

Funding May Be Low, But Morale is High



Madera County, CA

Provider Background

The Community Action Partnership of Madera County (CAPMC) is a nonprofit corporation founded and incorporated in 1965. It is guided in its efforts jointly by the Madera County Board of Supervisors and a Board of Directors representing elected officials, low-income, labor, business, education, religion, and other major private organizations. The agency has a \$25 million operating budget.

Community in Context

Up and down the Central Valley of California, both foreclosures and 90-day delinquents are higher than the state and national averages. Madera County has one of the highest foreclosure rates in California. Last summer, one of every 60 homes in Madera received a foreclosure filing.

In January 2010, the unemployment rate for Madera County was 16.6%, up from 13.9% in July 2009.

Economic Impact

As a result of the California state budget crisis, Governor Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto power to cut funding for the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program (EHAP) which funds hundreds of emergency shelters statewide. Because of this cut, CAPMC closed its 26-bed domestic violence shelter. The shelter was the only domestic violence facility for women and their children in the county.

Because of state-wide budget cuts, CAPMC had to close its 26-bed domestic violence shelter.

When the shelter closed, many staff were facing layoffs. Although the agency usually has a policy against transferring staff to other departments, in this case the Board of Directors approved staff transfers. This change in policy allowed many staff to remain employed at the agency.

With the closure of the domestic violence shelter, there was nowhere in the county to send domestic violence victims. Previously, the shelter had an agreement with a shelter in Fresno

Other shelters on which CAPMC often relied are struggling as well.

to send women when CAPMC had an overage. However, the Fresno shelter lost more than \$400,000, so they have had to shut down 20 beds.

In addition to the closing of the domestic violence shelter, the childcare program of CAPMC had a budget cut. To meet the budget shortage, childcare employees were facing a day's pay cut. However, instead of cutting pay for the program's staff, the program managers took a day's pay cut. Mary Long, Program Manager of Community Services, says the move by program managers was "so impressive" and it "says a lot about" the program managers. Because management took the cut, the staff morale is strong and appreciative.

Overall, the Community Services division of CAPMC lost 1-2 staff positions, transferred 4 positions over to other departments and 7 staff positions were furloughed.

Current Funding

CAPMC as an agency is looking to creative fundraising strategies.

They have focused on community assistance, for example advertising in the newspaper. (This lead to one anonymous \$8,000 donation.) In addition, they have sent letters to service clubs and are holding a fundraising golf tournament.

Challenges Ahead

Unfortunately the recession has increased the demand for the domestic violence shelter. In addition, the agency has a program under FEMA that provides rental assistance or assistance with a mortgage payment. That program, which has an operating year of January through December, ran out of money in September, and won't have any more money for rent or mortgage assistance until next January 2010.

More women are affected by domestic violence in the economic downturn and more women need the help that is no longer available to them.

Solutions

Thanks to funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, CAPMC has created programs focused on economic stability, job creation and job retention. They received \$388,000 through CSBG and were able to create 21 positions in 7 projects.