



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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## **City's Three Winter Shelters to Open Dec. 15**

Three temporary housing facilities for the homeless will open Dec. 15 as part of the City's annual Winter Shelter Program. The shelters will be open a minimum of three months and provide beds for at least 550 people free of charge.

On Nov. 21, the City Council voted to spend \$778,913 to fund the shelters.

The 250-bed facility in Barrio Logan will provide shelter for single men and women, the 150-bed facility in downtown will house homeless families, and the 150-bed facility in the Midway District will provide shelter for male veterans.

All three facilities will provide social and medical services to help people turn their lives around. The temporary housing will protect the people's health by providing shelter during San Diego's coldest weather months.

The City has contracted with St. Vincent de Paul, the Solutions Consortium, and the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego to operate the shelters.

Last year, the City's winter shelters assisted more than 4,630 people over four months.

## **Recommendations for East Village to be Considered by City Council in 2001**

A new report that includes eight recommendations regarding homeless issues in downtown's East Village is scheduled to be considered by the City Council in early 2001. The report is the work of the East Village Redevelopment Homeless Advisory Committee.

The recommendations in the committee's report include:

- Preserve and create homeless shelter beds and low-cost housing.
- Increase public sanitation facilities downtown.
- Extend the length of the seasonal shelter period.
- Continue Homeless Outreach Team support.
- Expand the Serial Inebriate Program and treatment facilities.
- Create a community court to serve downtown.
- Publicize City Homeless Services coordinator's role.
- Continue and improve City/County and other agency collaboration.

The 45-member advisory committee identifies potential physical impacts of homeless displacement caused by the

proposed activities in East Village and surrounding communities. The committee includes representatives from community groups, government agencies, social service providers, neighborhood and citizen groups, and City staff.

## **City and County Receive \$10.1 Million State Grant to Assist Mentally Ill Homeless Persons**

On Nov. 2, the City and County were awarded a \$10.1 million, three-year grant from the state Department of Mental Health to place more than 300 mentally ill homeless persons in downtown in housing and intensive, case-managed treatment.

The County Health and Human Services Agency will use the funds to provide treatment for this hard-to-serve population.

The housing component will be provided by City community development block grant funds, Housing Trust funds and HUD Section 8 vouchers from the City's Housing Commission, and low/moderate housing funds from the Centre City Development Corp.

## **Helpful resources for more information**

The City's Homeless Services Program is administered by the City's Economic Development and Community Services Department. For more information, call (619) 533-6525, or visit the Homeless Services web page on the City's web site: [www.ci.san-diego.ca.us](http://www.ci.san-diego.ca.us). Persons who are homeless and need assistance can call the United Way InfoLine at (619) 230-0997. Concerned citizens or students interested in information or statistics about homeless issues can call the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless at (858) 694-8722.