



City of South Gate

8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE • SOUTH GATE, CA 90280 • (323) 563-9529
FAX (323) 567-0725

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

January 29, 2004

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

VIA FAX: (213) 892-0093

Dear Mr. Netburn:

The City of South Gate received your letter containing seven questions regarding information about the Homeless population in South Gate.

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

The City of South Gate via the Housing Authority and the City's transit programs receives approximately 5 requests on an annual basis for shelter or for transportation services.

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

The Police Department makes a count every couple of years.

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

The City of South Gate Community Development Block Grant Program provides approximately \$15,000 to the Salvation Army Bell Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army Southeast Communities Corps and other homeless assistance organizations.

The City's Emergency Grant Program allocates approximately \$88,000 on an annual basis to the Salvation Army Bell Homeless Shelter.

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

The City of South Gate follows a "Continuum of Care" Plan that involves providing financial assistance to Emergency Shelter organizations, transitional housing trailers, Emergency Food organizations and Support Services organizations. Staff also hopes to be able to provide additional transitional and provide permanent housing for the homeless through the use of HOME funds.

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 of South Gate?

The City Council must support the provision of transitional and permanent housing for the homeless in the community since the allocation of HOME funds for this housing must be approved by the City Council.

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 of South Gate?

All nonprofits should register with the City they are located in so an accurate record of available services could be provided and maintained. The Federal, State, County and City governments should coordinate and exchange information. The local governments could then coordinate with all the non-profits in their own and coordinate with surrounding local governments so services do not overlap and efficiency of services to the homeless can occur.

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?

Additional needed transitional and permanent housing could be provided. Information about Homeless Non Profits could be organized. The Rainbow Services Directory makes an attempt but it is not really good at a local level. Many organizations are left out. It would allow cities to create a better Continuum of Care Plan for the Homeless.

Sincerely,



Kathy Johnston
Grants Coordinator
for Steve Lefever, Community Development Director
City of South Gate