



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 30, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services Department
Subject: Memorandum of Understanding: Winter Homeless Shelter Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services, in an amount not to exceed \$76,000 for operation of the Winter Shelter Program at the Oakland Army Base.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The current adopted FY 2013 budget for the Winter Homeless Shelter Programs is \$103,500. Of this amount, \$76,000 is allocated for operating costs of the Winter Shelter Program, and \$27,500 for transportation via BART for residents to get to the Winter Shelter facility at the Oakland Army Base. (Budget Code: 010-9703-410-3510).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2011, the Alameda County Continuum of Care Council conducted a count and survey of homeless people in Alameda County. According to the analysis of the extensive data collected through the Alameda Countywide Shelter and Services Survey, approximately 4,178 people are homeless in Alameda County on any given night. This represents a 3.8% decrease in the homeless population compared to the previous homeless count conducted in 2009. The reduction in the number of homeless people in the County was due to a decrease by 28% in the number of homeless families. There was not, however, a corresponding reduction in the number of homeless adults without children. In fact, there was actually a 10% increase in the number of homeless adults unaccompanied by a child, from 2,771 to 3,039. Of this total, 1,116 are chronically homeless adults. While the report for the 2011 count does not include detail about the demographics of the homeless population in various regions of the county, according to the 2009 report, the chronically homeless are disproportionately concentrated in Berkeley and Oakland, and this population is most in need of the Winter Shelter Program.

Currently the City has 138 shelter beds available at four emergency shelters that operate throughout the year. The demand for these beds during the winter months consistently exceeds the actual number of beds available. The Winter Shelter Program

fills a critical gap in emergency housing, and provides shelter for many of the most fragile among the local homeless population when the need for shelter from inclement weather is most urgent.

BACKGROUND

The City's response to the need for additional homeless shelter during the winter months includes three primary program components: 1) the Winter Shelter Program, which is a 100-bed facility located at the former Oakland Army Base; 2) the Winter Voucher Program provides emergency motel vouchers for homeless families and disabled individuals who are unable to access one of the regular emergency shelters; and 3) the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter Project (BESS), which is operated by Dorothy Day House (DDH) and provides shelter space on particularly stormy nights for single adults on the streets who are otherwise unable to obtain shelter.

The first component, the Winter Shelter Program, involves operating a 100-bed emergency winter shelter at a large facility at the former Oakland Army Base, from approximately November 15, 2012 through April 15, 2013. This program is a collaborative effort between the City of Berkeley, the City of Oakland, and Alameda County, along with Berkeley and Oakland service providers. The shelter is designed to serve single men and women. Fifty of the 100 beds in the shelter are designated for homeless people from Berkeley.

Shelter residents travel to the shelter by BART and two 7-passenger vans that transport the residents either to the West Oakland BART station or to service sites in downtown Oakland. The shelter residents who are referred by Berkeley agencies receive a roundtrip BART ticket to travel between downtown Berkeley and the West Oakland BART station, and the shuttle vans transport the residents from the BART station to the shelter site.

The overall operating budget for the Winter Shelter Program at the Oakland Army Base is approximately \$325,000. Berkeley's contribution to this program totals approximately 32% of the program's overall operating budget. Alameda County and the City of Oakland fund the remainder of the operating budget.

The second component of the City's response, the Winter Voucher Program, is designed to provide emergency housing during the winter months at Berkeley and Oakland area motels for homeless families and disabled individuals with medically fragile conditions. The City of Berkeley provides \$34,888 for this program.

The third component, the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter Project (BESS), was initiated in the winter of 2004 in order to expand shelter capacity on the nights when demand for shelter is the highest and most needed. BESS is designed to provide emergency shelter on short notice for approximately 20 of the stormiest nights during the winter season, providing refuge for up to 50 men and women. The First Congregational Church donates the space for the shelter, and it is primarily staffed by volunteers with oversight from a coordinator employed by Dorothy Day House.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

By significantly expanding capacity for emergency shelter and services through the Winter Voucher Program and the Winter Shelter Programs, the City provides a humane response to the needs of the most vulnerable of the homeless population during the harsh winter months. In addition, the collaborative provision of shelter at the Oakland Army Base is consistent with the City's efforts to regionalize its approach to homelessness. Through this type of partnership, services are more cost-effective and provided to a larger number of homeless individuals.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions are being considered at this time.

CONTACT PERSON

Andrew Wicker, Community Services Specialist, Housing, 981-5418

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF OAKLAND FOR THE
WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to a regional approach to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has implemented a seasonal winter shelter program in collaboration with the City of Oakland and Alameda County, in addition to a winter voucher program, consistent with the City-adopted Continuum of Care Plan; and

WHEREAS, funds for these programs are in the City's FY 2013 adopted budget in budget code 010-9703-410-3510.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Oakland in an amount not to exceed \$76,000 for the Winter Shelter Program at the former Oakland Army Base.