



Department of County Management
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Budget Office

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TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Heath, Senior Budget Analyst

DATE: November 29, 2010

SUBJECT: General Fund Contingency request of \$318,500 to fund the Homeless Families Rapid Re-Housing Initiative (Budget Modification NOND-09)

District 1 and District 4 are requesting \$318,500 of General Fund contingency be appropriated to support the Homeless Rapid Re-Housing Initiative, which will be administered by the Department of County Human Services.

The Homeless Families Rapid Re-Housing Initiative consists of three components:

- A winter shelter rapid re-housing component based on the 30 Families in 30 Days program that will place 30 households in stable long-term housing within six months,
- A flexible rental assistance component targeting those accessing the domestic violence shelter system with a similar initiative to the 30 Families program, and
- A pilot group housing program targeted to serve 20 homeless families struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

The Homeless Families Rapid Re-Housing Initiative responds to emergency needs by providing housing for homeless families. At the same time, the Initiative is largely for ongoing purposes and was anticipated during the FY 2011 Adopted Budget (see below). Funding this request does not appear to meet those guidelines for use of contingency under our Financial Policies. The Board is not precluded from funding this program and funds are available in contingency to support the program as a one-time initiative.

General Fund Contingency Policy Compliance

The Budget Office is required to inform the Board if contingency requests submitted for approval satisfy the guidelines for using the General Fund Contingency.

In particular,

- Criteria 1 states contingency requests should be for one-time-only purposes.

The Homeless Rapid Re-Housing Initiative is not a one-time only purpose. The 30 Families in 30 Days program, a component of the current request, appears to be an ongoing program. 30 Families was funded out of contingency funds during FY 2010.

Unspent funds from this original allocation were appropriated again during the FY 2011 budget via a program amendment.

The Flexible Rent Assistance component of the program does not appear to be a one-time only purpose because the needs associated with starting the program will not go away after the appropriation expires.

Because it is a pilot program, the Oxford House component of this request appears to be a one-time only purpose.

- Criteria 2 addresses emergencies and unanticipated situations.

This request responds to emergency situations but could have been anticipated during the Budget process.

The 30 Families in 30 Days component of this program was funded via a \$15,000 program amendment in the FY 2011 budget and thus appears to have been anticipated. The Flexible Rent Assistance and the Oxford House components of the program could have been anticipated during the annual adoption of the budget as the needs that they are responding to could have been anticipated.

- Criteria 3 addresses items identified in Board Budget Notes.

This item was not identified in the Budget Notes.