



## How Shelter Funds are Divided

Fifty-eight percent of the funds that shelter homeless people this year are channeled into transitional housing programs. These programs provide a bridge between emergency shelter and independent living. They are combined with self-sufficiency development services that prepare homeless persons for living as independently as possible by promoting residential stability and employment readiness.

Emergency shelters are the second largest category of homeless shelters being funded this year, receiving 24 percent of homeless housing funds. Persons enrolled in emergency shelters are in immediate need of housing and initial service provision. Some are recently homeless, or “economically homeless,” and are able to move into more stabilized living arrangements after a few weeks’ stay at the emergency shelter.

Permanent supportive housing programs take up the remaining 18 percent of the homeless housing funds. This is housing for persons who need supportive services to maintain a stable living arrangement.

The temporary winter shelter programs make up 6 percent of the over-all shelter funds. In addition, the temporary winter shelter funds are more than one-quarter of the total emergency funds, with 20 percent going toward the winter shelter program and 6 percent in the winter shelter voucher program.

This year, the Cold Weather Shelter Voucher Program for families, the disabled, and the elderly continues. The program provides emergency shelter in hotels and motels throughout the county from December 15, 2004 through April 15, 2005. The total amount of funding for all cold weather shelter programs is \$1,637,163 this year.

The cold weather shelter programs are augmented by the Interfaith Shelter Network, which is open about 75 percent of the year. They operate out of host congregations by making use of many volunteers.

The federal government, as the primary source of funds for operating shelters, tends to favor longer-term, transitional housing. This is also reflected at the local level, where community acceptance and financial support are greatest for shelters whose residents are close to self-sufficiency and independent living.

In review of how housing funds are divided according to target population, the largest portion is allocated to families with children for transitional housing. The next two largest groups receiving housing assistance are the general population and youth on their own.

This year 4 percent of the total \$26 million shelter budget is being directed into capital programs - building acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation. The remaining 96 percent supports operating costs. The shelter capital costs have decreased 18 percent from last year’s shelter capital costs.