



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Council Approves 15th Annual City Winter Shelter Program

For the 15th consecutive year, the City Council has approved a winter shelter program that will operate from Dec. 15 through March 15 and serve homeless veterans and single adults in separate, temporary structures.

One structure will be located behind the Goodwill Thrift Store on Sports Arena Boulevard and provide 150 beds for homeless male veterans.

The second structure will be located at the corner of 16th Street and Newton Avenue and provide 150 beds for single, non-veteran adults.

The City has contracted with Vietnam Veterans of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul to manage the respective shelters. The City's Community and Economic Development Department administers the program.

The County will assist in coordinating and providing services to participants,

and several nonprofit agencies will provide additional services at no cost, including case management and referrals to health care, mental health services, employment counseling, and other counseling services.

The Council approved a budget of \$429,349 for the program. The City will apply for grants and search for other funding to house an additional 100 single adults. The Winter Shelter Program has a successful track record. Last season, the program served 4,947 people.

The City's year-round family shelter in downtown continues to operate at capacity with 150 beds. The shelter eventually will be replaced by the Cortez Hill Family Center, which is expected to open next year. The San Diego Rescue Mission continues to receive selected families that cannot be accommodated at the City's shelter.

YWCA Considered to Manage Center

On Nov. 28, the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee recommended that the YWCA manage the soon-to-be-built Cortez Hill Family Center. The full City Council is expected to make the final decision early next year.

The YWCA was first recommended by a selection committee made up of three Cortez Hill residents and representatives from the City, County, and Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

The City purchased the former Days Inn on Cortez Hill in May to be used as a permanent transitional housing facility for homeless families. It will replace the City's year-round family homeless shelter in downtown. In the interim, the YWCA will take over management of the existing family shelter on Dec. 16.

Construction on the Cortez Hill Family Center will begin in January. The first and second phases will include demolition of unneeded facilities and rehabilitation of the existing building. Families are expected to begin residence at the center in summer 2002. The final phase will begin later and include the construction of a dining room, child care area, and meeting space.

The City is overseeing the project with funding assistance from the Centre City Development Corp.

More Information About Homeless Services

The City's Homeless Services Program is administered by the Community Services Division of the City's Community and Economic Development Department. For more information about the Homeless Services Program, call (619) 533-6525, or visit the City's web site www.sandiego.gov and click on Services.

Family Shelter Kids Learn About Fishing and Boating

On Nov. 24, 40 children living at the City's family shelter went on a deep sea fishing trip. Before boarding the boat, the children, between the ages of 8 and 15, attended a two-hour Fishing 101 class where they learned about boating safety, fishing laws, indigenous life forms, and basic knot tying. The fishing trip was sponsored by Seaforth Sportfishing.