San Bernardino County receives $6.9 million federal grant for homeless

By Joe Nelson , The Sun

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San Bernardino County is the recipient of a $6.9 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that will be divided among 21 county programs and nonprofits serving the homeless.

Of the $6.9 million, the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County will receive $2.4 million for homeless families and disabled persons, and its affiliate nonprofit KEYS, which provides services to San Bernardino's poor, has received an allocation of $236,605.
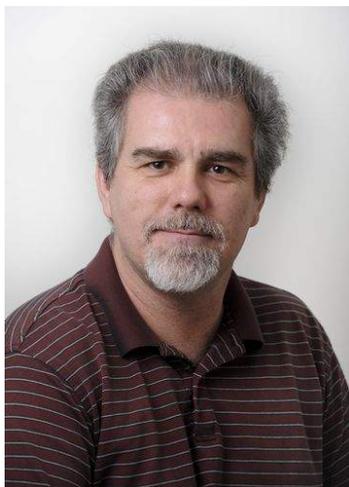
On Monday, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced grant awards totaling $1.8 billion to assist nearly 8,400 local homeless and service programs in the continental U.S., Guam , Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Since 1996, the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County and the county Department of Behavioral Health have partnered to provide job training, educational and healthcare services to the county's homeless population and help them find housing.

"The renewal of this grant is critical to continue to provide housing assistance to 182 families," said county Housing Authority Executive Director Daniel Nackerman in a statement Wednesday. "During these difficult economic times and the increase in demand for affordable housing, we are grateful that through this grant we can continue to serve these families."

The announcement comes a week after hundreds of volunteers fanned out across the county for a survey of the county's homeless population. The count was organized and hosted by the county Department of Homeless Services. Results are pending.

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Joe Nelson

Joe Nelson covers San Bernardino County for The Sun, Daily Bulletin and Redlands Daily Facts. Reach the author at joe.nelson@langnews.com or follow Joe on Twitter: @sbcountynow.

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