



City of
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News from: Human Services Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Oakland Awarded Federal Funding to Alleviate Homelessness – Especially Youth

Oakland, CA – Today, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and City of Oakland Human Services Director Sara Bedford announced that the City has secured over \$4 million in federal grant funding to provide immediate housing and support for homeless, youth, families and adults.

“On any given night more than 1,300 people in our city are unsheltered,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “We declared a Shelter Emergency in Oakland last winter in order to free up additional dollars to add shelter beds and explore more innovative long term solutions to this growing problem. This federal funding will immediately help us house and support individuals grappling with housing insecurity and homelessness.”

On May 2, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) announced the renewal of all five of the City’s current grants and the addition of a new grant to the Community Housing Services Division (CHS) of the City of Oakland’s Human Services Department. The new grant will fund a homeless youth rapid rehousing project. Totaling \$4,839,673, these six grants support the following programs.

North County Homeless Youth Rapid Rehousing - \$1,072,206

This new grant award will provide rapid rehousing services to **60 homeless Transition Aged Youth (TAY)** in Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville and Albany. Since no TAY-specific rapid rehousing program currently operates in the area, this project will close a gap in the continuum of homeless services currently available to homeless youth. Culturally competent services will include youth-specific outreach, shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing through a rapid rehousing model specifically tailored to the needs of homeless youth, ages 16 to 25. This project is a partnership of leading local agencies in the field of homeless youth including the City of Oakland, East Oakland Community Project, YEAH!, First Place for Youth and Covenant House.

The project will draw on the varied expertise of its partner providers to serve several specific populations of homeless youth, including youth who have been trafficked, youth exiting the foster care system, street youth and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ).

“These HUD funded programs form the backbone of CHS’ local homeless services delivery system,” said Susan Shelton, Community Housing Services Manager. “The effectiveness of these services has resulted in many participants finding permanent housing.”

In addition to the new project detailed above, five existing HUD-funded projects

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were renewed. These projects serve a range of populations without a home, including single adults, families and youth.

Housing Fast Support Network - \$1,865,465

This 137-bed program provides interim housing for 280 single adults per year. It provides short-term stays of four to six months before participants exit to permanent housing. In 2015, 67% of clients successfully exited to permanent housing.

Families in Transition - \$249,815

This nine-unit, scattered site program works with homeless families from Oakland. Families enter the program directly from the streets or shelter. The average length of stay is 11 months. In 2015, 14 families were served and 81% exited to permanent housing.

Matilda Cleveland - \$264,765

This 32-bed program also works with homeless families from Oakland. The program model is congregate living for 14 families at a time and 30 families over the course of one year. Families enter the program directly from the streets or shelter. The average length of stay is eight months. In 2015, 85% of families exited to permanent housing.

Oakland Homeless Youth Housing Collaborative - \$713,095

This partnership between three Oakland agencies provides case management and transitional housing to 70 young people per year. In 2015, 65% of the youth served exited the program to permanent housing.

North County Family Rapid ReHousing Collaborative - \$674,327

A partnership between the City of Oakland and two nonprofit agencies, the program provides case management and rapid rehousing assistance to 38 families per year.

Homelessness in Oakland and the Bay Area is a significant problem, and has been more apparent given the upward pressure on rents during the past two years. The number of homeless people in Oakland as of the most recent 2015 count is approximately 2190. On any given night there are an estimated 1,384 people in Oakland who are unsheltered. With approximately 350 shelter beds plus 60 beds during the winter months, a majority of homeless peoples are unable to find shelter.

An outgrowth of these limited shelter options is the growing number of unauthorized homelessness encampments throughout the city. These encampments present public health and safety threats to the people who live in them in multiple ways: crime, lack of sanitation and debris collection facilities, weather exposure, traffic hazards and other risks.

An interdepartmental task force is working in concert with the Housing Cabinet Mayor Schaaf formed to address the impacts of the Bay Area's affordability crisis on Oakland to help preserve, build and protect housing for existing Oaklanders.

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