

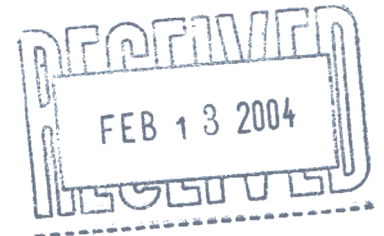


CITY OF BURBANK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

275 East Olive Avenue, P.O. Box 6459, Burbank, California 91510-6459
www.ci.burbank.ca.us

February 10, 2004

Mitchell Netburn, Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
548 S. Spring St., #400
Los Angeles, CA. 90013



RE: Homeless Residents in Burbank

Dear Mr. Netburn:

We are providing the information requested in your letter of December 29, 2003 answering the following questions:

1. How many and what percent of your organization's annual client load are homeless individuals and families?

As you're aware Burbank supports and works in conjunction with LAHSA in providing Continuum of Care programs/services. In 2001, LAHSA/Los Angeles County estimated a homeless population of 74,900 persons, 59,920 estimated to be single individuals and 14,980 families with children. Burbank, located in Service Planning Area (SPA) 2 encompasses the San Fernando Valley, which has approximately 10,400 homeless persons, or 14 percent of the total homeless population.

According to the Salvation Army, Burbank Corps and the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC), Burbank's homeless population is estimated at around 100 persons. These homeless service providers estimate the homeless population consists primarily of single men (about 75 percent), followed by single women and families with children. White individuals comprised approximately 70 percent of the homeless, while Hispanics make up the next largest group (about 20 percent), with African-Americans, Asians, and persons of other races/ethnicities constituting the remaining 10 percent.

Despite Burbank's relatively small homeless population given the City's size, a much larger segment of the community is at risk of becoming homeless. Almost 11 percent or 10,484 residents in Burbank live below the poverty line, according to the 2000 Census. Female-headed households with children are particularly at risk since 20 percent of these households live in poverty. Another at-risk group includes households receiving Section 8 vouchers. In Burbank, 1,014 households receive Section 8 rental assistance.

ADMINISTRATION
818.238.5176
PLANNING
818.238.5250



BUILDING
818.238.5220
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
818.238.5180



HOUSING & GRANTS
818.238.5160
TRANSPORTATION
818.238.5270



LICENSE & CODE SERVICES
818.238.5280
WORKFORCE CONNECTION
818.238.JOBS

2. What procedure does your organization use to identify homeless people?

Statistics on the homeless population are maintained by the two local service providers, BTAC and the Salvation Army. Those identified for SPA 2, although encompassing Burbank, are not broken down by city.

3. How much do you estimate that your organization spends each year on services related to homeless people?

CDBG public service(s) funding of \$62,000 was allocated for FY 2003 to assist BTAC and the Salvation Army. Public service(s) appropriations for FY 2004 will not be allocated until April, but CDBG capital project funds of \$575,000 (Phase 1) have been approved for BTAC to construct a new 2-story addition and renovate their existing facility. Other federal funds (HOME, Section 8) and local 20% set-aside funding do not specifically earmark funds for homeless assistance.

4. What specific policies and practices produce the outcomes that your organization currently achieves in preventing and eliminating homelessness?

Burbank's Consolidated Plan (FY 2003-08) details the City's overall strategy, objectives and annual actions/activities to assist the homeless. It entails a profile of the homeless, available services and facilities, homeless needs and gaps in services, and needs of persons at-risk of becoming homeless. The Plan includes providing emergency shelter(s) and services through local and Burbank providers, Section 8 rental assistance through the Burbank Housing Authority and homeless prevention policies and activities through an anti-poverty strategy, including employment training programs, the Family Self-sufficiency program, health services, child-care, and adult literacy programs.

5. What specific changes in resources, policies or practices on the part of your organization would make it possible to reduce the number of homeless people in the City?

a. Certainly, an increase in available funding to meet the gap in programs and services available would be helpful. CDBG public services are capped at 15 percent by law, and obviously, not all of these funds go for homeless assistance. Other federal and local funds received by Burbank are in majority designed for other uses, and State budget issues are a current concern.

b. A better methodology to accurately identify and classify those that are homeless in the City can create greater local and political support for necessary programs and services if the need is proven. Currently, local service providers lack the knowledge, staff and funding resources to sufficiently meet this task, while SPA 2 organizations have demographic and assistance detail only by the overall coverage area.

c. Undertaking a City funded study, co-partnering with other neighboring cities for facilities and services, and networking with SPA 2 service providers can reduce the number of homeless in Burbank.

6. What specific changes in resources, policies or practices on the part of other organizations would reduce the number of homeless people in the City?


Any changes that would contribute to improving the concerns/issues mentioned in question 5 above.

7. What additional outcomes in preventing and eliminating homelessness could be achieved if specific policies and practices that you suggest in response to questions 5 and 6 were implemented?

Local and/or City policies and practices result from citizen and political interest in an issue/concern, program activity or project when a need is established. What we suggest above is a logical, accurate and cost effective process whereby the City can determine what, if any, specific homeless issues/problems exist. Once the need is identified, policies and practices can be implemented to curtail homelessness, contingent on funding availability and local support.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Mas Yoshinaga
Grants Coordinator