

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: April 21, 2009
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Department of Human Services
Subject: CDBG PTA General Allocation Grant #06-STBG-2532
Homeless Count Results and Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

Recommended Action:

The Department of Human Services is recommending that the Board of Supervisors:

Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the following pertaining to the 2006-07 Community Development Block Grant Planning and Technical Assistance (CDBG PTA) Standard Agreement #06-STBG-2532 for a homeless count and needs survey conducted during 2008:

1. Receive a presentation about the 2008 El Dorado County Homeless Count and Survey Results by the consultant firm HomeBase, The Center for Common Concerns
2. Adopt a Resolution accepting the grant accomplishments, adopting the updated 2009 Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, which includes the 2008 Homeless Count and Survey Results, and authorizing staff to submit the same to the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to close out and satisfy grant requirements.

Background:

On October 17, 2006 the Board of Supervisors approved submittal of an application to the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) under the 2006-07 Community Development Block Grant Planning and Technical Assistance general allocation to receive a \$35,000 grant to hire a consultant to conduct a homeless count and needs survey necessary to develop a Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. The grant was subsequently awarded on April 10, 2007 and the Standard Agreement was executed by HCD on June 22, 2007 following review and approval by County Counsel and Risk Management. A Request for Proposal was issued by the County to procure a consultant to develop homeless count procedures and conduct two point-in-time homeless counts during January and June 2008. HomeBase, The

Center for Common Concerns, was the sole qualified respondent to the Request for Proposal, and on December 13, 2007, following approval from HCD, the County executed Agreement for Services #530-S0810 with the consultant. HomeBase conducted both counts and prepared the 2008 El Dorado County Homeless Count and Survey Results report based on an analysis of the data collected during the counts. These results have provided homeless data that has been included in the updated 2009 Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

The initial Continuum of Care Strategic Plan was developed in 2007 by the Continuum of Care Stakeholders Committee, consisting of representatives from the Affordable Housing Coalition, United Outreach, South Lake Tahoe Women's Center, The Center for Violence Free Relationships, El Dorado County Health Services, El Dorado County Office of Education, Placerville Union School District, El Dorado County Community Health Center, Job One, Hope House Transitional Home, Sierra Recovery Center, M.O.R.E. Rehabilitation, Food Bank, H.E.L.P. and Homeless Advocacy group. The 2007 Strategic Plan was finalized by the Stakeholders Committee on May 22, 2007 and was viewed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on June 12, 2007 as a required component of the 2007 HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program HMIS grant funding application approval process.

Reason for Recommendation:

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) requires that a public hearing be conducted by the Board of Supervisors to advise the public of grant accomplishments, receive public input, adopt the El Dorado County Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness and confirm the Board's acceptance of the final product. Following Board acceptance, the final product, the updated 2009 El Dorado County Continuum of Care Strategic Plan, which includes the 2008 El Dorado County Homeless Count and Survey Results reports, will be submitted to HCD to close out the grant.

The collection of data on the homeless population within the County of El Dorado identifies the unmet needs of this population and represents a critical component of local homeless planning and program development. The reporting of the data collected through biennial homeless counts is a mandated requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to maintain eligibility for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program grant funding.

Continuum of Care Stakeholders Committee:

As described in the 2003-2008 General Plan Housing Element Measure HO-FF, the Department of Human Services is to "work with community and local organizations in providing community education on homelessness, gaining better understanding of the unmet need, and developing and maintaining emergency shelter programs, including funding for programs developed through inter-jurisdictional cooperation and working with local organizations to annually apply for the End Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing grant". The 2008 Housing Element adopted July 1, 2008 continues these goals

under Measure HO-24 and policies HO-4.4, HO-4.5 and HO-4.6, with the expected outcome of updating the Continuum of Care Strategic Plan. On April 4, 2006, the Department of Human Services convened representatives from community and other local organizations to form a Continuum of Care Stakeholders Committee to work together to gain a better understanding of the unmet need of the homeless population and to develop a Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to prepare the County to address those needs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has authorized the Department of Human Services as the lead organization for the El Dorado County Continuum of Care.

Purpose of Homeless Count and Survey and Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

The homeless count and survey and the Continuum of Care Strategic Plan provide comprehensive data to guide the ongoing efforts of the El Dorado County Continuum of Care Stakeholders Committee members, and are a requirement of the HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program. Compliance with these requirements allows the County to continue to remain eligible to access state and federal grant funding on behalf of community, non-profit and faith-based organizations to continue to address homeless issues in El Dorado County:

- **2008 Homeless Count and Survey:**

The data collected during a point-in-time homeless count identifies the unmet needs of the homeless population and represents a critical component of local homeless planning and program development. The reporting of data collected through a point-in-time homeless count is a HUD mandated requirement for a Continuum of Care and is a necessary element of the El Dorado County Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. To facilitate the homeless data collection requirement, the Department of Human Services applied for and was awarded CDBG PTA grant #06-STBG-2532. As a result of this grant, the consultant firm, HomeBase, a HUD Technical Assistance provider with extensive experience in homeless services, was hired to develop written procedures, conduct the homeless count and needs survey, analyze and compile the data collected into reports and present survey results to the public. HomeBase worked with El Dorado County Continuum of Care member organizations, developed procedures and the survey instrument, and coordinated volunteers and survey locations throughout El Dorado County following HUD's recommended methods published in *A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People* and *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*. Results have been analyzed and compiled into reports.
- **El Dorado County Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness:**

Following HUD Guidelines, the Department of Human Services staff has worked with members of the Continuum of Care Stakeholders Committee to develop the El Dorado County Continuum of Care Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. The stakeholders involved in this process have included the Affordable Housing Coalition, United Outreach, South Lake Tahoe Women's Center, The Center for Violence Free Relationships, El Dorado County Health Services, El Dorado County Office of Education, Placerville Union School District, El Dorado County

Community Health Center, Job One, Hope House Transitional Home, Sierra Recovery Center, M.O.R.E. Rehabilitation, Food Bank, H.E.L.P. and Homeless Advocacy group. The initial plan was finalized by the stakeholders on May 22, 2007 and was viewed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors as a required component of the 2007 HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program HMIS grant funding application approval process on June 12, 2007. The Plan has been updated to include data compiled from the homeless counts and needs surveys conducted during 2008 and strives to reflect the current and ongoing vision, mission and values of a continuum of care strategy; an internal and external analysis demonstrating the community needs; and identify objectives, strategies and long-term goals for the El Dorado County Continuum of Care. The Plan will be updated at least annually based on member input, and as community needs change, partners change and programs are developed to serve the homeless population.