre-Eviction Program started April 1, 2001. The agency's final program report showed program funds had been expended within three months, and the average payment to landlords was \$586 per family or individual. A follow-up survey of benefited participants indicated that **89%** of those served since April 1, 2001 had remained in their residence. Attachment 1 provides final statistics on the population served.

### **Program Models**

At your Board's direction, HRA **has** also conducted a review of other emergency rental assistance programs to draw on best practices, in the event the Emergency Pre-Eviction Program is reauthorized. Emergency pre-eviction assistance programs are an essential element to a continuum of services addressing and preventing homelessness. As offered in other communities, emergency pre-eviction assistance programs generally operate in three distinctly different modes. The first mode simply provides a grant of the emergency payment, after a brief eligibility screening. The second type of program makes payments on behalf of assisted renters at risk of eviction, but the payments are considered a loan to be repaid by the assisted family. The third program model provides time-limited emergency rental assistance **as** a grant to eligible families, but also provide case management services and individual referrals to targeted service providers.

Although results from this program have been limited, staff believes continued support for the CAB operated Emergency Pre-Eviction Program will allow for the opportunity to make referrals to case management and other housing support services and more conclusively determine recommended program guidelines and results. Such program coordination can have a clear and measurable impact on preventing homelessness and the negative effects it has on family stability and self-sufficiency. These measures can be clearly defined with a full year of operation.

### **Funding**

Since a pre-eviction emergency assistance program would benefit families with children with income less than 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines, HRA staff has identified \$50,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) incentive funds available to support the continuation of the County Emergency Pre-eviction Program. This one-time funding, which bears no associated County costs, would allow the program to operate through the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Since the TANF incentive funds are not considered an ongoing resource, staff will work with the Continuum of Care Coordinating Group to determine a detailed program design and identify possible funding sources for this program in the future. It might also be noted that although TANF incentive funds may only service low-income families with children, HRA would work closely with CAB to operate the program to coordinate referrals of individuals facing eviction to other available emergency services, such **as** General Assistance, CalWORKs, and Supplemental Security Income.

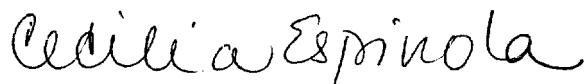
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IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report and;
2. Authorize the HRA Administrator to negotiate a \$50,000 contract with the Community Action Board for emergency pre-eviction services for families with children, and return to your Board on or before November 6, 2001 for approval of the agreement.

Very truly yours,



CECILIA ESPINOLA  
Administrator

Attachment

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RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office  
Community Action Board

# UPDATE ON PILOT EMERGENCY PRE-EVICTION FUND POPULATION SERVED

## ATTACHMENT I

Category	Count	Category	Count
<b>1. Gender</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>	<b>6. Family Size</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
a. male	24	a. one	5
b. female	29	b. two	4
TOTAL	53	c. three	5
		d. four	2
		e. five	1
		f. six	2
<b>2. Age</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>	g. seven	0
a. 0-5	6	h. eight or more	0
b. 6-11	14	TOTAL	19
c. 12-17	8	<b>7. Source of Family Income</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
d. 18-23	2	a. No income	6
e. 24-44	17	b. TANF (exempt)	2
f. 45-54	3	c. SSI	1
g. 55-59	3	d. Social Security	1
TOTAL	53	e. Pension	0
		f. General Assistance	0
		g. Unemployment Ins.	6
<b>3. Ethnicity/Race</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>	h. Food Stamps	5
a. Black not Hispanic	4	i. Veterans Benefits	0
b. White not Hispanic	22	j. Long- term Housing Assistance	0
c. Hispanic Origin	26	k. Employment +other income source	4
d. Native American	0	L. Employment	2
e. Asian	0	m. Other	2
f. Other	1	n. unduplicated Number of families reporting income	19
TOTAL	53		
<b>4. Education</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>		
a. 0-8	32	<b>8. Level Family Income % if HHS guidelines</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
b. 9-12/non-graduate	6	a. Up to 75%	13
c. high sch. Grad./GED	7	b. 76% to 100%	3
d. 12+ some post secondary	3	c. 101% to 125%	3
e. 2 or 4 year college graduate	5	d. 126% to 150%	1
TOTAL	53	e. 151% and over	0
		Total	19
<b>5a. Other Characteristics</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>	<b>9. Housing</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
a. Health Insurance	Yes/ 33 No/ 20	a. Own	0
b. Disabled	Yes/ 11 No/ 42	b. Rent	19
c. Veteran	Yes/ 1 No/ 52	c. Homeless	0
		d. Other	0
<b>5b. Residency</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>	TOTAL	19
Unincorporated County of Santa Cruz	53		