Subject/Title:
Emergency Shelter Grant Public Hearing

Recommended Action:
That the Board of County Commissioners conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. to review the project recommendations of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC); and allocate the Fiscal Year 2009 Emergency Shelter Grant funds for incorporation into the FY2009 HUD Consolidated Action Plan.

Summary:
The Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program provides grants to States, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and the territories according to a formula used in the Community Development Block Grant Program. Clark County will receive a twenty-third year Emergency Shelter Grant estimated allocation of $276,989. The ESG Program is designed to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to help make available additional emergency shelters, to help meet the costs of operating emergency shelters and of providing certain essential social services to homeless individuals so that these persons have access not only to safe and sanitary shelter, but also to the supportive services and other kinds of assistance they need to improve their situations. The program can also be used to help restrict the increase of homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities.

Eligible activities that can be funded with the $276,989 in Clark County Federal Funds for Homeless Services include rental assistance to prevent homelessness; renovation or rehabilitative costs to convert buildings into emergency shelters for homeless persons; operational costs of shelters and other temporary housing programs; essential, supportive services that assist individuals and families return to stability and self-sufficiency; and the provision of basic, elementary assistance to meet the basic, physiological needs of homeless persons.
HUD's Consolidated Plan and Citizen Participation

The Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for 2005-2009 delineates the funding goals of Clark County for the federal funds it administers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With regards to the continuum of care for homeless persons, the County has adopted the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition's 10 Point Plan to End Homelessness in Southern Nevada:

- Enhance coordination between non-profit organizations and government
- Prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless
- Provide seamless client services through effective partnerships
- Foster self-sufficiency through access to education, training, and employment opportunities
- Increase the availability of stable and sustainable housing
- Facilitate the transition from homelessness through intensive case management
- Ensure the availability of basic needs services
- Increase access to medical, dental and vision care services
- Improve the availability of mental health services
- Improve the availability of substance abuse treatment programs.

In November 1981, the Board of County Commissioners established the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) to assist the County in its citizen participation responsibilities and to make recommendations to the Board on specific projects to be funded with the County's share of CDBG funds. The Committee is composed of 36 members – 19 representatives from the unincorporated towns and citizens advisory councils, 14 members at-large, and one representative each from the three Consortium member cities.

On October 21, 2008, the Board appointed thirty-three (33) individuals with alternates to the CDAC and appointed Jim Chachas as Chairman and Charlene Peterson as Vice Chair. Three towns elected not to have a representative. On November 18, 2008, the CDAC received copies of eleven applications received from local nonprofit partners, totaling $991,761 in requested funding. On December 2, 2008, the CDAC was able to hear applicant presentations and interview representatives from the eleven projects. On December 18, 2008, the CDAC adopted its project recommendations.

Attached is a listing of projects by categories, a brief project description, and the CDAC citizen recommendations. Additionally, Table 1 is included for the Board's information, reflecting the Funding Requests and the Committee's recommendation for Fiscal Year 2009 ESG funding allocations. The Board is not restricted in its selections of projects by CDAC's recommendations. The recommended allocations comply with regulatory limitations on the ESG funds, which limit the amount of funds that can be spent on supportive services or prevention activities. The full ESG program grant will be allocated to support the operations of emergency and transitional shelter for the homeless. There is no regulatory limitation on the ESG funds with respect to operations of emergency or transitional shelters.
The CDAC Chair, Mr. Jim Chachas, will be present to present these recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners, the final allocations will be subsequently incorporated into the HUD Consolidated Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2009, which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by the May 15, 2009, deadline.

Should you have any questions on these projects, please contact Michael Pawlak, Manager, Community Resources Management or Shawna Brody, Management Analyst, at 455-5025.

Virginia Valentine
County Manager

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