

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 27, 2013
To: Housing Advisory Commission
From: Julie Conway, Santa Cruz County Housing Program
Re: Homeless Action Partnership Program Summary

The Planning Department acts as the Lead Agency for the Santa Cruz County Continuum of Care, organized locally as the Homeless Action Partnership, or HAP. Since the 1990's HUD has required that communities who want to access funds through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program conform with evolving best practices. To access the funding, communities must form what HUD calls a Continuum of Care, or CoC in which jurisdictions and affected parties come together and develop a strategy to prevent and end homelessness in their area. In Santa Cruz County this led to the formation of the HAP.

County jurisdictions, through the HAP, fund activities that support submittal of a competitive and very complex application for federal funds to address homelessness in the community. Annual applications have been in the neighborhood of \$1.7 Million. Besides preparation of the annual application, these activities include funding winter shelter programs, funding the local share of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and conducting a biennial homeless census and survey.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Seeing homelessness on a large scale within their communities is relatively new for most Americans; it became visible in most communities sometime in the 1980's. As homelessness has grown across the country, the federal government has responded with programs intended to enable communities to address the problem and along the way has built emerging thinking on best practices into its funding guidelines.

Federal strategies have evolved over the years as the causes of and solutions to homelessness have become better understood. This evolution has resulted in greater expectations from HUD of local communities in terms of responses to homelessness. For instance, in the 1980's and early 1990's as communities were faced with a significant and visible group of people who were homeless they responded by focusing on providing emergency shelter. Within a few years, however, as it became apparent that people experiencing homelessness needed more than a bed for a brief period, policy evolved to focus on transitional housing with services such as substance abuse treatment and job training.

Shelter continues to be important, as is transitional housing, but long term planning now focuses on research based strategies that can end homelessness one person and one family at a time. For instance, studies have shown that a relatively small portion of the homeless population are homeless repeatedly or for a long time--maybe 20% of the total-- but this is a group of people with complex service needs who are difficult to house. We know that for this chronically homeless population, the long term solution is permanent supportive housing.

Research also indicates that for most people who experience homelessness it is a one time and a short term occurrence and that the sooner they get back into housing the less likely they are to have the initial incident escalate. So one of the most effective strategies ways to end homelessness is to prevent it, and if it does occur, it is important to return people to housing as soon as possible. So HUD is focusing more and more on homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services for those who need short term or one- time assistance.

FOCUS ON DATA COLLECTION

Because of the effectiveness of proven strategies, HUD has required more and better data from communities to better understand homeless populations and also to understand the success of local strategies. As mentioned above, the HAP funds the countywide participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This HUD mandated data base is used by all HUD funded agencies and there is growing pressure for communities to include all programs addressing homelessness, whether funded by other federal departments, through state programs or private funds. The growing emphasis on data and accountability has led to the requirement of a Biennial Homeless Census and Survey, which is also funded by the jurisdictions through the HAP.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

Over the years people and organizations in Santa Cruz have worked together to develop a collaborative approach through a variety of effective programs that have prevented and ended homelessness for many people. The efforts of the HAP bring in nearly \$1.7 Million each year in the form of housing subsidy and supportive services. Since 2000, the HAP has brought more than \$16 million into Santa Cruz County. And HAP Programs illustrate many of the research based best practices encouraged by HUD.

Transitional housing programs;

- FIT; Scattered Site Transitional Housing
- FIT; Brommer Street Transitional Housing
- Pajaro Valley Shelter Services; Sudden Street Transitional Housing
- Homeless Services Center; Page Smith Community House
- Salvation Army; Corner House.

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

- Homeless Person's Health Project (HPHP); Shelter Plus Care
- Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center; Anderson House
- HPHP; Meaningful Answers to Chronic Homelessness (MATCH) -funded by both HUD and HHS to provide housing for chronically homeless serial inebriates.

An additional HAP initiated permanent supportive housing project is Nuevo Sol, SRO Mod-Rehab project for people who have been chronically homeless. Nuevo Sol came about as a result of CoC funding and is a good illustration of the challenges we face in ending homelessness. It is a model program using best practices and the stories of transformed lives would fill the day. It involved collaboration between South County Housing, the owner, property manager the John Stewart Co, and HPHP the service provider. But it took seven years, six different sites and, in the end, three non-profit developers to pull it off.

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Several local jurisdictions have funded homeless assistance programs (emergency rental assistance, rental deposits) for many years, through their Community Grants Programs or with RDA funds. In 2009 the long term collaboration of the HAP enabled the community to coordinate to secure \$4MM in federal stimulus funding for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing through three collaboratives—HPRP is currently considered a best practice to prevent homelessness and help those households that become homeless to get back into housing as quickly as possible.

TEN YEAR PLAN

The HAP as it is today came out of a year long process to create a 10 year plan to end homelessness in 2001-2002. Santa Cruz was one of the early adopters of the ten year plan process which has become a key part of the federal government's strategy to engage communities in ending homelessness. The Santa Cruz Ten Year Plan is summarized as follows:

Mission:

To develop and implement a coordinated system of housing and services for preventing and ending homelessness in Santa Cruz County

Key Strategies:

- *Opening the back door of homelessness*: provide more affordable housing that is accessible to people who are homeless;
- *Closing the front door of homelessness*: prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless and make sure they are homeless for the shortest possible time;
- Local & regional engagement and collaboration: work together on common purposes
- *Integration of services*: coordinate the health, social, mainstream, and employment services people need coordinate with systems discharging people into homelessness—foster care, mental health, hospitals, corrections
- *Outcome-based accountability*: use data to better understand what works

Attachments:

1. HAP Budget
2. 2012 Projects Approved

Proposed HAP Budget: FY 2013-2014						
ITEM	TOTAL HAP EXPENDITURES	REVENUES				Comments
		Grants	Contributions	Jurisdictional Funding	County In-Kind	TOTAL
CoC/HAP Staffing (.25 FTE)	31,522				31,522	31,522 Staffing provided by Planning.
CoC/HAP Consultant	59,981			59,981		59,981 5% increase in FY13-14 + 3% in FY 14-15 as agreed 2/12 Executive Committee
Biennial Census						0 No census required 13/14
10-Year Strategic Plan/HEARTH Implementation	5,000			5,000		5,000 Funds reserved for HEARTH implementation
HMIS/CTA	11,425	89,985	10,000	11,425		111,410 Status quo contributions from Partner Agencies and jurisdictions. Jurisdictional costs represent minimum cash-match required for HUD grant.
South County Winter Shelter	57,869			57,869		57,869 Assume flat funding, although provider is uncertain
North County Winter Shelter	225,472			225,472		225,472 152 day program-Armory cost increased by \$5 to \$435 per night.
Winter Shelter	283,341	0	0	283,341		283,341
TOTAL	391,269	89,985	10,000	359,747	31,522	491,254

Jurisdictional Funding: FY 2013-2014					
	CoC/HAP Consultant	Biennial Census	10-Year Plan Implementation	HMIS	Winter Shelter
County	32,114	-	2,677	5,117	146,774
Santa Cruz	12,722	-	1,061	2,423	79,704
Watsonville	10,299	-	859	1,962	25,590
Capitola	2,423	-	202	462	14,656
Scotts Valley	2,423	-	202	462	16,617
Total	59,981	-	5,000	11,425	283,341
					359,747

Final Projects Approved
HAP Review Committee 2012

Rank	Tier 1: Project and Rank	Amount	Rank	Tier 2: Project and Rank	Amount
1	Housing Authority - S+C 1 renewal	\$ 446,729.00	14	Salvation Army - Corner House renewal	\$ 84,721.00
2	Housing Authority - S+C 4 renewal	\$ 14,817.00	15	HPHP - MATCH 4 new PH bonus	\$ 62,160.00
3	Housing Authority - S+C 5 renewal	\$ 27,375.00			
4	HPHP - MATCH renewal	\$ 368,231.00			
5	SCCCC - Freedom Cottages renewal	\$ 15,645.00			
6	Housing Authority - Brommer St. renewal	\$ 57,067.00			
7	HSC - Page Smith renewal	\$ 145,307.00			
8	CTA - HMIS renewal	\$ 91,699.00			
9	FIT - Clean & Sober renewal	\$ 184,609.00			
10	PVSS - Sudden St. renewal	\$ 13,895.00			
11	FIT - Scattered Site renewal	\$ 185,923.00			
12	SCCCC Anderson House	\$ 42,331.00			
13	County Planning - new HAP/CoC planning project	\$ 21,840.00			
	Total Tier 1	\$ 1,615,468.00		Total Tier 2	\$ 146,881.00

Total Tier 1 and Tier 2	\$ 1,615,468.00
	\$ 146,881.00
	\$ 1,762,349.00