

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing

FROM: HomeBase

RE: **Administering and Coordinating Multi-Sector Participation in “Ending” Homelessness**

DATE: October 19, 2007

Who Does What? This is the beginning of a list of practices that communities are implementing around the nation. How do these practices align with the reality in your community? What could be added?

Cities and Counties

Provide/facilitate access and acquisition of Sites for housing, service facilities

- Streamline the permit process
- Designate staff to support the permit process
- Incentive communities to accept projects (carrots/sticks)
- Identify and provide vacant, tax delinquent, other under-utilized land
- Prohibit vacant housing, as long as there are people without housing
- Increase the % allocated for homeless housing under inclusionary zoning ordinances

Funding and resource decisions for housing and service facilities

- Year-round desk for project proposals, with rolling funding decisions
- Prioritize homeless populations for resources
- Spearhead a standard (one app form) application for all funding
- Allow funding to be flexible to cover full range of housing, services, administrative, and operation expenses
- Provide no-interest, long-term loans in support of housing, employment, and enterprise development endeavors
- Dedicate significant sums to invest in housing and service initiatives

Housing decisions that prioritize access for homeless people and those at-risk

- PHA policy preferences for Section 8 and units
- PHA individual applicant review process for all, including felons
- Use of significant % of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, state and local resources
- Effectively acquire and administer Shelter Plus Care vouchers, transferring participants to the mainstream Section 8 account

Design Programs to provide Employment and Income Opportunities

- Enact hiring preferences for homeless residents
- Develop EITC-type income subsidy program
- Support micro-enterprise and non-profit business development for client hires

Invest Public and Behavioral Health Care Resources in Meeting needs of Homeless People

- Create additional clinic capacity and community health centers, with dental and vision services
- Invest in sobering stations and detox centers
- Supplement MediCAL to create universal health access
- Provide residential AOD and MH treatment programs, linked to PSH upon exit

Participation in Leadership for planning, coordination, implementation

- Designate Local Elected Officials to participate in decision making bodies
- Assign legislative/policy staff of City Council members/Mayor and Board of Supervisors to participate in work groups
- CAO/ City-County Manager to participate in multi-sector group
- Share responsibility across electoral districts, by having a representative from each
- Allot adequate General Funds for administration and coordination staff, and the technical assistance needed to support program implementation

Participation in shared power bodies to change systems

- Agree to create and provide funding for a Joint Powers Authority, if that is the choice
- Agree to create and provide funding for an independent nonprofit corporation to manage and administer the response to homelessness, if that is the structure of choice
- Appoint high -level leadership from each electoral districts to new body

Advocate and support federal and state change

- Actively instruct paid lobbyist, state and federal representatives in support of legislative and budgetary changes, to bring resources to bear on local response

For Example

- County Board of Supervisors, the Mayor and City Council created a joint powers authority (Los Angeles)
- 5 cities and the county created a joint powers authority (Solano)
- The Continuum of Care created an independent, nonprofit corporation to serve as a focal point for efforts to reduce and ultimately prevent homelessness (District of Columbia)
- The city, county, state and private foundations provide funding for an independent nonprofit, which is the central planning, funding and monitoring entity for all homeless assistance programs. Public and private agencies that fund homelessness funnel all of their resources through the nonprofit. (Columbus, Ohio)
- A local government representative from each of 5 regions of the county serves on the Steering Committee for the Homeless Coalition (Riverside County)
- State legislature created a collaboration with a governing body composed of representatives from key government agencies (Georgia)
- Representatives from the county and each of the cities are on the Leadership Committee of the Ten Year Plan implementation group. (Santa Barbara)
- County and major cities are represented on the Executive Committee of the Ten Year Plan implementation group (Santa Cruz)
- A member of the Board of Supervisors and mayors of 3 major cities are members of the Policy Board of the Ten Year Plan group. (Sacramento)
- County general funds support staffing and administration of the Ten Year Plan, its implementation group and its committees (Contra Costa)
- County general funds support the staff for the Continuum of Care (Santa Clara)
- City general funds support the Homeless Program Manager (San Jose)
- City general funds support a staff person for the Homeless Coordinating Board, and other homeless services (San Francisco)
- City, County, and Housing Authority streamlined what had been a complex array of short-term rental assistance programs. The new model consolidates six different funding sources and three administrative entities into one body. (Portland, Oregon)
- The City dedicated \$1 million dollars in new resources for an initiative to move chronically homeless people off the street. The County dedicated \$1 million to support an effort to create permanent supportive housing for homeless families. The City also created a \$9 million bond for permanent supportive housing to support plan goals. (Portland, Oregon)