

Federal Homelessness Resource Guide



Engaging Partners in Solutions to Homelessness

Department of Health & Human Services
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Education
Department of Energy
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Housing & Urban Development
Department of Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor

Social Security Administration
Department of Transportation
[Federal Transit Administration]
Veterans Affairs
Corporation of National & Community Services
General Services Administration
Office of Management and Budget
United States Postal Service
USA Freedom Corps
Internal Revenue Service

(Updated September, 2007)

Service Through Information and Referral

Introduction

Homelessness is not a problem that can be solved by one Federal agency. In fact, government alone cannot solve this serious problem, but Federal agencies do have resources that can help. Federal assistance varies and includes *services* to the homeless, direct *cash* payments to the homeless, and *funding/grants* for homeless programs and assistance.

The Region VI (TX, LA, OK, NM, AR) Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness is a group of Federal agencies that was formed to coordinate various homeless assistance programs and to provide individuals, municipalities, and organizations with information about what Federal resources are available to assist the homeless. To that end, this council created the *Federal Homelessness Resource Guide*. Federal programs are often complex and lengthy to explain, so our approach in creating this document was to provide a brief summary of what assistance each agency has that might assist the homeless and provide a contact name and number to get more details if needed. This approach kept the relatively document short and simple and hopefully fairly easy to use. However, if you have any comments that you believe will help make this guide more useful, we would appreciate you emailing your comments to:

Point of Contact Region VI –Interim Coordinator - Southwestern States
The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
Nicolas Ramon at Nicolas.Ramon@hud.gov

Finally, this guide is also available online at www.hud.gov/texas.

It is the policy of the Region VI (TX, LA, OK, NM, AR) Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness and its member Federal agencies not to discriminate because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, and parental status.

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Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Here's What We Provide

- Emergency Shelter Grants Program

The Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. It can assist with the operational costs of the shelter facility and with the administration of the grant. ESG also provides short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs.

Grantees, which are State governments, large cities, urban counties, and U.S. territories, receive ESG grants and make these funds available to either local government agencies or private nonprofit organizations. The recipient agencies and organizations, which actually run the homeless assistance projects, apply for ESG funds through the governmental grantee and not directly to HUD. Feel free to view all Community Planning and Development (CPD) city, county and state grants, including the ESG grant, or contact your local field office for further assistance.

ESG funds are available for the rehabilitation or remodeling of buildings used as a new shelter, operations and maintenance of the facility, essential supportive services (e.g., case management, physical and mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, child care, etc.), homeless prevention, and grant administration.

Grantees, except for State governments, must match ESG grant funds dollar for dollar with their own locally generated amounts. These local amounts can come from the grantee or recipient agency or organization; other Federal, State and local grants; and from "in-kind" contributions such as the value of a donated building, supplies and equipment, new staff services, and volunteer time.

- The Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care approach helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transition, and permanent housing and service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD believes the best approach for alleviating homelessness is through a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the different needs of homeless persons. The fundamental components of a Continuum of Care system are:

Outreach and assessment to identify a homeless person's needs

Immediate (emergency) shelter as a safe, decent alternative to the streets

Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services to help people reach independent living

Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing

HUD's Special Needs Assistance Programs Office administers this Federal grant assistance program. Grants under the Continuum of Care are awarded through a national competition held annually. To learn how you can enter the national competition, please call your local HUD office or local Homeless Coalition.

Continuum of Care programs include: Supportive Housing, Single Room Occupancy Housing, and Shelter Plus Care.

- Supportive Housing Program

The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) promotes the development of housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons in the transition from streets and shelters to independent living. The grants go to nonprofit organizations, local and State governments, and other governmental entities.

SHP features six approaches to help homeless people achieve independence. Applicants may choose the approach that best suits the needs of the people they intend to serve.

- Transitional Housing assists homeless persons with housing for up to 24 months with supportive services that help them move into independent living.
- Permanent housing for person with disabilities that enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.
- Supportive Services Only projects operate independently to link with housing from other sources.
- Safe Havens are a form of supportive housing that serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions.
- Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) is data-collection software designed to capture information over time on the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Innovative Supportive Housing enables the applicant to design a program outside the scope of existing programs. The project must present a unique approach that can be replicated elsewhere.

- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program

The SRO program provides rental assistance for homeless persons in connection with the moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings. SRO housing contains units for occupancy by one person. These units may contain food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both.

Under the program, HUD enters into Annual Contributions Contracts with public housing agencies (PHAs) in connection with the rehabilitation that when completed will contain multiple single room dwelling units. These PHAs make Section 8 rental assistance payments to participating owners (i.e., landlords) on behalf of homeless individuals who rent the rehabilitated dwellings. The rental assistance payments cover the difference between a portion of the tenant's income (normally 30%) and the unit's rent, which must be within the fair market rent established by HUD.

Rental assistance for SRO units is provided for a period of 10 years. Owners are compensated for the cost of some of the rehabilitation (as well as the other costs of owning and maintaining the property) through the rental assistance payments

Assistance provided under the SRO program is designed to bring more standard SRO units into the local housing supply and to use those units to assist homeless persons. The SRO units might be in a rundown hotel, a Y, an old school, or even in a large abandoned home.

- Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program

The Shelter Plus Care Program provides rental assistance to homeless individuals/families with disabilities. Disabilities primarily include mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and HIV/AIDS or related diseases.

Eligible applicants are States, local government units, and Public housing agencies. These units of government may contract with a non-profit organization.

Eligible activities are restricted to rental assistance and administrative costs associated with administering the rental assistance. Supportive services must be available to meet participant's needs. The applicant or other sources may provide these services.

Here's Who To Contact

If you would like to know more, please contact one of our HUD offices and ask for Community Planning and Development (CPD)

Dallas	214-767-8300
Fort Worth	817-978-5965
Houston	713-718-3199
Lubbock	806-472-7265
San Antonio	210-475-6806
Albuquerque	505-346-6463
Little Rock	501-324-5401
New Orleans	504-589-7201

Oklahoma City	405-609-8509
Shreveport	318-676-3385
Tulsa	918-581-7434

Visit our website at www.hud.gov

Specific Information is found at HUD's Homelessness Resource Exchange:
<http://www.hudhre.info> is a one-stop shop offering information and resources for providers assisting persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Here's What We Provide

Before addressing homelessness help, it is important to understand what we do. SSA generally provides cash benefits to individuals (not agencies, municipalities, or organizations) under the two primary cash programs it administers:

- Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance

The RSDI program provides payments funded by the “trust fund” and paid for with FICA tax. The eligibility rules for retirement (including benefits for dependents) can be found at www.ssa.gov/r&m2.htm. The rules for disability benefits (including benefits for dependents) are at www.ssa.gov/d&s1.htm. Basically, RSDI is the program that is associated with the Social Security Administration.

- Supplemental Security Income

The SSI program provides needs-based payments to aged (i.e., age 65), blind, or disabled individuals funded from “general revenues” or income tax. Since this is a needs-based program, only those with limited income and resources qualify. The more in-depth eligibility rules for SSI can be found at: www.ssa.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/ Note that an individual who qualifies for SSI almost always qualifies for medical assistance through Medicaid.

It is important to recognize that being homeless does not qualify an individual for either a RSDI or SSI payments. However, many disabled/aged homeless individual qualify for SSI benefits since they often have little income or resources. For such individuals, there are several special things we do to assist. For example, we will take an SSI claim from an individual in an institution (where SSI eligibility is precluded), so that when he is released, SSI payments can quickly begin. Other things that we do to assist the homeless are listed at www.ssa.gov/homelessness/.

Often, homeless individuals need assistance in filing an application for payments, as they need to remember to show up for appointments and comply with other requests to complete the application process. If you are able to assist such an individual, you should complete a form SSA-1696, and you will get copies of notices, be able to discuss issues with SSA regarding the individual, etc. You can learn more about becoming an authorized representative and getting a form SSA-1696 at www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-1696.html. Also, visit the SSA web site at www.ssa.gov.

Here's Who To Contact

SSA has 151 field offices in the 5-State Dallas Region, and the nearest office can be located by going to SSA's web site at www.ssa.gov and clicking the link called "Finding your nearest Social Security Office" which will bring you to this web page <http://s00dace.ssa.gov/pro/fo/fo-home.html> . When you identify an SSA office, the phone number can be found in the local phone book, and we encourage you to contact them for any help you need. You may also contact SSA's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

Health & Human Services (HHS)

- The U. S. Department of Health & Human Services is organized into 11 Agencies. HHS administers 300 federal programs and makes one quarter of all Federal grant outlays. Six HHS agencies are responsible for 30 grant programs serving the homeless and other populations.
- Between 2001 and 2007, HHS, in partnership with HUD, VA, DOL, ED, and the USICH, supported a series of nine *Homeless Policy Academies*. The Homeless Policy Academies were designed to help State and local policymakers improve access to mainstream services for people who are homeless.
www.hrsa.gov/homeless/
- The HHS Strategic Action Plan on Homelessness was released in March 2007 to update goals and strategies for homelessness by the Department for future years.
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/homelessness/strategies07/index.htm>

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau (CB), administers the following child welfare programs in the areas of youth emancipating from foster care and abandoned infants:

- Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program offers assistance to help current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency and make a successful transition to adulthood. Grants are offered to States who submit a plan to help youth with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care and youth 18-21 who have aged out of the foster care system and may be at risk of homelessness.

- CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers Program

The CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program provides resources to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care. The State of Texas provides an ETV up to \$5,000 each year for youth aging out of foster care, and free tuition is provided to each eligible youth enrolled at a state-funded university.

- Abandoned Infants Assistance Program

The Abandoned Infants Assistance Program provides funding for the development of comprehensive service programs to infants and their families. We make grants to public and nonprofit private organizations that demonstrate strategies to (1) prevent abandonment; (2) identify needs and provide services to abandoned infants, especially those with AIDS; (3) assist these infants to reside with biological families, if possible, or in foster care; (4) recruit, train and retain foster parents; (5) provide residential care programs for abandoned children and children with AIDS; (6) establish programs of

respite care for families and foster families; and, (7) recruit and train health and social services personnel to work with families, foster families and residential care staff.

Here's Who To Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families is located in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The Child Welfare Program Manager is June Lloyd, 214-767-8466 june.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF Region VI Child Welfare State Program Specialists are listed as follows:

Arkansas: Amy Grissom, 214-767-4542, amy.grissom@acf.hhs.gov
Louisiana: Amy Grissom, 214-767-4542, amy.grissom@acf.hhs.gov
New Mexico: Janis Brown, 214-767-1875, jbrown@acf.hhs.gov
Oklahoma: Janis Brown, 214-767-1875, jbrown@acf.hhs.gov
Texas: Nanette Bishop, 214-767-5241, nbishop@acf.hhs.gov

The ACF website is www.acf.hhs.gov. The Children's Bureau website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/>

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families, Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), administers the following programs for young people, particularly runaway and homeless youth:

- Basic Center Program (BCP)

The BCP provides competitive funding to local organizations and shelters that serve and protect runaway, homeless, missing, and sexually exploited children. We work to establish or strengthen community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families by providing youth with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, referrals for health care, and aftercare services. The Basic Centers seek to reunite young people with their families, when possible, or to locate appropriate, alternative placements.

- Transitional Living Program (TLP)

The TLP grants competitive funding to local organizations that provide longer term residential services to homeless youth and youth in at-risk situations ages 16-21 for up to 18 months. The TLP funding also supports maternity group homes and TLPs for young mothers and their children. Local grantees offer services that include safe, stable living accommodations; basic life-skill building; interpersonal skill building; educational opportunities including GED preparation, postsecondary training, and vocational education; job preparation assistance; substance abuse education and counseling; mental health care and counseling; and physical health care.

- Street Outreach Program (SOP)

The SOP provides competitive funding to local organizations to provide street-based outreach and education to serve and protect runaway and homeless youth and youth on the streets who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually abused and/or exploited. The goals are to build relationships between grantee staff and street youth and to help young people leave the streets. The grantees provide access to an emergency shelter, survival aid, individual assessments, treatment and counseling, prevention and education activities, crisis intervention, information and resource referrals, and follow-up support. We encourage grantee programs to support young people through a positive youth development approach. We also encourage youth to achieve their full potential by exercising leadership, building skills, and becoming involved in their communities.

- The National Communications System: The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)

The NRS is a national communications system designed to assist youth who have run away or are considering running away, and their families. The NRS links youth and families to crisis counseling, programs and resources, and each other, as appropriate. The NRS offers a confidential, toll-free hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Services provided include referrals to community-based programs and youth-serving agencies across the country; message delivery service between youth and their families or guardians to reestablish communication through a neutral third party; and conference calls among parents, youth, and resource agency staff facilitated by hotline staff and volunteers. The NRS, in partnership with Lions Clubs across the country, use thousands of volunteers nationwide to increase awareness of NRS services in their home communities.

The NRS is the sole administrator of the HOME FREE program, a collaborative effort of Greyhound Lines, Inc. and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to provide free transportation to runaways who wish to return to their families.

- Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP)

MCP is funded directly to local faith-based and community organizations to provide new mentors to children and youth of incarcerated parents. Grantees provide services, both directly and in collaboration with other local agencies to strengthen and support children of incarcerated parents who often struggle with economic, social, and emotional burdens. Grantees cultivate mentors from within the child's family and community through a recruitment and training process. This program helps to reduce first-time drug and alcohol use for such young people; reduce homelessness; improve their relationships and academic performance; preserve families; connect the children and youth with their imprisoned parent when appropriate; and reduce the likelihood that these children and youth will initiate violence.

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant Program (FVPSP)

Grants assist state agencies, territories and Indian Tribes provision of shelter to victims of family violence and their dependents, and for related services, such as emergency transportation and child care. Grantees use additional resources to expand current service programs and to establish additional services in rural and underserved areas, on Native American reservations, and in Alaskan Native Villages. The program also supports technical assistance and training for local domestic violence programs and disseminates research and information through five resource centers.

Here's Who To Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The ACF Region VI Runaway and Homeless Youth Lead is Ralph Rogers, 214-767-2977, ralph.rogers@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF Region VI Domestic Violence Lead is Carol Sedanko, 214-767-1833, carol.sedanko@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF website is www.acf.hhs.gov. The Family & Youth Services Bureau website is www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is in Chicago, IL. The Hotline toll-free number is 800- 621-4000. The Hotline TDD toll-free number is 800-621-0394. The website is www.nrscrisisline.org

For further information about FYSB's programs, contact the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, P.O. Box 13505, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505; 301-608-8098; fax: 301-608-8721; email: info@ncfy.com; Web site: www.ncfy.com.

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), administers the following child support program:

- Child Support Enforcement Program

The program is a federal/state/tribal/local partnership to help families by promoting family self-sufficiency and child well-being. All States and territories run a child support enforcement program. Families seeking government child support services must apply directly through their state/local agency or one of the tribes running the program. Services are available to a parent with custody of a child whose other parent is living outside the home, and services are available automatically for families receiving assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Here's Who to Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is located in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The ACF Region VI Child Support Enforcement Program Manager is James Travis, 214-767-6239,

james.travis@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>. The Office of Child Support Enforcement website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/>

Arkansas: Carl Rich, 214-767-8095, carl.rich@acf.hhs.gov
Louisiana: Armand Graves, 214-767-4541, armand.graves@acf.hhs.gov
New Mexico: Reta Oliver-Muller, 214-767-8030, reta.oliver@acf.hhs.gov
Oklahoma: Clark Seabaugh, 214-767-6241, clark.seabaugh@acf.hhs.gov
Texas: John Moody, 214-767-5577, john.moody@acf.hhs.gov
Tribal: Carl Rich, 214-767-8095, carl.rich@acf.hhs.gov

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Programs (OCS), administers the following formula grants to states:

- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The grant funds a network of community action agencies that provides services and activities to reduce poverty, including services to address employment, education, better use of available income, housing assistance, nutrition, energy, emergency services, health, and substance abuse needs. Funds are allocated by formula to 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas, and state and federally-recognized Indian tribes.

- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

The grant assists states in delivering social services directed toward the needs of children and adults. Funds are allocated to the states on the basis of population. Funds support outcomes across the human service spectrum and are associated with strategic goals and objectives such as employment, child care, child welfare, adoptions, and youth services. States have flexibility to use their funds for a range of services, depending on state and local priorities. The SSBG is based on two fundamental principles: (1) state and local governments and communities are best able to determine the needs of individuals to help them achieve self-sufficiency; and (2) social and economic needs are interrelated and must be met simultaneously. States have the flexibility to spend SSBG funds on a variety of services.

Here's Who To Contact

The Office of Community Services, Division of State Assistance, is located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., 5th Floor West, Washington, DC 20447, 202-401-9343. The Region VI contact is James Gray 202-401-5705, james.gray@acf.hhs.gov. The Office of Community Services website is www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/ The ACF website is www.acf.hhs.gov.

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance (OFA), administers the TANF program and provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. Citizens may apply for assistance at their local TANF agency.

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

This program provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. Citizens may apply for assistance at their local TANF agency and may link to a web site that links to states that provide resources for the homeless as part of the State TANF Plan.

Here's Who To Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families is located in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The TANF Program Manager is Larry Brendel, 214-767-6236 larry.brendel@acf.hhs.gov The Region VI TANF State Program Specialists are listed as follows:

Arkansas: Charlotte Bristow, 214-767-0164, charlotte.bristow@acf.hhs.gov
Louisiana: Carol Beth Sedanko, 214-767-1833, carol.sedanko@acf.hhs.gov
New Mexico: Bob Sluss, 214-767-8077, robert.sluss@acf.hhs.gov
Oklahoma: Carol Beth Sedanko, 214-767-1833, carol.sedanko@acf.hhs.gov
Texas: Charlotte Bristow, 214-767-0164, charlotte.bristow@acf.hhs.gov

The website is www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/homeless.htm

Here's What We Provide

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start (OHS) administers the Early Head Start Program and the Head Start Program across the nation.

- Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) Programs

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs for low-income and homeless children under five, pregnant women, and their families. Eligible children and families receive nutrition, developmental, medical and dental screenings, immunizations, mental health and social services referrals, and transportation. Section 645 of the 1998 Head Start Act establishes income eligibility for participation in Head Start programs by reference to the official poverty line, adjusted annually.

Here's Who To Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families is in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The Head Start/Early Head Start Regional Program Manager is Carlton Reid, 214-767-8850, carlton.reid@acf.hhs.gov. The Region VI Program Managers are listed as follows:

Arkansas: George Campbell, 214-767-8845, george.campbell@acf.hhs.gov
Louisiana: George Campbell, 214-767-8845, george.campbell@acf.hhs.gov
New Mexico: Susan Johnston, 214-767-8844, susan.johnston@acf.hhs.gov
Oklahoma: George Campbell, 214-767-8845, george.campbell@acf.hhs.gov
Texas: Susan Johnston, 214-767-8844, susan.johnston@acf.hhs.gov

The website is www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/homeless.htm

Here's What We Provide

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Prevention Information Network, provides links to homelessness information:

- Communities at Risk – The Homeless

Here's Who To Contact

CDC/National Prevention Information Network (NPIN), P. O. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003, 1-800-458-5231, www.cdcpin.org and the email is info@cdcpin.org
The website is www.cdcpin.org/scripts/population/homeless.asp

Here's What We Provide

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), Medicaid Program, provides the following homeless resource tools:

- FirstStep

FirstStep is an interactive software tool for community and organization case managers, outreach workers, and others working with people who are homeless. The information on the FirstStep CD-ROM will help you assist your homeless clients to access benefits from Federal mainstream benefit programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); Veteran's Affairs Compensation; Veterans Affairs Health Care; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Food Stamps; Medicaid; Medicare; One-Stop Career Center System; and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

- Medicaid

Medicaid is a jointly funded, federal-state health insurance program for certain low-income and needy people. In FY 2005, Medicaid provided coverage to more than 44.7 million individuals including 21.7 million children, the aged, blind and/or disabled, and people who are eligible to receive federal assisted income maintenance payment.

- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

The State Children's Health Insurance Program is a partnership between the Federal and State Governments that provides health coverage to uninsured children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to afford private coverage. The federal government establishes general guidelines; however, specific eligibility requirements to receive SCHIP benefits and type and scope of services provided are determined by each state. State SCHIP programs are not required to report to CMS on the homelessness or housing status of persons who receive health care supported with SCHIP funding; therefore, SCHIP data systems are not designed to produce estimates of expenditures on services provided to eligible homeless persons.

- A Primer on How to Use Medicaid to Assist Persons Who are Homeless to Access Medical, Behavioral Health and Support Services, January 2007

Access to this new 87-page Primer is found on the website: www.hhs.gov/homeless/

Here's Who To Contact

The CMS Region VI Office is located in Dallas, TX, and the main telephone number is 214-767-6423. The Dallas Medicaid/SCHIP contact is Gary Martin at 214-767-3537. The CMS website is www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/homeless/firststep/

Here's What We Provide

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) administers the following homeless programs:

- Consolidated Health Centers (CHC)

The centers provide health-care services and help ensure access to primary care to underserved populations. Services are provided without regard to a person's ability to pay. Fees are discounted or adjusted based upon the patient's income and family size from current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCH)

This multi-disciplinary comprehensive program provides primary health care, substance abuse treatment, emergency care with referrals to hospitals for in-patient care services,

and outreach services to assist difficult-to-reach homeless persons and to establish eligibility for entitlement programs and housing. The website for Health Care for the Homeless Information Resource Center is www.bphc.hrsa.gov/hchirc/

- Learning Community Workgroups

As part of the technical assistance follow up to the Homeless Policy Academies, four Learning Community Workgroups are being conducted and aim to enhance States' ability to implement the priorities and strategies detailed in the action plans. The Learning Community Workgroups website is www.hrsa.gov/homeless/main_pages/lcw/about.htm and the HHS Homelessness Policy Academies website is <http://aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/index.shtml>

- Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant (MCHBG)

The block grant has three components: formula block grants to 59 states and Territories, grants for Special Projects of Regional and National Significance, and Community Integrated Service Systems grants. It operates through a partnership with State Maternal and Child Health and Children with Special Health Care Needs programs. The Program supports direct care; core public health functions such as resource development, capacity and systems building; population-based functions such as public information and education, knowledge development, outreach and program linkage; technical assistance to communities; and provider training. Most of these services are preventive services that are available to everyone such as immunizations, child injury prevention programs, lead poisoning prevention activities, and newborn screening programs. Activities also include: evaluation, monitoring, planning, policy development, quality assurance, training and research.

- Ryan White CARE Act

HIV/AIDS programs are funded through states, disproportionately impacted metropolitan areas, community health centers, dental schools, and health care programs that target women, infants, youth, and families. An increasing number of people accessing HIV/AIDS services and housing have histories of homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency. HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) has approached the issues of housing and healthcare access through housing policy development, direct service programs, service demonstrations, as well as in T/TA activities to grantees. Types of housing through the CARE Act include housing referral services, short-term or emergency housing, medical and supportive services, and housing services essential for individuals and families to maintain access and compliance to HIV-related medical care.

Here's Who To Contact

The HRSA Dallas Regional Division Office supports Region VI States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas. Please contact Shirley Henley at 214-767-3872. The HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care, State & Community Assistance Office

contact person is Jean Hochron at 301-594-4437. The HRSA homeless website is www.bphc.hrsa.gov/homeless

Here's What We Provide

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute of AAA (NIAAA), and National Institute of DA (NIDA) have issued a 2007 RFP:

- HIV/AIDS, Severe Mental Illness and Homelessness

The overall focus of this Program Announcement (PA), sponsored by the National Institute on Mental Health NIMH, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the National Institute on Drug Addiction is to refocus research on persons with severe mental illness (SMI), either before or after HIV infection, and to expand HIV-related research to homeless persons.

Here's Who To Contact

The website is www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA04-3871/default.asp

Here's What We Provide

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation provides the following resources:

- HHS Homelessness Policy Academies

Between 2001 and 2007, HHS, in partnership with HUD, VA, DOL, ED, and the USICH supported a series of nine *Homeless Policy Academies*. The Homeless Policy Academies were designed to help State and local policymakers improve access to mainstream services for people who are homeless.

- Homelessness

The HHS Strategic Action Plan on Homelessness was released in March 2007 to update an overview of goals and strategies for homelessness by the U. S. Department of Health & Human Services for future years. Visit the website at www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/homelessness/strategies07/index.htm

Here's Who To Contact

Please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 415-F, Washington, D.C. 20221, 202-690-7853. The HHS Homelessness Policy web site is www.aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/index.shtml.

Here's What We Provide

The HHS Program Support Center (PSC) provides the Title V Surplus Property Program under Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act that authorizes the Secretary of HHS to make suitable federal properties categorized as excess or surplus available to representatives of persons experiencing homelessness as a permissible use in the protection of public health.

- Title V Surplus Property Program

The purpose of the program is to provide federal surplus land and buildings to organizations which serve the needs of the homeless. Eligible applicants are states and their political subdivisions and instrumentalities, and tax-supported and nonprofit institutions, which provide a broad array of services to the homes. Eligible activities include emergency and transitional housing and related services; substance abuse and mental health programs for homeless individuals; permanent supportive housing; homeless ex-offender aftercare programs and miscellaneous other supportive homeless services.

Here's Who To Contact

Please contact Division of Property Management, PSC, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 5B-17, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, 301-443-2265. HHS Program Support Center (PSC) website: www.psc.gov/aos/federalprop/titleV.html

Here's What We Provide

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), administers the following homeless programs:

- Access to Recovery (ATR)

Access to Recovery supports a grantee-run voucher program to expand clinical substance abuse treatment and recovery support services to reach those in need. These competitive grants are awarded to grantees who approach and target efforts to areas of greatest need, areas with a high degree of readiness, and to specific populations, including adolescents.

- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG)

The formula grant is awarded to states and territories to improve access to community-based health care delivery systems for adults with serious mental illnesses and children and with serious emotional disturbances. Congress determines federal allocation of funds, and these funds are used by each state as they determine their needs; therefore, the program does not require states to report on expenditures related to homelessness.

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG)

The formula block grant to states provides substance abuse treatment and prevention services to individuals in need. The grant is intended to provide maximum flexibility to states in determining allocations to all populations within the states, dependent on state needs and priorities, including vulnerable and underserved populations such as the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The authorizing legislation does not, however, specify homeless services and current policy does not encourage set-asides for specific populations.

- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

PATH is a formula grant program that provides financial assistance to states to support services for homeless individuals who have serious mental illness or serious mental illness and substance abuse. Eligible programs and activities include outreach services; screening and diagnostic treatment services; habilitation and rehabilitation services; community mental health services; alcohol or drug treatment services; staff training; case management services; supportive and supervisory services in residential settings; referrals for primary health services, job training, educational services, and relevant housing services, and a prescribed set of housing services.

Here's Who To Contact

SAMHSA does not have regional representation. Please contact the Rockville, MD Office at 240-276-2000. The SAMHSA website is www.samhsa.hhs.gov The National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness website is www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/. The SAMHSA Block Grant Funds website is www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA04-3871/default.asp. Other 2007 SAMHSA Grants website is www.samhsa.gov/grants/2007/fy2007.aspx

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Here's What We Provide

We help homeless veterans live as self-sufficient and independent citizens. In fact, we're the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to the homeless. Although limited to veterans and their dependents, VA's major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

- VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

These grants are available to nonprofit organizations. They range from \$4,000 to nearly \$1 million, provide up to 65% of the cost of acquiring or renovating facilities that will be used for transitional housing, service centers, and/or vans. Partial operating funds may be provided through per diem payments.

- VA Assistance to Stand Downs

We partner with local coalitions to run Stand Downs for Homeless Veterans. In wartime Stand Downs, front line troops are removed to a place of relative safety for rest and needed assistance before returning to combat. Peacetime Stand Downs allow the homeless to obtain food, shelter, clothing, health care, benefits certification, and referrals to other programs. VA Stand Downs are often held in conjunction with community partners offering services for non-veteran homeless.

- Veterans Industries

In the Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program, disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless veterans live in community-based supervised group homes. We contract with private industry and the public sector for work done by these veterans, who learn new skills and regain self-esteem. Veterans in the program work and pay toward upkeep of the residence.

- CHALENG

The Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups (CHALENG) is a nationwide initiative in which VA medical center and regional office directors work with other agencies and nonprofit to assess the needs of homeless veterans. The purpose is to develop action plans to meet identified needs and to develop directories of community resources to be used by homeless veterans.

- HCHV Program

Our Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program provides outreach, physical and psychiatric health exams, treatment and referrals to homeless veterans with mental health problems (including substance abuse). The program serves over 20,000 homeless veterans each year.

- DCHV

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program provides residential treatment and rehabilitation to approximately 5,000 homeless veterans each year. The average length of stay in the program is four months. The domiciliaries conduct outreach and referral; vocational counseling and rehabilitation; and post-discharge community support.

- HUD-VASH

We partner with HUD to provide permanent housing through Section 8 housing vouchers and ongoing treatment to the harder-to-serve homeless veterans who are suffering with mental illness or substance abuse. Our staff at 35 sites provides outreach, clinical care and ongoing case management services.

- Supported Housing

This program helps veterans find and retain permanent housing. We provide clinical support to the veteran.

- Drop-In Centers

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothes, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Referrals to longer-term assistance are also available.

- Comprehensive Homeless Centers

VA's Comprehensive Homeless Centers (CHC) provide the full range of VA homeless efforts in Anchorage, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Dallas, Little Rock, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and West Los Angeles.

- VBA-VHA Special Outreach and Benefits Assistance

Veterans Benefits Counselors provide outreach, benefits counseling and referrals to eligible veterans applying for VA benefits. New VBA procedures are reducing the processing times for homeless veterans' benefits claims.

- VBA's Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers

This program makes all the properties we obtain through foreclosures on VA-insured mortgages available for sale to homeless provider organizations at a discount of 20 to 50 percent, depending on time of the market.

- VA Excess Property for Homeless Veterans Initiative

Excess personal property, such as hats, parkas, footwear, socks, sleeping bags, and other items are available to homeless veterans and homeless veteran programs. A Compensated Work Therapy Program employing formerly homeless veterans has been established at the Medical Center in Lyons, NJ to receive, warehouse, and ship these goods to VA homeless programs across the country.

Here's Who To Contact

West Texas and New Mexico:
Steve Cohen
520-792-1450 extension 5475

Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana:
Estella Morris
501-257-4499

Texas:
Greta Mankins
214-857-0374

Or visit the VA website at www.va.gov

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDOE)

Here's What We Provide

We provide formula grants to each State and several territories that assist children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. We send the funds to the State education agency, which is allowed to keep up to 25% of the total grant amount at the State level for providing Statewide activities, such as the following:

- professional development for schools, shelters, and other service providers
- printing and disseminating brochures and posters
- maintaining a toll-free "hotline"
- establishing collaborations to resolve homeless education issues
- producing videos to inform schools and service providers about homeless education

The remaining 75% of the State grant allotment must go to local school districts, including charter schools, through a competitive grant process. At the local level, schools can use the money for a wide range of activities to assist students experiencing homelessness. The funds are most often used for the following types of activities:

- tutoring (before school, after school, summer, and week-ends)
- social work services (case management)
- clothing, shoes, and school supplies
- professional development for school staff and community-based organizations
- homeless awareness activities
- supplemental transportation

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act and is more commonly called "the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program" or simply "McKinney-Vento." The Act includes a number of provisions that help homeless students, including the following:

- Each school district is required to have a homeless liaison to assist homeless students with enrollment and other school-related issues.
- Students who become homeless are allowed to remain in the school they were attending, even if it is in a district other than where they currently reside, and the students must receive transportation to this school.
- Students who are homeless must be enrolled in school immediately, even if they have no records.
- If a homeless student is denied enrollment, they must be provided the reason for the denial in writing, and they must be informed as to how they can appeal that decision.
- Homeless students are automatically eligible to receive free school meals without completing extra paperwork.

Here's Who To Contact

Each State in Region VI is required to have a State Coordinator for Homeless Education who manages the McKinney-Vento program for their State. We encourage you to contact your State Coordinator for any help you might need regarding education for children and youth in homeless situations.

Arkansas: Dr. Reginald Wilson, Arkansas Department of Education, State Education Building, 501-683-4497, email: reginald.wilson@arkansas.gov

Louisiana: Ms. Jackie Bobbett, Department of Education, Division of Special Populations, 225-342-1358, e-mail: jackie.bobbett@la.gov. Website: www.doe.State.la.us/lde/specialp/1315.html

New Mexico: Mr. Joseph Sanchez, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Coordinator, Public Education Department, School and Family Support Bureau, 505-222-4743, email: jsanchez@ped.State.nm.us, Website: www.sde.State.nm.us/div/sipds/title1

Oklahoma: Ms. Erin Clapper, Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oliver Hodge Memorial Education Building, 405-522-3251, email: erin.clapper@sde.state.ok.us

Texas: Ms. Barbara James, The University of Texas at Austin, Charles A. Dana Center, 512-475-8765, email: babawawa@mail.utexas.edu
Website: www.utdanacenter.org/theo

Our Federal contact for McKinney-Vento is Gary Rutkin, US Department of Education, 202-260-4412, email: Gary.Rutkin@ed.gov

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs

Here's What We Provide

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs provide very low to moderate income families in rural communities (population 10,000 or less) with decent, safe, and affordable housing through the Multi-family Housing and Single Family Housing programs. There is no program specifically designed to address homelessness. However, to help tackle this issue the following program is available as an option:

- Rental Assistance (RA)

RA is a supplement to the basic rent that a USDA Rural Development financed property charges its tenants. These tenants must be low or very low income and the availability of assistance will vary with each property. RA is assigned to the property and does not transfer with the tenant.

Here's Who To Contact

USDA Rural Development has numerous local offices in the 5-State region. The nearest office can be determined by going to Rural Development's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov and clicking the link called "State Offices" which will bring to you a web page with links to all 50 States. By clicking on a particular State, you will access that State's website, and then you click on the "Offices" link. Please note that the local offices service different counties, so you will need to input your particular county to find the correct office.

Texas has 30 local offices. You can access information on the local office nearest you by going to www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/officeinfo.htm, this link will ask for your county and then will provide a link to the office that services your community. Please contact the local office serving your area to obtain contact information for properties. The Housing Programs Director for Texas is Michael Meehan, and he can be contacted at 254-742-9770.

USDA Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) Programs

Here's What We Provide:

Alleviating Hunger In Your Community

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Programs provide food and nutrition assistance in partnership with cooperating agencies and organizations. FNS provides children and needy families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its programs

and nutrition education efforts and supports America's agriculture by providing an outlet for the distribution of food purchased under farmer assistance authorities.

Municipalities, and faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) may apply to participate in Federal nutrition programs and provide benefits directly to individuals, or may serve as informational resources by referring these individuals to other organizations and agencies that participate in the programs.

- Do you run a summer program for low-income children that provides meals?
- Do you run a licensed child or adult day care facility or homeless shelter?
- Does your organization distribute food to low-income families & individuals?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has programs for you!

FNS Programs

Food Stamp Program	Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program	School Meals
Food Distribution Programs	Summer Food Service Program	Farmers' Markets Nutrition Programs
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Nutrition Education	Disaster Assistance

Here's Who To Contact

A low-income household with multiple needs often may qualify for more than one of the Federal nutrition assistance programs. For more information on the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and its programs, please visit our websites: www.fns.usda.gov/fns for general program information.

www.usda.gov/fbciprograms.html#FoodandNutritionService for opportunities for Faith-based and Community Organizations.

www.usda.gov/fbcifnscontact.html for contact information around the country.

If you are in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Texas, you can also contact the Southwest Regional Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinator, Rebecca Lucero, at 214-290-9800 or email at rebecca.lucero@fns.usda.gov

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)

Here's What We Provide

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a family of volunteerism and anti-poverty programs. Learn more at <http://www.nationalservice.gov>. The most accessible of these programs pertinent to ending homelessness is AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America). It is a resource that might serve to leverage local access to grants available through other federal agencies.

For 40 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today, nearly 6,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country. Members commit for a year as full time volunteers, receive a living allowance of approximately \$10,000, and benefits such as health insurance and an education award of \$4725. Members do not provide direct service so much as work as catalysts, encouraging community participation, piloting innovative programs, or increasing the capacity of local agencies and non-profits to eliminate homelessness through local initiatives that help individuals become self-sustaining.

For example, A team of three AmeriCorps*VISTA members may work with a municipality or a local non-profit in a host community with a focus on public awareness, coalition-building, or other capacity-related activity to serve families displaced by Katrina/Rita. VISTA members may assist in establishing a hub to connect resources and to recruit and place community volunteers with local initiatives. VISTA members may work with government agencies, non-profits, and faith-based or grassroots community groups to leverage resources available in large federal grants to help, as an example, ex-offenders overcome challenges in obtaining housing and employment.

Application for this resource begins with submission of a focused Concept Paper. These are accepted for review and approval throughout the year. Projects are approved normally for a three-year cycle. Recruits are identified locally or from a pool of national service applicants on the web. The average project might place as few as three or as many as ten AmeriCorps*VISTA members. Orientation and placement windows are scheduled in each quarter. Except where a cost-share agreement is advantageous, member costs are subsidized by The Corporation. To learn more about AmeriCorps*VISTA and to find the Concept Paper format, visit our website: www.americorps.org/vista

Here's Who To Contact

Arkansas: Opal Sims, State Program Director. osims@cns.gov, 501-324-5235.

Louisiana: Pam Olson, State Program Director. polson@cns.gov, 225-389-0473.

New Mexico: Ernesto Ramos, State Program Director. eramos@cns.gov, 505-988-6577

Oklahoma: Theresa Long, State Program Director. tlong@cns.gov, 405-231-5201.

Texas: Jerry Thompson, State Program Director. jthompso@cns.gov, 512-916-5671
ext 22.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (USDOL)

The Department of Labor administers programs providing employment and training services that are crucial components in the comprehensive efforts to address the cycle of homelessness. The Department offers both mainstream Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and targeted employment-focused programs that help lead to self-sufficiency. The USDOL strategy focuses on helping homeless Americans who want to work to become job-ready.

Nationally, there are five interdepartmental partners at U.S. DOL that coordinate workforce development services for the homeless. They include Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI), Office of the Assistance Secretary for Policy (ASP), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Here's What We Provide

- Ready4Work

Ready4Work, administered by ETA, is a program designed to provide mentoring and other transition services for ex-convicts. Nationwide, funds have generally been provided to faith-based and community programs to carryout the specialized activities.

- Youth Offender Demonstration Project

ETA's Youth Offender Demonstration Project was awarded in 2004 to the National Urban League to assist inner-city African American youth.

- Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) and ETA have an interdepartmental joint effort to provide local workforce investment boards with Federal funds to provide employment assistance to disadvantaged individuals. Funds were also awarded to at least 48 faith-based and community organizations which help the hardest-to-serve homeless in the poorest neighborhoods.

Here's Who To Contact

For more information regarding the Homelessness Initiative and ETA programs, please contact the following Federal contact or log into www.dol.gov:

Regina Bowman

214-767-2154

bowman.regina@dol.gov

For more information regarding State and local programs, contact the following agencies:

Arkansas: Sandra Wilson Sandra.winston@arkansas.gov 501-371-1020

Louisiana: John Warner Smith jwsmith@idol.state.la.us 225-3342-3001

New Mexico: Reese Fullerton fullerton@state.nm.us 505-827-6827

Oklahoma: Jon Brock jon.brock@oesc.state.ok.us 405-557-7200

Texas: Larry Temple larry.temple@twc.state.tx.us 512-463-0735

Here's What Other Services We Provide

- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

The purpose of the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) is to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.

Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assists homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities. The program is "employment focused" and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, referral to medical and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

Here's Who To Contact

Louisiana: Lester Parmenter, 225-389-0339

Oklahoma: Joe Dyer, 405-231-5088

Texas: John McKinny, 512-463-2814

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is one of eleven modal administrations within the U. S. Department of Transportation. FTA provides financial assistance for public transportation to transit agencies in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. All transit systems provide low cost mobility for people who do not, or cannot, operate a motor vehicle because of personal preference, low income, disability, youth or old age.

Here's What We Provide

- Urbanized Area Formula Program

The Urbanized Area Formula Program makes Federal Resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating for transportation-related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

In Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas the State Departments of Transportation are the administrators of the rural and the elderly and disabled programs with the exception of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services Aging Services Division/Support Services Unit is the administrator of the rural and the elderly and disabled programs within Oklahoma. A rural area is non-urbanized or an area under 50,000 in population.

- Tribal Transportation Program – New for 2006

Indian Tribes can apply directly for these rural public transit funds.

The funds can be used for capital and operating expenses incurred for providing rural public transit service.

- New Freedom – New for 2006

Funds can be used for new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services.

- Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

The JARC program can complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The JARC program has two major goals: to provide transportation services in urban, suburban and rural areas to assist welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in accessing employment opportunities and to increase collaboration among the regional

transportation providers, human service agencies and related service providers, employers, metropolitan planning organizations, States and affected communities and individuals. This program is unique as other Federal funds that are eligible to be used for transportation costs can be used as part of the match.

- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan – New for 2006

Projects selected for funding for the Elderly and Disabled, the New Freedom, and the JARC transportation programs must be derived from a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan and that the plan is developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and participation by the public.

- United We Ride (UWR)

The UWR program can also complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The goal of the UWR program is to increase the comprehensive and coordinated human services transportation that meets the needs of transportation-disadvantaged individuals (e.g., older adults, individuals with disabilities, people with lower incomes), to increase cross-agency collaboration to facilitate, coordinate, enhance services and address redundancies of programs and services. Currently, funding is to be made available to State applicants to develop a comprehensive State action plan for coordinating human service transportation.

Here's Who To Contact

The FTA Regional Office in Fort Worth is the administrator of the Urbanized Area Formula Program for Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The telephone number is 817-978-0550

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

Here's What We Provide

- Property Disposition Program

Title V of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, authorizes the identification and use of underutilized property for use as facilities to assist the homeless. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development collects data on Federal properties and identifies those suitable to assist the homeless.

The General Services Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services make suitable surplus properties available to private nonprofit organizations, units of local government, and States for use as facilities to assist the homeless. These properties are leased, deeded, or made available on an interim basis at no cost to approved homeless assistance providers.

Federal land-holding agencies may lease/permit suitable underutilized property to approved homeless assistance applicants. Surplus properties to assist the homeless can be found at www.rc.gsa.gov

Here's Who To Contact

For States of Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, contact:

General Services Administration
Public Building Service
Real Property Disposal Division
819 Taylor Street 11A10
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Attention: James Ferracci, 817-978-4240

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Here's What We Provide

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (PL 100-77) "to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services" for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide.

The National Board, chaired by FEMA, includes representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America.

Jurisdictions are selected for funding by the National Board based on a set of qualifying criteria. Local non-profit and government emergency food and shelter agencies that apply are prioritized for funding by the local boards in selected jurisdictions.

The recipient organizations utilize funds for mass shelter, mass feeding, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, one-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off, and one-month rent/mortgage assistance to prevent evictions or assist people leaving shelters to establish stable living conditions. In each of the last few years, over 11,500 local non-profit and government agencies have received EFSP funds in more than 2,500 jurisdictions nationwide.

The National Board encourages local boards to place special emphasis on identification of and assistance to the elderly, families with children, Native Americans, veterans, and those who are mentally and/or physically disabled.

Here's Who To Contact

FEMA Region VI is comprised of the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The FEMA Region VI office is located at 800 North Loop 288 in Denton, Texas 76209. Contact either Juan Gil at 940-898-5141 or Angelia Stapleton at 940-898-5141.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

The Internal Revenue Service employs 100,000 workers in four major operating divisions that are aligned by type of taxpayers: wage and investment; small business/self-employed; large and mid-size businesses, and tax exempt and government entities.

Here's What We Provide

- **Information and Assistance**

The IRS is responsible for administering the Nation's tax laws, policies, and processes. As part of that responsibility as well as to encourage voluntary compliance, IRS has charged the Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) Department with planning/providing free information and assistance to low to moderate-income; elderly; limited English proficiency, and disabled workers and families. The SPEC offices provide this service via volunteer-driven programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and Financial Literacy programs.

- **EITC and Other Tax Benefits**

The EITC is the Nation's largest and most effective anti-poverty policies, as it lifts an average 5 million Americans above the poverty line each year. The SPEC offices generate public awareness of the EITC, Child Tax Credit (CTC), and other tax benefits in an effort to ensure workers eligible to claim these credits receive refunds.

Homeless individuals who work (e.g., one week, one month, or six months, in a tax year) may be eligible to claim the EITC, CTC and/or other family-friendly tax benefits. Individuals who earn less than \$39,000 a year and have one or more children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of up to \$4,600+. Individuals who earn less than \$12,000 a year, are between the ages of 25 and 64, and have no children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of up to \$400+.

- **Free Tax Preparation and Financial Literacy Education**

SPEC works with community groups, organizations, schools, and churches to establish/operate VITA sites that offer income tax preparation free of charge. VITA helps low to moderate-income workers and families keep all of their refund dollars. In addition, working through banking institutions and nonprofits such as Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS), SPEC promotes Financial Literacy Education to help lower-income individuals and families save all or some of their EITC dollars to improve their financial well-being as well as have a good start toward asset accumulation.

Here's Who To Contact

Community based groups, organizations, agencies, schools, churches and libraries that wish to help SPEC promote EITC, VITA, and Financial Literacy Education to homeless individuals and families may contact their local SPEC Offices by phoning the toll-free number at 1-800-829-1040.

U.S. Department of Treasury

www.ustreas.gov

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

1-800-829-1040 Tax Assistance

1-800-829-3676 Tax Forms/Pubs

www.irs.gov