

MEMORANDIUM

To: Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing (RSC)

From: HomeBase

Date: March 17, 2006

Re: Update on S.1801 Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2005 (Reed Bill)

Status of the Reed Bill

The Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2005 (S.1801) was introduced by Senator Jack Reed [D-RI] on September 29, 2005. With the support of 13 co-sponsors, the Act was read twice and then referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. On December 13, 2005, a fourteenth co-sponsor was added. S.1801 would reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Act, and would make major amendments to the Act. Some of the major changes proposed are those in Title IV, the title that authorizes all HUD homeless housing programs. If enacted, this Act would take effect within 6 months of enactment.

We have heard that there may be a first Committee hearing on the Reed Bill scheduled for March 30th, though it may be cancelled due to Reed's key staff person being unavailable. Further, as noted in the HUD Continuum of Care Program NOFA, HUD will be introducing its own legislation that would reauthorize and amend the McKinney-Act. To date, this legislation has not yet been introduced.

HomeBase and the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness are co-hosting a second community forum on the Reed Bill in Los Angeles on March 22nd. Building upon the broadly attended January 20th event in Oakland, we will fold in the Southern California input we receive into the feedback that we've gathered already, in order to produce a Briefing Paper that reflects as much of a statewide consensus as possible. HomeBase will draft the Briefing Paper, and circulate for your use.

Core Issues Identified by January 20th Attendees

- 1) Overall Questions and Issues in the Reed Bill
 - a) Is supporting an imperfect bill, such as the Reed Bill, better than nothing? What is the risk of doing nothing?
 - b) Overall, it is very prescriptive in terms of Collaborative Applicant, federal priorities, and application process. What would be left to regulations?
- 2) Role and Responsibility of the Federal Government
 - a) Responsibilities of Interagency Council on Homelessness should include federal mainstream integration of policies and programs to support local efforts

- b) There are questions about \$3 million (double) for the funding of ICH when recent performance has been criticized by Congress
 - c) There are questions about how to balance the value of a National Plan with the stated value of local planning
- 3) Collaborative Applicant
- a) Structure and Membership should be *recommended* and not required
 - b) Administrative costs that would be allowable would not be adequate for all of the administrative and monitoring requirements, and administrative costs would come out of the allocation for services and housing
 - c) Good to coordinate ESG and Homeless Assistance Programs more at the local level
 - d) Local planning is critical, and should be maintained
 - e) Need meaningful federal and state responsibility for some of the Collaborative Applicant responsibilities
 - f) An ESG administrative cut would devastate the State FESG Program
- 4) Allowable Activities and Required Match
- a) Prevention should be an allowable activity
 - b) Transitional rental assistance would enhance the Continuum of Care
 - c) The 25% cash match would be “catastrophic” for Shelter Plus Care programs that have built an in-kind supportive services infrastructure
 - d) There are questions around incentives towards development activities for permanent housing: is McKinney-Vento an appropriate source for major capital activities?
 - e) Supportive services should not be phased out until there are adequate, appropriate, and accessible services funding available from other departments
- 5) Priorities to chronic homelessness and permanent housing
- a) There are questions about the impact on the ability to make local determinations about need with the codification and strengthening of these priorities
 - b) Caution about overemphasis on permanent housing without adequate services.

Other Ideas or Suggestions?

For more information or for questions, please contact Gina Allendorf, (415) 788-7961 x307 or gina@homebaseccc.org