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Grant Awards Help Homeless



Housing Authority Receives \$434,904 for Homeless Services

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(San Bernardino, CA) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) was awarded a one-year renewal grant for \$434,904 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its Shelter Plus Care Program to continue to provide services to homeless families and individuals with disabilities. HUD awarded \$1.4 billion to fund nearly 7,000 Homeless Programs nationwide. Throughout the County, 13 service providers received a grant from HUD, equivalent to \$2,342,213.

The Shelter Plus Care Program builds on the premise that housing and services need to be linked in order to ensure stable housing for this hard to serve population. Partnering since 1996, families are referred to the Housing Authority by the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). HACSB provides rental subsidy and administers the housing assistance, while the DBH provides services ranging from job training, health care, supportive services, and educational services, allowing the tenant an opportunity to obtain economic and social independence, when otherwise, they may still be homeless.

"The renewal of this grant is critical to continue to provide housing assistance, while the Department of Behavioral Health provides families and individuals with a wide array of social services," states Susan Benner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. Mrs. Benner continues, "During these difficult economic times and the increase in demand for this program, we are grateful that through our partnerships and this grant, we'll continue to help these families become self-sufficient."

Participants in the program commit to 20 hours a week of community services, employment or school attendance, which is monitored by the DBH. This program is an important source of housing and social service assistance for homeless people with severe disabilities. "We look forward to the grant being renewed in the years to come, as it's a great program for many individuals through the County," reinforces Mrs. Benner.

written by: precinct reporter group