

How Much Money Flows Through Each Kind of Homeless Program

Almost \$70 million in public funds is being allocated to homelessness in the San Diego region this year. In addition to more than \$6 million in cash assistance this year, more than \$63 million is being allocated to homelessness through 11 major program categories.

Transitional shelters is the largest program with 23.6 percent (\$15,081,395) of all funds allocated for homelessness. Transitional shelter programs are favored over emergency shelter programs by both funding sources and local communities. They are considered the most effective way to move people into self-sufficiency and ultimately independent living. This year's funding represents a small increase over last year.

Mental health services is the second largest program with 22.1 percent (\$14,113,223) of all homeless funds. Most of these funds are expended by the County, Health and Human Services Agency and are administered through the Mental Health Services Division. These funds are being used for crisis teams, residential treatment, shelters, and outpatient services. This supports an entire range of mental health services, from outreach and crises intervention to state hospitalization.

The funds available this year are approximately \$1,500,000 less than last year. According to local mental health officials, many people suffering from schizophrenia or major depression are not receiving treatment. They often have no contact with professionals nor are they believed to be receiving much needed prescribed medication.

Substance abuse treatment/recovery services together take up 14 percent (\$8,931,978) of the total regional budget. This program has a large overall decrease of approximately \$640,000 this year. These programs include detox and recovery homes, administered by the County Health and Human Services Agency through contracts with scores of private agencies throughout the region. Also included are emergency and transitional shelter programs.

Health services receive 12 percent (\$7,622,926) of all funds allocated to homeless services. This program had the largest overall increase, almost \$2 million, of all programs this year. The County's Health and Human Services Agency Medical Services Division administers over half of all health services funds. The majority of the remaining health service funds this year are used by the Family Health Centers of San Diego, which administers a large Health Care for the Homeless fund that is channeled into a variety of small homeless medical clinics throughout the region.

Permanent supportive housing receives 7.2 percent (\$4,614,846) of the total budget this year. These are programs which offer permanent housing for persons who need supportive services to maintain their living accommodations, such as health care, substance abuse treatment, medical care, and counseling. The amount allocated this year shows a significant decrease compared to last year. Since last year homeless rental assistance voucher funds from the San Diego Housing Commission and the County Department of Housing and Community Development are reported as program funds. In the past they were reported as Cash Assistance. These funds are generally allocated in connection with homeless service programs that provide supportive services and are therefore a part of a homeless program.

Emergency shelters take up 10 percent (\$6,367,899) of the region's homeless program budget this year. Less service-intensive, these programs have shorter length of stays for their clients. Persons enrolled in emergency shelters are in immediate need of housing and initial service provision.

Case management/information and referral services together take 4.4 percent (\$2,797,029) of the total budget. Twenty different programs receive public funds for the primary purpose of case management and information and referral.

Employment assistance programs take up another 3.8 percent (\$2,396,799). This includes six publicly funded programs involved in job preparation and placement.

Day shelters are receiving 1.2 percent of public homeless funds (\$775,729) this year. These are facilities with daytime support services in a safe environment that often includes showers, storage, message service, and laundry services. Four programs are being funded: Brother Benno's in Oceanside, Rachel Women's Center in San Diego, The City's of San Diego Neil Good Day Center, and San Diego Youth & Community Services-Storefront Day Program in downtown San Diego.

Planning, administration, and coordination expenses are about 0.8 percent (\$509,845) of the total program budget. Four programs, including the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, are funded by this allocation.

Food Assistance funds that benefit the homeless take up 0.9 percent (\$572,323) of the budget. These are primarily for food co-ops and food banks where homeless persons receive limited emergency provisions. This program section does not include cash assistance. However, this year there was an increase (of more than 14 percent) for requests of Food Stamps. This

information can be seen in the Cash Assistance Section beginning on page 40.

(These program categories and their amounts pertain only to what has been reported as the primary purpose of the funds; these funds may have secondary and tertiary uses that cross through multiple program categories).