



GENERAL RELIEF (GR) HOUSING SUBSIDY AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROJECT FACT SHEET

The GR Housing Subsidy and Case Management Project is designed to assist individuals who have been homeless and was modeled after San Francisco's "Care Not Cash" program, as well as DPSS services for CalWORKs (CW) homeless families. The objective of the Project is to test whether assisting the homeless GR population with a rent subsidy and coordinating access to other necessary supportive services reduces homelessness, increases employment, and/or increases receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Implementation of the Housing Subsidy and Case Management Project was effective July 25, 2006.

The Project will serve a total of 900 GR applicants/participants on a "first come, first serve" basis. A maximum of 300 Project participants will be categorized for each of the following three populations: 1) Employable GROW participants; 2) GR participants who are potentially eligible for SSI benefits; and 3) the chronically homeless. As participants disengage from the Project, new Project participants may repopulate available slots. Project participants may be assigned a slot up to a **maximum of three occurrences**.

PARTICIPANT PROJECT GUIDELINES

- Participation in the Project is voluntary.
- The Project participant's portion of the GR grant attributable to rent (\$136) will convert to a Direct Rent process, paid directly to the landlord.
- For a shared housing situation, the Project participant's portion of the GR grant attributable to rent (\$115) will convert to a Direct Rent process, paid directly to the landlord.
- Rent subsidies of up to \$300/month will be paid directly to the landlord, via the interim two-party check issuance. LEADER implementation of the Direct Rent process is targeted for April 2007.
- Each GR Housing Case Manager (GRHCM) will oversee approximately 75 Project participant slots (25 slots from each of the three targeted Project populations).
- Non-cooperation, as described in this fact sheet may disengage the Project participant from the Project; however, such actions may not necessarily terminate the GR case.

Move-In Assistance Funds

Guidelines to assist Project participants with "once-in-a-lifetime" Move-In Assistance Funds to secure permanent housing were developed as an enhancement to the Project. It has been determined that assisting with move-in funds, up to \$500, will enhance the success of the Project by facilitating access to permanent housing for Project participants. Move-in Assistance Funds will include: 1) last month's rent; 2) security deposits; 3) other required move-in costs/deposits (e.g., key deposits, etc.);

Move-In Assistance Funds (Continued)

4) utility deposits/turn on fees; 5) moving expenses (including truck rental); 6) overdue storage fees at a legitimate storage facility; 7) appliances (i.e., refrigerator and/or stove only), if the rental lacks the appliance; and 8) any required miscellaneous expenses.

The start-up savings associated with the Project's implementation will be utilized to fund requested move-in costs; therefore, this enhancement will not increase the cost of the Project. Implementation was effective February 2007.

Project Expansion to Include Approved GR Participants

The Project's expansion to include approved homeless GR participants was based on the Project's low referral numbers within the first seven months of implementation. As a result, the expansion is expected to generate higher referral numbers to subsequently fill all 900 Project slots. Implementation was effective February 2007.

PROJECT DISTRICTS

Districts selected to implement the Project service the largest populations within each Supervisorial District. The six Project Districts include: 1) Civic Center; 2) Metro Special; 3) Southwest Special; 4) South Special; 5) Rancho Park; and 6) Lancaster.

HOUSING LOCATOR (HL) STAFF

Two dedicated HL staff, contracted by the Weingart Center Association, canvass and develop a monthly database of 200 legitimate commercial housing rental properties (sub-standard housing is not allowed) throughout Los Angeles County to provide to GRHCMs as housing stock for homeless Project participants to rent. In addition, HL staff will develop tools to assist GRHCMs with educating and preparing "hard to rent" Project participants to move into rental housing.

PROJECT EVALUATION

Evaluation of data obtained from Project participants will be conducted periodically throughout the course of the Project. The basis for evaluating Project outcomes and corresponding data will determine the relationship between: 1) housing and securing/maintaining employment; 2) housing and maintaining medical and/or mental treatment services to obtain higher public assistance benefits (e.g., SSI benefits, etc.); and 3) housing and the treatment/supportive services resistant (chronically homeless) population.

FUNDING

The projected cost associated with the provision of a **\$300** monthly rent subsidy for approximately **900 GR participants** is **\$3,240,000 annually**. The projected annual cost for **12 GRHCMs** is **\$612,000**. **The total projected annual cost of the Project is \$4,052,000**. Included in the Project's proposed annual cost is **\$200,000 for the HL staff**.