



**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
Commission on Homelessness
Monday, May 2, 2016, 3:00 p.m.**

Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard CA 93030

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT.** A person may address the Commission only on matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Commission cannot enter a detailed discussion of or take action on any item presented during public comments that is not on the meeting agenda. Such items may only be referred to the Commission Secretary for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent meeting agenda for discussion.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Meeting of April 4, 2016 (001)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes of meeting of April 4, 2016.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

SUBJECT: Winter Warming Shelter

SUBJECT: Continuum of Care Alliance

5. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2016-17 Entitlement Grants (014)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission review proposed funding allocations for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Act funding for FY 2016-17, and authorize and direct the Chair to transmit the Commission's funding recommendations to City Council.

6. OLD BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Policy Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission discuss and formulate recommendations for policies and actions related to the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness; and authorize and direct the Chair to present the Commission's recommendations to the Homeless Committee and City Council.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Subcommittee Structure (Chair Castañon)

RECOMMENDATION: Establish Ad-Hoc Subcommittees for 2016-17 Commission Term

SUBJECT: Ventura City Workshop of April 18, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report from Commissioner Brinkmeyer

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and City of Oxnard policy, if you need special assistance to participate in a meeting, please call 385-8095 (TDD 487-2850). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will assist the City in making reasonable arrangements to ensure meeting accessibility.

**City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
April 4, 2016**

On Monday, April 4, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. the Regular Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in the Council Chambers at 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Susan Brinkmeyer, Francine Castañon, Francisco Jaena, and Lucy Martinez. Commissioner Miller-Gonzalez was absent with excuse. City of Oxnard staff member present was Karl Lawson, Housing Department, who acted as Recording Secretary. Chair Castañon presided.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was deemed present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. INFORMATION CONSENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2016

Commissioner Brinkmeyer proposed two corrections to the minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2016. On Page 4 of the minutes, Item 7, she suggested changing the phrase "Housing Committee" to "Housing Subcommittee"; and on the same page, Item 8, referring to the Family Promise program, change the phrase "is being implemented" to "is being studied for implementation." With these two corrections, Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved approval of the minutes as presented in the agenda packet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jaena, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

A. SUBJECT: OXNARD PUBLIC LIBRARY AND HOMELESS PERSONS

Ms. Sofia Kimsey, Interim Manager of the Oxnard Public Library, addressed the Board on the impact of homeless persons on the operations of the library. Ms. Kimsey indicated that as many as 100 homeless persons utilize the main library every day, with some remaining in the library the entire time it is open. While many use the library as any other client would, some present behavioral, security, or other issues which must be addressed (bringing luggage or excessive amounts of possessions into the library; utilizing outlets to charge electronic devices for lengthy periods of time; possessing sharpies or alcohol; etc.). Ms. Kimsey stated that the library works with the Ventura County Behavioral Health department to address issues and provide assistance. Libraries nationwide are impacted by homelessness. Ms. Kimsey responded to questions from Commissioners, and urged the Commission to incorporate input from the library staff when formulating policy recommendations for City Council.

B. SUBJECT: FY 2016-17 Funding Process for Entitlement Grants

Ms. Norma Owens, City of Oxnard Grants Manager, provided a report to the Commission on the process for the awarding of Fiscal Year 2016-17 funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). She

distributed a summary of the applications and recommended allocations (Attachment No. 1 to these minutes), and informed the Commission that the second public hearing before City Council was scheduled for the Council meeting of May 3, 2016. A thirty-day public comment period is currently underway, and the public can submit comments in writing or at the May 3rd hearing. Ms. Owens responded to a number of questions from Commissioners. The Chair thanked Ms. Owens for her detailed presentation.

Public Comment: The Chair recognized Ms. Eileen Tracy, who addressed the Commission on funding priorities. Ms. Tracy urged the City to apply for the Cap and Trade dollars as a way to obtain funding for low-income and extremely low-income housing. She further urged the Las Cortes organization to work on developing permanent supportive housing in collaboration with the County Behavioral Health Department.

C. SUBJECT: Homeless Veterans

Ms. Patricia Sanchez of the Oxnard Housing Authority reported to the Commission on the status of the utilization of Veterans Administration VASH Vouchers. Ms. Sanchez informed the Commission that it is the VA which determines whether a veteran is eligible for a VASH voucher, that the VA's strict criteria requires an applicant to actually be on the street to be eligible; and that a veteran who has temporary housing, or who is couch-surfing, is not eligible. Currently, there are 46 VASH vouchers allocated, and 33 are being used. Ms. Sanchez stated that the OHA had two homeless veterans on the waiting list, but the OHA was unable to establish contact with those individuals.

Ms. Tara Carruth, representing the Ventura County Continuum of Care, addressed the Commission and echoed Ms. Sanchez' comments regarding the challenge of working within the VASH guidelines. Ms. Carruth discussed a project in Santa Barbara County which draws on other resources to assist veterans to qualify with less-strict criteria, and provide assistance with security deposits to move in to housing.

Ms. Sanchez also reported on the status of the OHA's set-aside preference vouchers for homeless persons (which includes non-veterans). To date, of the six referrals, only one has qualified for a voucher. Ms. Sanchez responded to questions from Commissioners. The Chair thanked Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Carruth for their presentations.

D. SUBJECT: Winter Warming Shelter

Mr. Lawson provided a verbal update on the operation of the Winter Warming Shelter (WWS) at the Oxnard National Guard Armory. Over 600 distinct persons utilized the shelter between December 1, 2015 and March 28, 2016. The WWS was displaced from the Armory for a total of nine (9) nights in the month of March (from March 2nd through March 6th, and again from March 29th through the 31st) due to statewide National Guard activities. On seven (7) of those nine (9) nights, the WWS team was able to provide safe shelter and meals for homeless persons at alternate locations.

Mr. Lawson informed the Commission that since December, the operating team has been able to achieve significant efficiencies in operation, and thus has been able to extend the life of the WWS beyond the planned closure date of March 31st. Beginning on March 30th, the WWS was re-located to the City of Ventura, and will remain open an additional two weeks, until April 15, 2016, while remaining within the original total budget. The new location is at the Mission Church, in the former Century Theater commercial center on Johnson Drive.

Public Comment: The Chair recognized Mr. Tim Hockett, of Community Action of Ventura County. Mr. Hockett detailed the history of efforts to develop an alternative to the WWS for the winter of 2016-17,

and reported on the on-going work related to CAVC's facility at 621 Richmond Avenue as a possible alternative that would provide both shelter and services.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO COMMISSION BY-LAWS

Mr. Lawson directed the Commission's attention to the staff report beginning at Page 013 of the agenda packet, and provided a verbal summary of the two proposed amendments to the By-Laws set forth therein, as follows: Article 1: Change from "The name of this legislative body shall be the Commission on Homelessness" to "The name of this Citizen Advisory Group shall be the Commission on Homelessness."; and Article III: Add a new Section D, to read as follows: "Eligibility: Commissioners must be legal residents of and registered to vote in the City of Oxnard, and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age in order to serve on the Commission."

Following discussion by the Board, Chair Castañon moved, and Vice-Chair Martinez seconded, a motion to approve the amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. SUBJECT: TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Chair Castañon opened the discussion on this matter. Commissioner Brinkmeyer presented a set of recommendations to the Commission (Attachment No. 2 to these minutes). By unanimous consent, the Commission accepted Chair Castañon's suggestion to table discussion on the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness to the May meeting of the Commission. Chair Castañon urged all Commissioners to submit written recommendations, as Commissioner Brinkmeyer had done, to the Secretary prior to the May meeting so that they can be included in the agenda packet.

6. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Martinez addressed the matter of pending City Code ordinance amendments to be presented to City Council on the issue of homelessness and panhandling, and recommended that the Commission send a letter inquiring of the City Attorney as to the status. Mr. Hockett was recognized by the Chair, and reported on the CAVC's provision of referral cards and brochures that merchants can give to homeless persons as a way to assist them and to reduce the impact of loitering and panhandling.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Brinkmeyer invited all to attend the City of Ventura's Workshop on Homelessness to be conducted on Monday, April 18, 2016 (Attachment No. 3 to these minutes). She also advised the Commission of the April 7 meeting of the Family Promise program (Attachment No. 4).

Mr. Lawson distributed a reprint of an article from the April 1, 2016 edition of the Los Angeles Times ("Wanted: Cities' help on Housing Crisis"; Attachment No. 5).

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Castañon declared the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

(Draft Minutes prepared by Karl Lawson)

CITY OF OXNARD
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

GRANT	APPLICANT	PROGRAM NAME	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT			
CDBG - ADM	Grants Management		\$300,230.00
CDBG - ADM	Homeless Assistance		\$62,000.00
CDBG - ADM	Affordable Housing		<u>\$85,000.00</u>
		Total Administrative Services Projects	<u>\$447,230.00</u>
CDBG - PS	Boys & Girls Club	Power Hour/Youth Development	\$25,000.00
CDBG - PS	Community Action of Ventura County	Oxnard Transition Center for the Homeless	\$48,000.00
CDBG - PS	El Centrito Family Learning Centers	Literacy-Integrated After School and Summer	\$7,000.00
CDBG - PS	Future Leaders of America, Inc.	Youth Leaders & Education Project	\$0.00
CDBG - PS	Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association	Subsidized Care	\$30,000.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Housing Department - Fair Housing	Fair Housing Program	\$58,000.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Housing Department-Homeless Services	Year-Round Homeless Facility	\$29,822.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Recreation Department	Police Activities League	\$26,000.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Recreation Department	Colonia Boxing Gym	\$7,600.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Recreation Department	Sr. Technology	\$20,000.00
CDBG - PS	Oxnard Recreation Department	Colonia Gym	\$40,000.00
CDBG - PS	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Intensive Case Management	<u>\$44,000.00</u>
		Total Public Services Projects	<u>\$335,422.00</u>
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Development Service Department	Code Compliance	\$200,000.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Fire Department	Command Vehicle	\$130,000.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Fire Department	Generator for Fire Stations	\$180,000.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Housing Department-AHRD	SF Rehabilitation	\$125,000.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Housing Department-AHRD	MH Owner Rehabilitation	\$300,000.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Housing Department-AHRD	Housing Services	\$225,500.00
CDBG - DB	Oxnard Park Department	Southwinds Park Phase II	\$252,925.00
CDBG - DB	To Be Selected	Contingency	<u>\$150,272.00</u>
		Total Direct Benefits Projects	<u>\$1,563,697.00</u>
		TOTAL CDBG GRANT	<u>\$2,346,349.00</u>
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT			
HESG-ADM	Administration		\$14,393.00
HESG_HMIS	HMIS	Homeless Management Informaiton System	\$7,369.00
HESG-SO	Community Action of Ventura County	Transition Center for the Homeless Outreach	\$38,143.00
HESG-HP	County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Homeless Prevention	\$22,000.00
HESG-RR	County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Rapid Re-Housing	\$33,000.00
HESG-ES	Interface Children & Family Services	Runaway Homeless Emergency Youth Shelter	\$20,000.00
HESG-ES	The Kingdom Center	Oxnard Emergency Shelter	\$30,000.00
HESG-SO	Turning Point Foundation	Street Outreach	\$0.00
HESG-ES	Turning Point Foundation	Mentally Ill Emergency Shelter	<u>\$27,000.00</u>
		TOTAL ESG GRANT	<u>\$191,905.00</u>
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP			
HOME-ADM	Administration		\$59,267.00
HOME HB	Oxnard Housing Department AHRD	First-Time Homebuyer	\$420,000.00
HOME-CHDO	Community Housing Development Organiztion	To Be Selected	<u>\$213,399.00</u>
		TOTAL HOME GRANT	<u>\$692,666.00</u>

The Commission on Homelessness recommends that City Council endorse the best practices and guiding principles (pages 3-5) of "Recalibrating for Results: A Five Year Evaluation and Update of the 2007-2017 County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness" (dated January 2013) and take action to engage all sectors of the community in efforts to end homelessness -- city and county agencies, providers of medical and emergency services, businesses, faith-based groups, and community members. The Commission also recommends that the Council adopt policies and practices that further the recommendations of the Recalibrated Plan, most especially:

- **Recommendations 1:** Housing First (p.6), **Recommendation 9:** Permanent Very Low Income Housing (p. 10-11), **Recommendation 4:** Permanent Supportive Housing Beds (p.7-8), **Recommendation 5:** Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) Vouchers (p.8-9): and **Recommendation 11:** Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) - which can be furthered by actions that increase the supply of permanent affordable housing and permanent supportive housing and/or increase the number of rental units where landlords accept VASH or CHOICE (Section 8) vouchers;
- **Recommendation 7:** Shelters/Crisis Housing (p. 9) and **Recommendation 8:** Transitional/ Bridge Housing (p. 10) - which can be furthered by actions that assist service providers seeking to establish short-term harbors where people can be housed and received assistance that will help them move on to permanent housing (in best practice, short term is 30-90 days, but this requires a sufficient supply of permanent housing);
- **Recommendation 6:** Rapid Re-housing Strategy (p.9) and **Recommendation 12:** Homeless Prevention Resources and Services p. 12) - which can be furthered by increasing funds available to assist with the payment rent and/or deposits;
- **Recommendation 10:** Housing Trust Fund (p.11) - which can be furthered, for example, by using in lieu fees through the Trust Fund to leverage other development fees;
- **Recommendation 17:** Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (p.14) - which can be furthered by requiring all homeless service providers who receive public agency funds for homeless services to participate in HMIS;
- **Recommendation 18:** Business Community Involvement (p. 15) - which can be furthered by engaging local business in on-the-job training and entry-level job opportunities for individuals who have been homeless; and
- **Recommendation 19:** Faith-Based Organizations (p. 15-16) - which can be furthered by bringing the faith community together to focus their efforts on supporting the development/operation of crisis and bridge housing options that help people move out of homelessness.

Sub B

CITY OF SAN BUENVAVENTURA

EVENT: Workshop on Community Homelessness
DATE: Monday, April 18, 2016
TIME: 5:30 to 9:00 pm
LOCATION: The Derby Club at the Ventura County Fairgrounds
Island View Room, 2nd Floor
10 W Harbor Boulevard, Ventura

The City of Ventura will be holding a Workshop on Community Homelessness at The Derby Club at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on Monday, April 18, 2016 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. The purposes of the workshop are to:

Provide education and promote community ownership and alignment around homelessness

Foster healthy, collaborative dialogue around homelessness through cooperative multi-agency relationships

Provide a new starting point for renewed multi-agency and community efforts to identify barriers and strategies to end homelessness

Ken Lee Consulting will be facilitating the workshop. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 pm while participants sign in and walk around the room to observe current information and trends about homelessness in Ventura. The workshop session will begin at 6:00 pm sharp.

Come join us at the workshop and partner with other stakeholders who are passionate about this important community issue.

If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact Ken Lee at ken@kenleeconsulting.com or (562) 972-4033.

Summary of Program Benefits

For Guests

- Safe, homelike shelter where families can stay together.
- Guests cite the caring of volunteers as one of the most important benefits; "I never knew so many people cared."
- Intensive case management by Director to assist in finding housing and jobs and meeting other needs.
- Guest families secure long-term housing.

For Volunteers

- Opportunity to help homeless families directly; to make a difference.
- Opportunity to do outreach within their own congregation or a nearby location.
- Wide range of volunteer activities to vary schedules and levels of commitment.
- Opportunity for families to volunteer together.

For Congregations

- Opportunity for outreach (within the congregation's own facilities) focusing on the needs of people in the community.
- Opportunity for participation in the community interfaith project.
- Increased sense of community among members as they share the effort.

For Community

- Cost-efficient mobilization of community resources.
- Does not duplicate services already in the community; works with social service agencies to provide counseling, job training, help with housing search, etc.
- Does not institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness.
- Becomes a catalyst for other community initiatives, such as job counseling, parenting workshops, transitional housing, etc.

2014 National Program Services Report

Total individuals served	53,322
Percent of guests who are children	58% (43% are age 5 or under)
Average length of stay (days)	63

Housing Status at Exit

Percent of families securing housing	76%
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Family Composition

Two-Parent Families	26.7%
Female Headed Single Parent Families	63.1%
Male Headed Single Parent Families	5.1%
Other Family Composition	5.1%

Building communities, strengthening lives

*Next meeting: April 7 (Thursday) 7pm., North Oxnard
United Methodist church, 1801 Joliet Place*

Wanted: Cities' help on housing crisis

L.A. County seeks up to \$500 million to fight homelessness. Various taxes are also being considered.

By Abby Sewell

Los Angeles County officials are studying how to come up with as much as \$500 million a year they say is needed to help address the region's spiraling homelessness crisis.

They're hoping that some of it will come from the county's 88 independent cities, even if it's only in increments of \$500 a month for each homeless person or family in need of a temporary housing subsidy.

Officials made their pitch Thursday at a summit in South Gate where they asked elected leaders and staff from 54 cities to contribute money to a range of county homeless initiatives.

The meeting — where response to the county's proposals was mixed — came as county officials conduct polling to decide whether to pursue a ballot measure for a tax increase to fund ongoing efforts to combat homelessness.

The options under consideration include a sales tax, a parcel tax, a tax on marijuana sales and a new tax on income over \$1 million a year.

According to a county analysis released this week, those could raise between \$243 million a year from the income tax and \$746 million for a half-cent sales tax, some for countywide services and some to be dispersed to cities.

"Funding isn't the only key to solving this problem, but it's a very important element to solving this problem," said Phil Ansell, the county administrator who has led the homeless initiative. "Obviously the more cities do, the more successful this whole effort will be."

Spurred by a 12% increase in homelessness countywide over the last two years, the city and county of Los Angeles passed parallel plans for addressing the problem in February. The county committed to spending \$150 million over the next two years.

But the county's analysis estimated it would take \$500 million a year to fill the gaps in needed housing and services, not including the cost of building new housing. Separately, city officials have estimated that \$1.85 billion is needed over the next decade to create enough housing to solve the problem.

More than 44,000 people were homeless in Los Angeles County in 2015, according to a count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

About half of the county's population lives in the city of Los Angeles or in unincorporated parts of the county. The other half live in the county's 87 smaller cities, which have their own authority over land use, and in many cases their own police forces and housing agencies.

Among the other requests to the cities put forward Thursday, county officials asked the city representatives to help pay for residents who participate in a county rapid-rehousing program that gives short-term rent subsidies, employment help and other services to people whose homelessness is not chronic.

[See Homelessness, B8]

County wants to coordinate efforts

Reprinted from the
LOS ANGELES TIMES
April 1, 2016

[Homelessness, from B1]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

A HOMELESS MAN in Santa Monica, one of the 88 cities being asked, among other things, to chip in \$500 a month for each homeless person or family in need of a temporary housing subsidy from L.A. County.

The cities were asked to sign up to chip in \$500 a month for each homeless family or individual from their jurisdiction served by the program.

And the county is pushing for cities to set aside a significant percentage of their federal low-income housing vouchers to provide

housing with supportive services for people who are chronically homeless.

County officials also asked the cities to exercise their land-use authority to help site shelters and affordable housing, and to sign on to a protocol the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is developing that will

ask law enforcement not to arrest homeless people for low-level offenses that don't pose an immediate public safety threat, and instead to connect them with services. Cities and the county.

Ansell said, should "work together to have a coordinated, countywide approach, one that doesn't focus on

moving homeless people from one city to another, but rather focuses on engaging homeless people as effectively as possible to help them move into housing and associated services."

In part, Los Angeles' access to federal housing money could hinge on doing that. The U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development has new standards that penalize regions that are seen as criminalizing the homeless.

The county's pitch was met with enthusiasm from some city officials, with reticence from others.

South Gate Mayor Jorge Morales said the issue of homelessness is personal to him. His brother ended up on the streets for a time due to drug-addiction issues.

"We've done an excellent job of kicking the can down the road, we've done an excellent job of working in silos, we've done an excellent job of ... pushing the issue outside of our borders," he said. "But it's really time to come together as one community, as one region and as one county to get to the core of the issue."

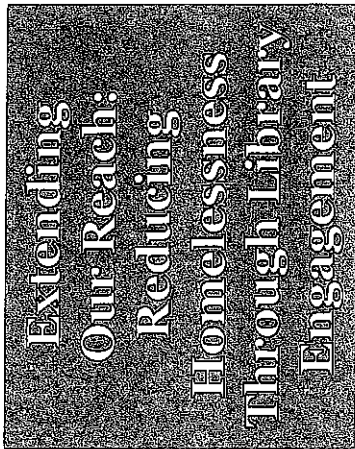
But others raised concerns about decriminalization measures and potential pushback from residents over siting housing or shelters in their jurisdictions or from low-income people who have been waiting for housing vouchers and might be bumped in favor of the chronically homeless.

Santa Clarita Councilman Tim Ben Boydston said his city has had issues with housing programs in which people have mental health and substance-abuse issues.

"The other needs become a problem and an apparent issue in the neighborhood," he said.

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Extending Our Reach: Reducing Homelessness Through Library Engagement



Model Programs

Baltimore County (Mary.) Public Library

Street Card-Resources for Help
<http://www.bcpl.info/community/street-card>
Created by the Baltimore County Public Library in cooperation with the Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless, the Street Card provides information on employment, food and emergency assistance, health, financial support, legal issues, and shelter. Information is available in print and online.

Denver (Colo.) Public Library Community Technology Center

<http://denverlibrary.org/ctc>

Denver Public Library's (DPL) Community Technology Center team provides regular visits to the area day shelter for homeless and low-income women. Women receive instruction on job interviewing techniques and technology skills. Once class is over, participants receive bus tokens to go to the main library for a tour and to get

Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library

Homeless Service Agencies

<http://www.library.pima.gov/community/guides/homeless.php>

Pima County Public Library's Homeless Service Agencies guide provides information (phone number, address, description) for local services. Information is organized into categories (veterans, domestic violence, youth) which may help individuals find the specific help they need.

Queens (N.Y.) Library

<http://www.queenslibrary.org>

New York's Queens Library provides outreach service to homeless shelters. The library coordinates these services with the city's Department of Education family shelter liaison. The outreach service promotes the library's programs, events, and services. The library also highlights family offerings, children's programs, and job search help.

San Francisco (Calif.) Public Library

<http://www.sfpd.org>

San Francisco Public Library formed a homeless and poverty outreach library team in partnership with the city's Department of Public Health and the SFFirst unit (San Francisco Full-Integrated Recovery Services Team). The full-time, in house social worker and the SFFirst director, a psychiatrist, provide staff training to better serve the community. Their team includes formerly homeless people who go through a 12-week vocational program. These "health and safety associates" reach out to homeless patrons in the library and distribute information on where to find shelter, showers and hot meals.

San Jose (Calif.) Public Library

Homelessness—A Panel Discussion

<http://sjpl.org/tags/homeless>

In an effort to improve library services to those experiencing homelessness, the San Jose Public Library initiated a panel discussion to help library professionals learn about the issue. The event brought together library professionals, students, and social workers and the resulting web page compiled resources, statistics, and information.

Traverse Area Library District

<http://www.tadl.org>

Traverse Area District Library partners with a faith-based winter shelter to offer on-site book club meetings. This partnership fosters outreach and promotes community through open dialogue and shared experiences.

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The Importance of Agency Culture and
Balanced Boundaries

Public Libraries Add Social Workers and Social Programs

by Barbara Trainin Blank

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by Barbara Trainin Blank

Public libraries have always been democratic, serving a cross-section of the population. After all, they are public, often easily accessible, and free.

As these populations have shifted to include more of the disadvantaged population, including people who are homeless, there is a small but growing trend for libraries to include social workers—not as patrons, but as helping professionals on staff.

It's not surprising that libraries have become hubs for homeless people or even the equivalent of day shelters. In addition to their other assets, libraries have plenty of bathrooms and no security checks.

They are also safe, which is an important consideration. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, as of July 17, 2014, 337 homeless people have been killed in hate crimes in 15 years.

The trend toward providing social services in libraries began at the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), which hired a licensed marriage and family therapist, not an MSW.

"Many of my clients have told me that they consider the library a sanctuary, and many of them utilize and truly enjoy the library resources," says Leah Esguerra, LMFT, hired through a partnership between the San Francisco Public Library and the San Francisco Department of Health/San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team.

But in addition, the library's goal is to connect its homeless and indigent patrons to available community resources, where their basic needs for food, shelter, hygiene, and medical attention can be addressed. Esguerra spends her day roaming the library floors, keeping an eye out for regulars who might need help.

Attachment No. 6

At first, Esguerra's primary responsibilities were to provide direct services to patrons and training to the library staff on issues of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. But because of the interest the program has aroused among libraries and social service agencies, she also communicates with institutions that are considering hiring a social worker.

Esguerra supervises six health and safety associates and two team leaders to do further outreach at the main library and some of the branches. "The associates are formerly homeless people who have first-hand experience with San Francisco social services," she says.

Elsewhere, the Pima County Library in Arizona became the first in the nation to hire public health nurses in its branches. The San Jose Public Library sent a caseworker to SFPL for training and consultation and now has a case manager on staff in a program entitled "Social Workers in the Library."

Begun by Deborah Estreicher (a librarian on staff who has worked with outreach programs), Peter Lee, Glenn Thomas, and Cyndy Thomas, the program brings volunteer social workers into the library twice a month for free 20-minute referrals. Members of the National Association of Social Workers, North California Chapter, staff the program.

The social workers can help with such issues as education; emergency services (food, clothing, housing, and crisis support); employment; family matters; health improvement (including health insurance); immigration; and support groups for men, women, and teens.

The Encinitas Library in San Diego may soon have free access to social workers. It has been exploring a partnership with San Diego State University's School of Social Work.

The Edmonton Public Library in Canada also hired a social worker, modeled after the San Francisco program. David MacMain, BSW, formerly of the Edmonton Library, was the first social worker in the program, which started in August 2011.

He called it the "brainchild" of Virginia Clavette, manager of programming at the main downtown branch, which has become "very much a hub of activity and community center, in the proximity of homeless shelters and frontline agencies."

The Edmonton Library applied to the provisional government and won a Safer Community Initiative grant. Part of the grant was to pay for three social workers and to provide IDs for patrons. "It's a huge barrier when they cannot pay for their own," MacMain notes.

Edmonton aimed to serve both diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals with mental health issues who have fallen between the cracks. "Many libraries serve the middle class, but this one has a different demographic, and we decided to embrace it and make a difference in the community," he adds. "A big part of the outreach worker's job is to connect people with resources and do community building."

The library social worker trend is too uncommon for the National Association of Social Workers to track—yet. Neither does the American Library Association, although the ALA provided examples of its member branches with these or similar programs.

The Denver Public Library's Community Technology Center team pays regular visits to the area day shelter for homeless and low-income women. The women receive instruction in job interviewing techniques and technology skills, and once class is over, receive bus tokens to tour the main library and get library cards.

Even in the absence of such formal programs, librarians often feel they must help users find shelter, food, and other public services, as more and more people seem to fall between the cracks. Partly, this is because they get to know patrons, especially those who come in on a regular basis.

Sari Feldman, director of the Cuyahoga Community Public Library (Ohio) and incoming president of the ALA (as of 2015-2016), noted that today's libraries "play a huge role in serving all people, in particular, the neediest. We have a great opportunity to create equity and to change lives."

Some libraries work one-on-one, or help people who want to go back to school or work, through adult basic education, GED classes, and career counseling workshops. "Computers in a library make a big difference, as a lifeline to dislocated persons," Feldman says.

Although the rate of homelessness has been growing for decades, today's society is witnessing more homeless youth and more homeless people with mental illnesses in the community after deinstitutionalization.

"During the day, the homeless are looking for free, safe places without recrimination or discrimination. The library has always been that place, but now it embraces the role," Feldman adds.

There would probably be more social workers in libraries, she says, except libraries have faced extreme budget cuts in recent years, and adding positions is a challenge. Staff training in dealing with homeless or mentally ill patrons is also needed.

March 29, 2016

Oxnard City Council &

Oxnard City Manager

RE: Public Hearings

Dear Council & City Manager,

I am writing this letter on the request of some members of the commission and of service providers who attended the last hearing regarding issues of homelessness and housing. The item was scheduled for 6:30pm and the hearing was not conducted till after 10:30pm. Many who were in attendance were there well past midnight having to be at work as early as 5am. I was ask to request that Council be mindful of people time especially when an item is scheduled for a particular time and people plan accordingly. The next hearing is scheduled for April and if you intend to have the hearing at 10pm please post accordingly so people can plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

Francine Castanon

Homeless Commission Chair



**TO: Honorable Chair and Commissioners
Commission on Homelessness**

FROM: Karl Lawson, Commission Secretary 

DATE: April 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2016-17 Entitlement Grants

I. RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission review proposed funding proposed funding allocations for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Act funding for FY 2016-17, and authorize and direct the Chair to transmit the Commission's funding recommendations to City Council.

II. DISCUSSION

The City of Oxnard has implemented a citizen participation and public input process for the allocation of entitlement grant funding for the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that the City receives from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). That process began on January 12, 2016, when the Oxnard City Council conducted an initial public hearing on the Unmet Needs Assessment.

Governmental and non-profit organizations submitted applications for funding in February of 2016. Those applications and project proposals were reviewed and evaluated by a panel composed of representatives from various Citizen Advisory Groups, including Commissioner Sue Brinkmeyer, representing the Commission on Homelessness.

The recommendations of that panel were forwarded to the Office of the City Manager, and will be presented to the Oxnard City Council at a second public hearing that will take place on May 3, 2016. A thirty-day public comment period commenced on April 3, 2016. The City Manager's written report to City Council is scheduled to be available to the public by 6:00 p.m. on April 28, 2016. Staff will disseminate that report to the Commission as soon as it becomes available.

III. RECOMMENDED COMMISSION ACTION

Staff recommends that the Commission receive and review the proposed funding recommendations at the Commission meeting of May 2, 2016. At the conclusion of the review, staff recommends that the Commission and authorize and direct the Chair to transmit the Commission's recommendations to City Council.

Attachment: Notice of 30-Day Public Review, FY 2016-17 Annual Action Plan

KL/kl

**CITY OF OXNARD
NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW
FY 2016-2017 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Oxnard (City) has prepared the One-Year Action Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017. The publication of this notice is the beginning of the 30-day public review period required under Federal Regulation 24 CFR 1.105(b) (2). The public review and written comment period begins on April 3, 2016, and concludes on May 2, 2016.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the One-Year Action Plan will be presented to the City Council (Council) for approval on the following date:

DATE: May 3, 2016

LOCATION: City Council Chambers
305 West Third Street
Oxnard, California 93030

TIME: 6:00 PM and thereafter

At this meeting, the Council will receive public comments on the One-Year Annual Action Plan (AAP) and consider the submission of the Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before May 15, 2016.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the City has participated in grant programs sponsored by HUD. HUD programs include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), and HEARTH Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) programs. The City will receive the following amounts for FY 2016-2017 for these programs:

CDBG	\$ 2,201,149
HOME	\$ 592,666
ESG	\$ 191,905

TOTAL HUD ALLOCATIONS: \$ 2,985,720

ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the City proposes the utilization of grant funds to implement the programs and activities as follows:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

• FY 2016-2017 Award	\$2,201,149
• Estimated FY 2016-2017 Program Income	\$ 35,000
• Reprogrammed of prior year funds	\$ 110,200
Total CDBG funding Available:	<u>\$2,346,349</u>

PROPOSED CDBG PROJECTS

Administrative Activities	\$ 447,230
Public Service Activities	\$ 335,422
Direct Benefit Projects	\$1,563,697
TOTAL PROPOSED CDBG	
ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS:	<u>\$2,346,349</u>

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS ACT

• FY 2016-2017 Award	\$592,666
• Estimated FY 2016-2017 Program Income	\$100,000

Total HOME funding Available: \$692,666

PROPOSED HOME ACTIVITIES

Program Administration	\$ 59,267
CHDO**	\$213,399
Projects/Programs	\$420,000
TOTAL PROPOSED HOME	
ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS:	<u>\$692,666</u>

** CHDO means Community Housing Development Organization

HEARTH EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

• FY 2016-2017 Award	\$191,905
Total HESG funding Available	<u>\$ 191,905</u>

PROPOSED ESG ACTIVITIES

Program Administration	\$ 14,393
Projects/Activities	\$177,512
TOTAL PROPOSED HESG	
ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS:	<u>\$191,905</u>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Copies of the draft AAP will be available for public review at the following locations:

City of Oxnard Main Library
251 South "A" Street

City of Oxnard City Clerk's Office
300 West Third Street, Fourth Floor

City of Oxnard Housing Department
435 South "D" Street

If you plan to attend the hearing, staff suggests that you contact the City Clerk's Office at (805) 385-7803, the Thursday prior to the scheduled date to confirm that the hearing has not been rescheduled. Persons with disabilities needing special assistance to participate in the hearing, or persons requiring a translator, should also contact the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

For further information, please contact Norma Owens, Grants Manager, at (805) 385-7959. Written comments may be addressed to the following:

City of Oxnard - Housing Department
Grants Management Division
435 South D Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

CITY OF
OXNARD
CALIFORNIA
Attachment No. 1

CIUDAD DE OXNARD
AVISO DE EVALUACIÓN PÚBLICA DE 30 DÍAS
PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL
AÑO FISCAL 2016-2017

CON EL PRESENTE SE DA AVISO que la Ciudad de Oxnard ha preparado su Plan de Acción Anual para el periodo del Año Fiscal 2016-2017. Con esta publicación se da inicio al periodo de evaluación pública de 30 días como lo requiere la Ley Federal 24 CFR 91.105(b) (2). El periodo de evaluación pública y comentarios por escrito **iniciará el 3 de abril de 2016 y terminará el 2 de mayo de 2016.**

ADEMÁS CON EL PRESENTE SE DA AVISO que el Plan de Acción de un año se presentará ante el Concejo Municipal para su aprobación en la siguiente fecha:

FECHA: 3 de mayo de 2016
 UBICACIÓN: Cámara del Concejo Municipal
 305 West Third Street
 Oxnard, California 93030
 HORA: a partir de las 6:00 PM en adelante

En esta junta el Concejo escuchará los comentarios del público acerca del Plan de Acción Anual (AAP, por sus siglas en inglés) y considerará presentar el Plan ante el Departamento de Vivienda y Reurbanización de los Estados Unidos (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) el 15 de mayo de 2016.

HISTORIAL

Cada año, la Ciudad ha participado en programas de subvenciones patrocinados por HUD. Entre los programas de HUD se incluyen los siguientes: Subvenciones en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG, en inglés), La Ley de Inversión Asociada HOME, y el Programa de Subvenciones para Soluciones Urgentes (HESG). Para el año fiscal 2016-2017 la Ciudad recibirá las siguientes cantidades para los siguientes programas:

➤ CDBG	\$ 2,201,149
➤ HOME	\$ 592,666
➤ ESG	\$ 191,905

TOTAL DE RECURSOS PREVISTOS: \$ 2,985,720

PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA UN AÑO

Para el año fiscal iniciando el 1 de julio de 2016, terminando el 30 de junio de 2017, la Ciudad propone se implemente el uso de los fondos de subvención en los siguientes programas y actividades:

SUBVENCIONES EN BLOQUE PARA EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO

• Subvenciones para el Año Fiscal 2016-2017	\$2,201,149
• Aproximación del Capital del Programa	\$ 35,000
	\$ 110,200
Total de fondos CDBG disponibles:	<u>\$2,346,349</u>

RECOMENDACIONES PARA PROYECTOS DE CDBG

Administración de Actividades	\$ 447,230
Proyectos de Servicio Público	\$ 335,422
Proyectos de Beneficio Directo	\$1,563,697
TOTAL EN RECOMENDACIONES PARA	
ACTIVIDADES/PROYECTOS de CDBG:	<u>\$2,346,349</u>

LEY DE INVERSIÓN ASOCIADA – HOME

• Subvención del Año Fiscal 2016-2017	\$ 592,666
• Reasignación de Fondos	\$ 100,000

Total de fondos de HOME disponibles: \$ 692,666

PROPUESTAS PARA PROYECTOS DE HOME

Administración del Programa	\$ 59,267
CHDO** Reserva	\$ 213,399
Proyectos/Programas	\$ 420,000
TOTAL DE PROPUESTAS PARA	<u>\$ 692,666</u>
ACTIVIDADES/PROYECTOS DE HOME:	

** CHDO (por sus siglas en inglés, Community Housing Development Organization)

PROGRAMA DE SUBVENCIONES PARA SOLUCIONES URGENTES (HESG, en inglés)

• Subvenciones Año Fiscal 2016-2017	\$ 191,905
Total de fondos de HESG disponibles	<u>191,905</u>

RECOMENDACIONES PARA PROYECTOS DE HESG

Administración del Programa	\$ 14,393
Proyectos	\$ 177,512
TOTAL DE RECOMENDACIONES PARA	<u>\$ 191,905</u>
ACTIVIDADES/PROYECTOS DE HESG:	

OPINIÓN PÚBLICA

Copias del borrador del informe del Plan y del AAP estarán disponibles para el público en los siguientes establecimientos:

Biblioteca Pública Principal de la Ciudad de Oxnard
 251 South "A" Street

Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal de la Ciudad de Oxnard
 300 West Third Street, Cuarto Piso

Departamento de Vivienda de la Ciudad
 435 South "D" Street

Si planea asistir a esta audiencia, el personal le sugiere que llame a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal de la Ciudad al (805) 385-7803 el jueves anterior a la fecha para confirmar que la audiencia no ha cambiado de fecha. Las personas con discapacidad que requieran de ayuda especial para participar en la audiencia o quien necesite servicios de intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal de la Ciudad por lo menos 72 horas antes de la junta.

Para más información, comuníquese con Norma Owens, Gerente de Subvenciones al (805) 385-7959. Comentarios por escrito deberán dirigirse a:

City of Oxnard – Housing Department
 Grants Management Division
 435 South D Street
 Oxnard, CA 93030

