

CITY OF PIEDMONT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2005

FROM: Kate Black, City Planner

SUBJECT: Request for Funding and Appropriation from the Alameda County-Wide Homeless Continuum of Care Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to prepare a letter to the director of the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department approving an appropriation of \$1,541, as the City's share, to fund a federally-mandated Homeless Management Information System, to be administered by the Alameda County-Wide Homeless Continuum of Care Council.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides \$22 million to the Alameda County-Wide Homeless Continuum of Care Council to fund housing and related homeless services for homeless people in Alameda County. The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department is the fiscal agent of the Continuum of Care Council. The Continuum of Care Council has administered the funds, called the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Fund, on behalf of Alameda County and cities within the county since 1996.

Last fall, HUD implemented a change in the McKinney-Vento Fund process. HUD now mandates that each recipient of the funds – in this case, the Continuum of Care Council – must implement a data collection process called a Housing Management Information System (HMIS) which tracks the outcomes of federal funding spent on each homeless person. To implement this new tracking system, HUD will cover 80% of the cost, but the remaining 20%, or \$91,568, must be raised. The Continuum of Care Council is requesting that all jurisdictions in the County commit funds to cover the remaining amount. The cash requested from each jurisdiction in the county is proportional to its share of service users and overall population. The contribution requested from the City of Piedmont is \$1,541. Full implementation of the HMIS data tracking system is anticipated to begin in July 2005.

Attached is the letter from the Continuum of Care Council requesting the share funding, along with supplemental information on the new program. The attached "SHP Match Request Proposal" table provides the breakdown of each city's share of the \$91,568. The Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland,

San Leandro, and Unincorporated County have all committed their defined share, and the City Councils for the cities of Emeryville, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Union City will be making decisions on their shares within the next few weeks.

If the Continuum of Care Council is unable to raise all of the needed funds from each jurisdiction, they will have to charge fees to the non-profit providers of services that are covered by the mandate, which may have an impact on the services that they are able to provide.

The City's allotment of CDBG money may be used to fund this request, but the City has already allocated all of our 2004/2005 CDBG money toward the Dracena Park project, and all of our 2005/2006 money toward the 801 Magnolia Avenue project. Although it has not been formally requested, it is likely that the Continuum of Care Council will request a similar fee in future years. Should the City wish to appropriate the requested \$1,541 now, it is recommended that the funds come from the General Fund, but in the future, the City can redirect CDBG money from the 801 Magnolia Avenue project, or may appropriate money from the General Fund.

Date Report Prepared: April 13, 2005