



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
425 Shatto Place -- Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

January 29, 2004

Mitchell Netburn, Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
548 South Spring Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Mr. Netburn:

HOMELESS RESIDENTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

This is to respond to your survey on the above subject. The information below relates to our services for former foster youth. Our Department does not keep statistics on the number of homeless children or families that we serve, as homelessness alone is not a criteria for child protection services. Families that we are serving that also happen to be homeless will be referred to other community agencies, such as yours, to address their need for housing.

Our Department does maintain programs for former foster youth between the ages of 18-21 for transitional services. One such program is our Transitional Housing Program for homeless youth. Following are our responses for that population.

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

The DCFS THP received 556 referrals from "homeless youth" during the period January 2003-December 2003.

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

The former foster youth contact our Emancipation Services Division and self-report their homelessness. The THP uses the federal definition of "homeless" to identify homeless youth and determine eligibility for this grant-funded program.

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

The DCFS THP is funded through federal grants with matching funds from the Chafee independent Living Program funds. In FY03-04 we expect to expend \$4,634,763.

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

Homeless youth participating in the THP receive transitional housing and supportive services including assistance securing employment and /or vocational training, life skills training, career counseling, budget preparation, housekeeping, shopping and regular supervision by a case manager. The program requires that every youth must be employed and/or attending school or a job-training program and contribute a certain percentage of their income to a trust fund. This fund is for their later use to secure permanent housing following their 18-month stay in the program.

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

Making more apartment owners in the community aware of the need for housing for this population is necessary to increase housing resources and the number of beds for homeless youth. Also more affordable rents are needed for this population in order to secure permanent housing.

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

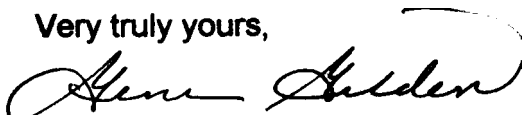
No specific changes requested at this time.

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

There would be more affordable housing set aside for this specific population of homeless individuals.

Please contact me at (213) 351-0102, or my assistant Armand Montiel at 351-0109, if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Gene Gilden
Division Chief
GG:am