



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

January 2001

Number 6

City's Winter Shelters Assist 550 Daily; 57 Children Enrolled in Nearby Schools

After one month in operation, the City's three winter shelters are assisting 550 homeless persons each day.

Opened on Dec. 15, the shelters provide a dry, safe place for homeless persons during San Diego's coldest months and offer a variety of needed services.

Equipment is in place, social services are being provided, daily meals are being served, and children are in daycare and enrolled in local schools.

The San Diego County Office of Education reports that 57 new students from the family shelter have enrolled in two downtown schools. Also, 40 infants and preschool children are staying with

their parents and have access to the shelter's day center.

The shelters include a temporary, 150-bed facility on Midway Drive for male veterans, a 250-bed facility in Barrio Logan for single adults, and a 150-bed facility in downtown's East Village for families.

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

The shelters for veterans and single adults are scheduled to operate through March 15. The family shelter will be open through June 30.

Program to Focus on Special Needs of Homeless with Mental Illness, Drug, and Alcohol Problems

To address the needs of homeless people with special needs, such as mental illness, chronic alcohol or drug abuse, or both (dually-diagnosed), the City of San Diego is developing a Special Needs Housing Program.

The following program goals have been set for the next two years:

- Add 100 transitional beds for the severely mentally ill and dually-diagnosed homeless (two, 25-bed facilities by December 2000 and two additional 25-bed facilities by December 2001).
- Add 100 permanent supportive housing units for severely mentally ill

and dually-diagnosed homeless (25 units by December 2000 and 75 additional units by December 2001).

- Add 80 beds for short and long-term residential substance abuse treatment for chronic inebriates and dually-diagnosed homeless.
- Give Homeless Outreach Team and the Police Department more enforcement tools for chronic inebriates.

The Special Needs Housing Program is a regional collaboration of the City, County, nonprofit social services providers, and two City agencies; Centre City Development Corp. and the Housing Commission.

Permanent Facility for Homeless Families to Open in Late Spring

A new, permanent facility where homeless families can receive shelter and needed assistance is expected to open in late spring.

The City of San Diego will spend as much as \$3.5 million to acquire and renovate the Days Inn motel on downtown's Cortez Hill and convert it into a short-term, transitional-housing facility for homeless families.

Under the plan approved by the City Council on Dec. 12, the City would acquire the 47-unit motel to provide shelter for as many as 150 people. Families would be provided free rooms and assistance for as long as 90 days, allowing them time to find employment, and save money to rent permanent homes.

Services will include counseling, health care, job assistance, and other social services.

Until June 30, homeless families can receive shelter at a temporary facility in downtown as part of the City's Winter Shelter Program.

More Information About Homeless Services

The City's Homeless Services Program is administered by the City's Community Development Department. For more information, call (619) 533-6525, or visit the City's web site: www.ci.san-diego.ca.us.