

SUPER NEIGHBORHOODS 39 AND 40

February 28, 2011

City of Houston
Housing and Community Development
601 Sawyer St.
4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007
713-868-8300
Attention: Andrea Jones, Public Hearing Coordinator

Dear Ms. Jones:

In preparation for the coming Public Hearing on Thursday, March 17, I would like to have your opinion if the project below would fit the criteria you have for HCDD in granting Community Development funding. "Re: MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF FEDERAL FUNDS, SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS."

REID SOUTH MAIN ACRES {HUD Neighborhood}

Request No. 1:

Real Property: HCAD (attached)
Hodge St LTD LC
Account No. 0731230020003 Hodges St LC 12125 Hodges St. 32 and
Account No. 0731230030003 12205 Zavalla St. 18, 77085
Located: Super Neighborhood No. 39 [pulled up less than 12205 Zavalla HCAD]

These are old rental homes that have been at these locations shown above for many years and have had very few repairs made. At one time some of them had plumbing problems. One possible solution might be to have these complexes purchased and repair the ones that can be repaired. On those that cannot be repaired, perhaps some patio homes could replace some of these houses. The purchasers of the patio homes could be by the present long-term renters or have another party own and operate the new patio home rentals. We do not want any more rental multifamily apartments as we have high crime from these type complexes.

Another possibility after the purchase and tear down would be to make an offer to Revels Brick Company located on 12229 Hodges Street to purchase the land. Revels Brick is located at 12229 Hodges Street. They may be willing to buy the Hodge St Ltd LC property located on Hodges Street. This money could go toward the purchase from Hodge St Ltd. LC. The property on Zavalla Street can be used for the patio homes or sold.

I do not believe it would be good for the present owner to own a new complex at these two locations as they have not kept the present locations up very good.

Request No. 2

HCAD Account 0731230010019

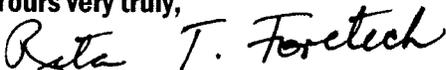
**Louvier Gertrude M. D.
Gertrude Louvier
12438 Hodges St.**

This party has been deceased for many years. I believe her son lives in a mobile home on the property. The mobile home could stand some repairs. There is an old house that should be torn down and the brush cleared out. This lot sits on the side of the bayou and Hodges Street dead ends at the point. Young people use the trails along the bayou and at times deal drugs from various points along the bayou.

We would like to have the old house demolished and the premises cleanup up. It is kept fenced, but is an eyesore. The premises was leased for a time by a junk dealer and I believe still may have junk on a portion of the property. It was closed down because the entry was from the path and/or road along the bayou which is Harris County property.

.....
We would appreciate your review of our request. If you like, I can meet with your representative. I have never met the owner and/or the manager of either property. I just believe that these properties can stand to be cleaned up and/or replaced.

Yours very truly,



**Rita T. Foretech, President
Fondren Civic Club and
Super Neighborhood No. 39
12751 Zavalla Street
Houston, TX 77085\
713-729-9826**

cc:

**Ms. Wanda Adams – Council Person for District D
832-393-3201
Ms. Jolanda “Jo” Jones
832-393-3261**

**cc: Mr. Ray Washington, President SN40
rrwashington4@sbcglobal.net**

HOUSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (HCIL)

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE CITY OF HOUSTON 2010 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

MARCH 24, 2011



The Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL) was created by people with disabilities to serve people with disabilities in 1980. HCIL is a self-help, self-advocacy service organization providing assistance and advocacy to and for people with disabilities.

HCIL advocated for the passage of the “Visitability” ordinance passed in 2004. We were also responsible for the creation of the Texas Home of Your Own Coalition that provides people with disabilities the opportunity to purchase a home. HCIL has served on the City of Houston Housing Task Force since 1995.

The outline of the Consolidated Plan that has been distributed does not in any sense meet the needs of the more than 280,000 people with disabilities in our community. The needs assessment conducted by the Houston Housing Authority indicates that there are more than 35,000 families containing one or more people with disabilities that require rental assistance if they had the means to provide it. The 2011 Fair Market Rent for a one bedroom apartment is \$767 per month. An SSI recipient receives a maximum of \$674 per month.

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: BR [bevruith@PDQ.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 8:22 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: HCCD

Many of us senior citizens went to the process over 2 years ago to get our home repaired, remodeled, etc. The last process was the inspector's visit. All applications were completed. No one ever contacted us again and this was around the 3rd quarter of 2009. We were told all funds were depleted. If money is now available, I recommend these funds be used to help senior citizens. SC are the ones who get little or no assistance from special interest groups, yet have the greatest needs. Thanks

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Anna G. Hildebrand [aghildebrand@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:43 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: 2011 Annual Action Plan Public Meeting

Ms. Jones:

I would like to apologize because I was not able to give you the Community Study for Golfcrest/Reveille/Bellfort Area. The manual I had is the only one we have to work with. The second part will be shown on May 2, 2011 at the University of Houston Architectural Building at 6:00 p.m. we have been working very hard to bring attention to our area of Bellfort from Mykawa to Telephone Rd. 30 years is a long time to wait for us to have public amenities. We must travel outside our community to buy anything. Bellfort is our main thoroughfare and it is an eyesore, with lots of empty lots and with owners who could care less how their property looks because they don't have to see it on a daily basis. Thank you!

Anna G. Hildebrand
Cell# 832-788-5280

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Levine, Joel (CPS) [Joel.Levine@cps.hctx.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:58 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Written Comment on Community Need
Attachments: HCDD Information.doc

Ms. Jones,

Please see the attached written comment documenting the need for housing resources for families where children are at imminent risk of entering the foster care system or are in the foster care system and cannot be reunified due primarily to the lack of adequate housing. I also document the need for housing resources for youth who are aging out of the foster care system and former foster youth.

Please contact me if further information is needed.

Thank you,

Joel Levine
Director of Administration
Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults
2525 Murwrorth
Houston, TX 77054
713-394-4063
713-394-4150-fax
joel.levine@cps.hctx.net

"Nothing is as strong as gentleness; Nothing is so gentle as real strength"- Francis De Sales
See More

Statement of Need for Housing Resources for Families Involved in the Child Protection System and Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Description of Unmet Need in Houston, Texas

Decent, safe, affordable and adequate housing is a very basic and fundamental need, and is critical to healthy growth and development. While estimates vary, the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless estimates about 200,000 people, or 1 percent of the state's population, are homeless. There are an estimated 8,500-14,000 individuals (children, women and men) that are currently experiencing homelessness in Harris County. Approximately 10,000 individuals in Houston, TX are homeless on any given night. Twenty-five percent (25%) are youth, and approximately 40% are women with children. (Harris County Hospital District's Healthcare for the Homeless Program report: 12/1/2008; Cathedral Health and Outreach Ministries website 1/12/09; Bread of Life website 1/12/09). On January 22, 2009, (the last point in time enumeration conducted by Houston/Harris County Coalition for the Homeless) there were 717 families with children residing in emergency shelters, and 1,169 residing in transitional housing.

Poverty, homelessness and child removals are linked. Findings indicate that poverty significantly influences the decision to place children in substitute care (*Disproportionality in Child Protective Services: The Preliminary Results of Statewide Reform Efforts in Texas*, Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, March 2010). More than 60% of child removals in Texas involve families with annual incomes of approximately \$10,000 or less (*Disproportionality in CPS-Policy, Evaluation and Remediation Plan*, 2006).

According to the Texas DFPS 2009 Data Book (p. 48), there were 27,422 children in foster care throughout the state. Approximately 20% (n= 5,471) reside in the Houston / Harris County area. The lack of adequate housing is demonstrated to be a primary factor for placement of children in out-of-home care or in the delay of discharge of Houston/Harris County children to their families from out-of-home care. Homelessness for older foster youth and alumni living in the Houston area also puts these young people at risk for their health and safety.

Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care Due To Inadequate Housing:

CPS reported that in 2009, the Houston, TX region had a total of 30,405 completed investigations of abuse and neglect. After investigations 21.1 percent (6,404) of these reports were determined to be confirmed cases of abuse or neglect and resulted in the removal of 1,866 children.

In FY 2009, 440 of those children were placed in DFPS Region 6 protective custody due to inadequate housing. Of those, 354 were children residing in Houston, TX, where the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) serves as the Public Housing Authority.

Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care Due To Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence seriously affects children. A child who grows up witnessing domestic violence faces social and physical problems, and thinks that violence is a normal way of life. In 2009, the Texas Department of Public Safety reported 36,215 incidents of family violence in Houston/Harris County, TX. Unfortunately, a significant number of these families experience homelessness (short-term and long-term) due to a lack of adequate housing resources after leaving the abuser's residence. Of the 2,294 respondents sampled in the 2005 Houston/Harris County Enumeration/Needs Assessment, Blue Ribbon Commission to End Chronic Homelessness conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston / Harris County (May 2005), 9% reported homelessness due to family /domestic violence.

Specifically, CPS reports that of the 1,991 children removed by CPS in Houston, TX during FY 2009, there were 576 child removals involving family violence and 314 involving inadequate housing.

Foster youth and alumni ages 16 through 24: The Federal Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Report FY2009 for the state of Texas reported 7,735 foster youth and alumni (emancipated youth) ages 16-20 (89% of state total), received PAL services.

DFPS currently contracts with Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS) to provide PAL services to older foster youth and alumni in the Region 6 Houston / Harris County area. The Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center, administered by the Region 6 PAL Program (an HCPS program), is a one-stop center for transitioning foster youth into healthy independence and assisting aged-out foster youth (alumni) still in need of employment, education and/or support. Since opening its doors in July 2005, the HAY Center has served as an essential resource to more than 1450 foster youth (ages 14-18) and

foster alumni (ages 18-25) in Harris County and the 12 surrounding counties.

During FY09, Region 6 CPS PAL case managers successfully contacted 845 out of 1,362 foster youth/alumni aged 18 or older living in the Houston, TX area for follow-up information. The following information was obtained from these youth:

- Number of youth employed: 304 (36%)
 - Full-time 104
 - Part-time 200
- Number of youth homeless in the past year: **75** (9%)
- Number of youth who obtained subsidized housing: 19 (2%)
- Number of youth who are living independently of agency-maintained programs: 132 (15%)

Youths Leaving Foster Care Without Adequate Housing

The following are statistics regarding Harris County youth transitioning out of care as of November 2010:

- there were 1734 foster youth/alumni ages 15.5 – 21 years of age residing in DFPS Region 6
- there were 484 Harris County foster alumni youth ages 18-21 (198 youth are 18 years; 168 are 19 years old; 118 are 20 years old.).
- there were 285 (183 in Harris County) Region 6 foster youth age 17 who will age out of foster care within the next 12 months
- the HAY Center served **138 female foster alumni (18+) in FY 2010 with at least one child, and 72 Foster alumni women with children in foster care** (Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center Data Base).

The HAY Center foster youth client population is predominantly minority (Black = 50%; White = 28%; Hispanic = 17%; Multiracial = 3%; Other = 2%). Many clients also have at least one significant risk factor for homelessness:

- 24.3% have a documented disability
- **9.52% have one or more minor children**
- 22.4% enrolled as high school dropouts
- 23.7% have been involved with the criminal justice system.

The following statistics indicate the housing status of youth 18+ years of age enrolling for HAY Center services as of November 2010:

n=723	n	%
Stable	288	40%
Independent Living (IL)	253	35%
Homeless	101	14%
No Response	81	11%

Those youth listed as IL are currently living on their own, but may be in a situation that is unstable and have a high potential for becoming homeless if they lose their job, drop out of college, or lose their current living arrangement. **Combined with the 14% reporting homelessness at intake, approximately 49% of the 723 (n=354) youth ages 18+ enrolled in HAY Center services have a high risk factor for homelessness.**

Many of these alumni parents do not have stable housing, and their children are at high risk of placement in CPS foster care. Those with children currently in CPS custody are having difficulty in regaining custody of their children due to lack of stable housing, so their children remain in foster care.

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: dunnike1@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 11:28 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: "HCDD comments"

Dear Ms. Jones:

My comment about the HCDD Action Plan for 2011 is that I feel that those funds should go to support affordable housing.

There are a lot of seniors that are on Social Security that need Housing Assistant. Since the recession there have not been given any kind of raise or bonus to the people on Social Security and Disability Benefits. Rent is constantly going up and it is hard to make ends meet.

Please help the community by assisting with more Section-8 housing vouchers. We need your help desperately.

I am still waiting on The Housing Authority to start back taking applications for The Section-8 Housing Voucher.

Will you please write me and let me know when I can make an appointment to apply for housing. Where and when.

I can't hardly make ends meet.

Please help, we need more housing assistant programs.

Thank you in advance,

Isaac Dunn

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: robertkrause1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:40 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Concerns I have about some city issues

Hello Andrea,

I am glad I found you, I have been certainly been getting the runaround from city and state offices about my concerns. I would like to address three or four issues here.

First, it concerns me that of the seven or eight water fountains on Main Street, here in downtown Houston, 2 maybe 3 work. Now we can spend a great deal of cleaning and maintaining the water falls/fountains on the street, but the work and funds don't seem to be available to do something I consider more practical, fix the water fountains. It is very hard to go to the restroom in downtown Houston without spending a bunch of money and it is even more difficult to get a drink of water.

I spoke to an employee of the Downtown District, who I guess has jurisdiction over this matter (after I made 5 calls and 5 emails to other people, including the mayor's office, public works etc.) I found that out. He told me that he was told they weren't being repaired because the homeless were using them to drink out of and they don't want disease to be spread by them to the citizenry. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard, let alone a major Civil Rights violation. It is going to get hot soon, and the people of Houston, yes even the homeless, need these fountains to get a drink. The homeless get thirsty, too. It just seems like sometimes this is a cold city that doesn't care when things like this go on.

I have a couple of other concerns I will share with you soon, but for now, I hope you all can address this.

Thank you,
Robert Krause
Houston
ph 409-497-5360

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: robertrekruse1@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD; action@aclu-houston.org
Subject: Your request for input on Houston Homeless

Dear Andrea,

Thank you for your prompt response yesterday. I also have some issues on the Houston homeless situation that you stated in your Federal Dollars brochure that you might be interested in hearing. First a brief note why I have firsthand information into the Houston homeless scene, it is because in 2009 my business as a Manufacturer's Representative here in Houston just almost completely collapsed. I am now trying to resurrect it and it is starting to slowly look better.

My point is I have been technically homeless myself for the past 9 months, when it wasn't aq money issue, it was a broken lease issue. I don't have a lot of time being an advocate for the homeless right now, I hope that can soon change when my busines becomes better.

I knew I had to try and do something when I saw a gentleman at the street ministry in Bute Park this morning with a tear in his eye from the pain iof being homeless. It has been difficult for myself, also, but what I have learned about mankind and the way things really are here and somewhat throughout the world, i would not chage it.

I must point out to you, that I believe that in the nation's 4th largest city (here) the homeless/shelter situation is unacceptable. I know you probably don't have jurisdiction over the shelter's (finding jusrisdiction for various issues in this town is a full time job) but anyway, i need to convey these thoughts on the issue.

You have the Star of Hope on Ruiz and I certainly approve of their objective, to rehabilitate drug and alcohol abuse victims, but you have to really pay the price to stay there. It is the only semi-long term shelter in the city, with the exception of the Bread of Life, where you sleep on the hard gymnasium floor across the street from the church. On the Star of Hope, they have seven showers on two walls and 3 work and when you get into the mandatory evening shower, they scream at you for the whole time to jury up, so more people can shower. Why cant they fix the remaining 6 or 7 showers so they don't have to scream at everybody? You also have to attend 5 to 6 hours of church per day to stay there. while I am a Christain/Catholic, this is pretty excessive and many of Houston's homeless will stay outside (taxing of course, the police supervisory system wondering why they are out all night). One evening the minister/director of the SOH told every one there that they could not go to the restroom during services (2.5) hours at night. this is a blantant Civil Rights and ADA violation. I have a bladder problem and I cannot certainly hold it 2.5 hours. I do need to know who has jurisdiction over Texas shelters as I would like to discuss these things with them and if you could also please provide who has control of the Main Street water fountains, as you stated you would provide in your yesterday's email. I am grateful for their help but things could be so much better. I understand the mayor has an advisory board on the Homeless. I would like to join that as soon as I stablilize my living situatiom which looks like it will be April 4th or thereabouts. But my major point is Houston needs more shelters and I know rules are needed, but less restrictive shelters. Many homeless have conveyed to me the shelters are like prison and I would tend to agree. I would really like your help. Thank youfor your time.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Krause

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Susan & Chester Beans [beansrus@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:52 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Federal Community Development funds

Dear Ms. Jones,

Schools are requiring students to use computers for a great deal of their homework and projects. While some time is allotted during the school day to use computers, it is usually not enough time to complete all work. I see students walking through dangerous neighborhoods and busy streets to get to the library to use those computers, and often there is a waiting line to use the computers. I think that it would be great to set up a place in apartment complexes where people would have easier access to computers.

We also need more "mini parks" located in or near moderate - low income neighborhoods and apartment complexes to keep kids from playing in the streets. Soccer & basketball seem to be the most popular sports being played in our neighborhood's streets. Great exercise and gives kids something to do besides get into trouble.

Thanks for taking the time to listen to me!
Susan Beans

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: St.Julien, Cathryn (HCSO) [Cathryn.St.Julien@sheriff.hctx.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:54 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: home repair

Good morning Miss Jones. I received the newsletter and read info on single-family home repair. My home needs some repair. Can you direct me to a contact person for this need? Your assistance and time are appreciated.

Cathryn St. Julien

Sr. Clerk, Special Victims Unit

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

601 Lockwood Dr.

Houston, TX 77011

Office (713) 967-5800

Fax (713) 967-5893

Cathryn.St.Julien@sheriff.hctx.net

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Sheets, Cliff [Cliff.Sheets@apachecorp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:14 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Input on How to Spend Federal Community Development Funds

I would love to see street cleaner vehicles in neighborhood subdivisions. Especially in the low income housing areas. And a program to educate Houstonians on not littering. "Don't Mess with Texas" doesn't seem to be working when you see kids and adults throwing the trash out car windows. This includes cigarette butts. Littering is my pet peeve. People may be more inclined to *not* litter when the street is clean to begin with.

They make street cleaners that run on CNG, too, so that would also help the environment.



NO BUTTS!



It's Litter!



Cliff Sheets
HTrueO, LLC
Water Systems
713-725-1690 ph
713-296-7185 fax

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: David Anderson, III [DAVID@2010MEDIA.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:16 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: How to Spend Federal Community Development Funds

Ms. Jones,

I am unable to attend the public forum tomorrow, but I strongly believe that more programs that encourage energy efficiency in the community should be supported, like the city's Residential Energy Efficiency Program. Several of my family members have benefitted from the program and are thankful that the city is able to help disadvantage citizens weatherize their homes.

David Anderson, III
20.10 Media, LLC

architects of social trend & thought
design = marketing | print | multimedia

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713.409.0854 : on the go
281.966.1747 : efax

<http://2010media.net/>

<http://713vip.com/> : where you want to be

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Teresa O'Donnell [Teresa.ODonnell@bridge-way.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:52 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Cc: Colleen O'Donnell
Subject: Community Development Ideas
Attachments: Plant It Forward PPS.pps

Hi Andrea,

I am responding to the city's call for input on how to spend millions of dollars in federal community development funds.

I recently started a non-profit in Houston called Plant It Forward Farms to offer economic development opportunities to refugees. Our mission is to offer refugees with a farming background an opportunity at the American Dream by training them in urban agriculture and placing them on small 1 acre micro-farms within the city for the purposes of getting off public assistance, assimilating into their new home, generating a fair wage for a family of 4 and providing fresh, healthy local produce for the citizens of Houston. We are currently under negotiations with 2 groups in Southwest Houston to lease land for this purpose. We are working alongside Urban Harvest and a local church and refugee organization as we begin.

We could use funds to expand our education program to help more refugees, to purchase a van to transport produce to and from market and to establish a farm to work community supported agriculture (CSA) program here in Houston. A CSA is a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer and our model delivers the fresh produce directly to the consumer at their workplace once a week. In addition, we could use funds to enable Plant It Forward to accept SNAP (food stamps) benefits at the local farmer's markets and at farm stands in Houston making fresh produce available to low income families.

I have attached a PowerPoint that explains in more detail Plant It Forward Farms. Please let me know if you have any troubling viewing the presentation.

Thank you for your consideration. <<Plant It Forward PPS.pps>>

Teresa O'Donnell | Plant It Forward

www.plant-it-forward.org

6575 West Loop South, Third Floor

Bellaire, Texas 77401

Direct: 713.599.8316

teresa.odonnell@bridge-way.com

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Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Kierra Glaze [glazekierra@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:46 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: The Housing and Community Development Department's (HCDD) 2011 Annual Action Plan

Dear Ms. Andrea Jones,

I saw one of your flyers and was hoping that this is the answer I have been looking for for a long time.

My name is Kierra Glaze and I am writing to see if there's any way you can aid my family in returning to the house that we were staying in. On July 4, 2007, my grandfather passed away. My mother was taking care of him since he was blind, bedridden and my brother who is handicapped. After my grandfather's death, we received a letter saying that the house was being foreclosed. Before my grandfather's passing, he did a reverse mortgage on the house and my mother did not know anything about it. We were still staying in the house until Hurricane Ike came and damaged the house. My mother went to FEMA to see if we could get some assistance in trying to repair the house in order for us to remain in it, but to no avail. We are currently staying with my aunts, but they reside in an up-stairs apartment complex, but due to my brother being unable to walk and in a wheelchair, it's very difficult for my mother and I to get him up and down the two flights of stairs when he has to go for doctor visits or anywhere else. So if there's any way you can help, your assistance would be a true God-sent angel in our lives.

P.S. If there's any more information, please e-mail me. Thank you!

Kierra Glaze

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Shane Chen [schen@hopechc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:05 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Cc: Rogene Calvert
Subject: FW: City hearing re. Federal Community Development Funds this Evening

Ms. Jones,

On behalf of the Asian American Health Coalition, I am emailing to advocate investment in building new community health centers, especially partnering with Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), not only to improve the health of the community but also to bring in state and federal dollars to boost our economy and our workforce.

For more than 40 years, community health centers have delivered comprehensive, high-quality preventive and primary health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. During that time, community health centers have become the essential primary care medical home for millions of Americans including some of the nation's most vulnerable populations. With a proven track record of success, community health centers have played an essential role in national recovery and reinvestment efforts and will play a key role in implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

As of 2007, a quarter (about 5.96 million) of the Texas population are without insurance. Among Texas children 18 and under, 20 percent (1.9 million) have no health coverage. Currently, in Greater Houston vicinity, we only have NINE FQHC to serve our uninsured/under-insured population. Our small network of community health centers created a strong safety net systems of primary and preventive care with a true community impact. However, as spread out and populated as Houston is, compared to other cities in California and New York, we have very limited FQHC sites to meet the health needs of Houston residents.

Not only improving the health of a Houston resident, Health centers can also impact the health of Houston's economy. In 2009, community health centers across the nation injected more than \$11 billion in operating expenditures directly into their local economies. Community health centers employ more than 9,100 physicians and more than 5,700 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives in a multi-disciplinary clinical workforce designed to treat the whole patient through culturally-competent, accessible, and integrated care. With federal and state funding for health programs and initiatives, a FQHC will generate businesses for local businesses (banks, supply stores, pharmacies, etc.).

We hope to count on HCCD's partnership for a healthier, viable Houston!

With best regards,

SHANE CHEN

Director of Capacity Development
Asian American Health Coalition
Houston Asian American Health Collaborative (HAAHC)
HOPE Clinic
7001 Corporate Drive, STE 120
Houston, Texas 77036
O: 713-773-2901, x 105
F: 713-271-5422
schen@hopechc.org

From: Salazar-Martinez, Michelle (HCHA) [mailto:msmartinez@hctx.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:21 AM
To: AJ Halvorsen; Katy Caldwell, Legacy ED; Andrea Caracostis; Castillo, Sylvia (HCHA); Crawford, Susan; Deyo, Judy; Janet Donath, ED of Good Neighbor; Joe Fuentes; Herndon, Paul; Isbell, Frances; Khowaja, Aijaz; King, Monica; Lewis, Paule Anne; Love, Karen (HCHA); Mary Jo May, El Centro CEO; McGill, Laurie; Daniel Montez; Nappier, Keith; Victor Ndando-Ngoo/Executive Director-MOTHERLAND HEALTH CLIN; Robert, Dr. Janet; Marcus Roland/CFO-SOUTH CENTRAL HOUSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER,; Snyder, Dr. Ann; Trevino, Migdalia; Marlen J. Trujillo, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Spring Branch; Watson, John
Cc: 'Markettea Beneke'
Subject: City hearing re. Federal Community Development Funds this Evening

FYI --

We Need Your Input on How to Spend Federal Community Development Funds

The City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) seeks your input on how to prioritize and spend millions of dollars in federal community development funds. HCDD invites you to voice and share your community's greatest needs at a public forum.

Thursday, March 24, 2011
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Magnolia Service Center
7037 Capitol Street
Houston 77011

This forum is part of the City of Houston's Action Plan process, the annual request for federal Housing and Urban Development funds to provide services to low to moderate income Houstonians. The Action Plan process guides HCDD's allocation of these federal funds. Currently, funds are used to support affordable housing, single-family home repair, community development, economic development, neighborhood facility improvements and parks, as well as programs serving youth, the homeless, persons living with AIDS and people with special needs. Visit www.houstontx.gov/housing to view a draft of the 2011 Action Plan.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you are encouraged to send comments on community needs by Wednesday, April 13, 2011, to Andrea Jones, HCDD, 601 Sawyer, 5th floor, Houston 77007 or e-mail her at andrea.jones@houstontx.gov.

Michelle Salazar-Martinez
Grants Manager
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
1310 Prairie St., Suite 1080
Houston, TX 77002
Ph: 713-368-3285
Fax: 713-368-3938
msmartinez@hctx.net

Comments given at the HCDD 2011 Annual Action Plan hearing on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Magnolia Multi Service Center:

My name is Georgia Kimmel, the Director of Programs at Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM). MAM is located in the Spring Branch community and serve an area that includes 17 zip codes in the near northwest part of Houston. In 2010 MAM provided rent assistance to nearly 1300 families to prevent homelessness and utility assistance to approximately 800 families to prevent utility cutoff and eviction. Funding comes from private funds and grants, such as, Emergency Shelter Grants and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re Housing Program funds.

To stabilize families we offer an array of programs and services including Employment Services, medical assistance, public benefit application help, mental health counseling, transportation assistance, and educational opportunities including GED and ESL. From our experience we know that many individuals in our community experience mental health issues, chronic health problems, substance abuse issues, and barriers to employment that cause individuals and families to be at risk of homelessness or to be homeless. Short term rental assistance is often not enough. In many of these cases long term supportive housing is needed. Supportive housing can stabilize their personal situations and re-establish connections to the community. Supportive housing usually has available support services on site. The housing staff can link residents to services that are available throughout the community. Once stabilized, the individual can move into independent housing.

MAM will continue to provide short term financial assistance for those families that can benefit. Some individuals cannot become stable and self-sufficient without much more help. We believe that the community needs additional supportive housing options. We ask that supportive housing projects be funded to the maximum level possible.

Thank you.

Georgia Kimmel

Memorial Assistance Ministries

1625 Blalock

Houston, TX 77080

713-574-7534

The Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL) recommends the following be Incorporated to the Consolidated Plan:

- 1. Tenant-based rental assistance of 1-24 months for people with disabilities;**
- 2. Funding for vocational training and placement of people with disabilities on a cross-disability basis;**
- 3. Funding for accessibility of homeless shelters receiving city assistance or to provide alternative housing for people with disabilities that would be denied access;**
- 4. Funding for rental/mortgage payment assistance, and for payment of utility bills and security deposits. This would mirror services provided with HOPWA monies on a cross-disability basis;**

If the City of Houston implemented these recommendations, people with disabilities would have expanded options in where and how they live. Houston would benefit through the greater inclusion of people with disabilities into its communities.



Matthew Wheeler
Regional Director
Skills For Living, Inc.

March 24, 2011

Good evening committee and concerned citizens. My name is Matthew Wheeler, North East Regional Director at Skills For Living, Inc. I am here to speak of how Skills For Living can help achieve Houston's Housing and Community Development Department's goals of:

- Reducing chronic and family homelessness AND.....
- Enhancing community economic well-being while at the same time reducing the need for future expenses

I want to tell a true story about a Houston woman whose involvement with Skills For Living not only personifies the achievement of the previous stated goals but also put her life back on track.

Amy lost her well-paying job in the Chemical Manufacturing industry due to downsizing. As if this was not bad enough, Amy lost her car, her furniture and her home, EVERYTHING. She went from strong middle class homeowner to living in a transitional living facility. This is when Skills For Living met Amy.

Amy attended our adult career bootcamp where she learned to focus on her accomplishments, restore her self-confidence as well as financial, interview and resume skills. Three weeks after the course, Amy used what she had learned and obtained a position amongst over 800 applicants in a similar industry to her previous job.

Now Amy has a plan. She is track to make nearly \$60,000 a year and is in the process of leaving government benefits. She set a time line for home buying. She is saving money and paying off her debt in order to improve her credit.

Listen to what Amy had to say about it. "When I first started the class I didn't really expect to learn anything I didn't already know, but I decided that I would participate with an open mind because I had nowhere to go but up....Before I went to the bootcamp my confidence was nil, now it's through the roof and I have an excellent job to prove it."

What if everyone in a similar situation as Amy, or those applying for utility or rental assistance or facing homelessness attended our career bootcamp or financial workshops. This would lead to empowered individuals like Amy with greater financial stability with a plan to overcome life's "what ifs" and take control of their finances. Houston can benefit greatly from people like Amy utilizing all of their hidden skills and reaching their financial independence. Skills For Living has a desire to work with the Housing and Community Development Department to obtain their outlined goals as well as to help Houston's hard working citizens who are living paycheck to paycheck achieve financial stability. I ask that the committee put us in the plan moving forward. Thank you.

I'm Tammy Mermelstein and I am the Program Administrator for Skills For Living, a nationally award winning career, financial, and asset building program. We are here tonight to let you know of the amazing work we are doing in the community and to explore how we can help the City of Houston achieve its goals. I am asking for you to support financial education as a cost-effective solution that will allow the City to serve more individuals and reduce the need for city services in the years to come. Tonight, you will hear from several of my colleagues about our adult and teen programs; I wanted to tell you about our efforts to help adults transition to financial stability and beyond.

Skills For Living is a young but powerful organization. Since 2004, we have provided FREE financial education programs to nearly 1400 adults, and over 350 families have participated in our year-long program. To date, those **350 families** have had an over \$7.2 million local economic impact by increasing wages and taxes, building wealth and reducing their debt. Here's our secret – we take hardworking people who want a better life and remind them of their intrinsic value to employers and the community. We give them the tools to move ahead, make better financial decisions, plan for the unexpected, and believe in themselves and their possibilities.

We work through community organizations, and we want to work with you. We offer FREE empowerment-based small classes and self-paced programs. For example, we teach not just how to buy an affordable home but more importantly how to afford to stay in it. Most people need more than a class, and we uniquely complement class activities with individual coaching. Through United Way THRIVE, we work mostly with low and moderate income families, though we have no income guidelines. We have served everyone from ex-offenders to former Chief Financial Officers and engineers. Recently, we formed a collaboration with one of the city's departments to provide our programs to those people whose positions will be affected by budget cuts. After all, when you're facing financial difficulty, it matters where you are, not where you are coming from.

Last week, I attended the public hearing both in my professional capacity and as a concerned citizen. I noticed that many comments dealt with city services not received. A safety net is important, but with a 20% cut, not everyone can or will be served. What we propose will complement neighborhood and public service programs. Furthermore, we are a well connected organization, and as a part of our process, we connect families with community resources that will help them become financially stable – and stay that way.

For most of you, this is the first time you have heard of Skills For Living. We would love to show you what we can do. With our current funding, we can come out to a location (or locations) of your choosing to conduct short, interactive programs. I invite the committee to come see us in action. As my colleagues speak, I encourage you to listen closely and consider opportunities for future collaboration. Thank you for your time.

Submitted by Tammy Mermelstein, JD, MSW
Skills For Living Program Administrator
Tammy@Skills4Living.org 713-782-9974

Remarks

Hi, my name is Jake Levine, I'm also a Regional Director for Skills for Living. You've already heard a little bit about both our adult and youth programs and about the work we're doing here in Houston.

The true importance of our program however, is not a number its a name. It is a very real person, with very real hopes and dreams. It is a young person – just entering a world we often take for granted – wanting the best out of life – but not sure how to get there.

I want to tell you story of a young man named Luis.

Luis came to us in 2007, as part of our pilot Game of Real Life program. Luis did well in our program. Luis enjoyed the Game so much in fact that he came back the next summer, and the summer after that as a Team Leader – and a mighty good one at that.

In the summer of '09 though Luis came to us with some troubling news. You see Luis was raised by a single mom, so she meant the world to him. And, that summer she had decided to open a restaurant.

Having already received more of an education than his mother ever did, he felt pressured to forego college and help her immediately. It was a serious conflict for him, earn money for his family now or make an investment in his future that will pay dividends later.

So...we arranged for him to meet Dean Wimpleburg of the University of Houston. Although Luis had learned all about the importance of college in our program, we thought it was important for him to hear it from a third party as well.

A few months later, we got a phone call from Luis. He was excited to tell us about a conversation he had had with his mother. As hard as it was for him, he convinced his mother that it would be better for both of them for Luis to go to college. What the family might lose out on now, they would gain many times over once Luis finished college.

Now, last summer before Luis was to leave for school, he called us again. This time he just wanted to say thanks. He wanted to thank us for teaching him to truly think about his future. He said, and I quote "I don't get as stressed anymore about things that go wrong, because I know where I want to be in the future and I know how to get there.

Today I'm proud to report that Luis is half way through his Freshman year at a prestigious Liberal Arts school in Pennsylvania, Washington and Jefferson College where he's got a full academic scholarship. Now, Luis is just one of over 600 students who've come through our program over the years. Of those who have reached graduation age, 100% graduated High School, and 98% enrolled in college.

Our programs have proven effective at turning at risk students into productive citizens, and we would like to partner with you to help the city achieve its goals.

Jake Levine

Skills For Living

713.782.9974

jake@skills4living.org



BARRIO DOGS YOUTH/CANINE INTERVENTION PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Barrio Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) based in Houston's East End that began in 2010. It aims to educate and raise awareness on appropriate animal care in low income communities through varied community-based interventions, including canine therapy programs, youth education, and community outreach. Whereas there is a tendency in Latino culture to view dogs as service animals (such as owning dogs to provide property protection), Barrio Dogs aims for dogs to be viewed as companion animals: dogs viewed as companion animals tend to receive better veterinary and home care, as well as a greater tendency to be neutered, thereby reducing homeless dog populations, urban blight, and increasing public safety.

TARGET POPULATION

Elementary and pre-kindergarten youth in low-income communities. Specifically those that would benefit through one-on-one time with therapy canines. Currently the focus is in Houston's Greater East End, a neighborhood that faces significant economic, cultural, and social barriers to understanding the legal and ethical responsibilities of pet ownership. Community building interventions that are sensitive to cultural issues and traditional barriers to community building may have greater success than interventions that lack the appropriate cultural background.

BEHAVIORS OF INTEREST

- 1) Those youth that may be having behavior issues due to a difficult or unstable home environment. They may be withdrawn, have anger issues, lack social skills, or distrust peers and adults. These youth would be involved in the *Youth and Paws (YAP)* Therapy Program.
- 2) Those youth that struggle with their reading skills. These youth would be involved in the *Tales to Tails* Reading Program.

PROGRAMS INVOLVED

1) Barrio Dogs *Youth and Paws (YAP)* Therapy Program:

Counselors and/or teachers would choose students that they think would benefit from one-on-one sessions with a therapy dog. A Barrio Dogs team consisting of a handler and therapy dog would come to the institution and meet with the child for a 10 to 20 minute session. During the session the child will have the opportunity to pet, groom and get to know the dog and his/her story. The idea is to use rescue rehabilitated dogs of a gentle demeanor, with the handler sharing the dog's story. The child will learn of the dog's difficult background, how it was rehabilitated and is now giving back to the community. By hearing the dog's story the child may feel free to open up about his/her own difficulties or issues they may be struggling with.

2) Barrio Dogs *Tales to Tails* Program:

Teachers and/or librarians would choose students they believe are struggling with their reading skills and could benefit from one-on-one sessions with a *Reading Education Ambassador Dog (R*E*A*D)*. A team consisting of a handler and R*E*A*D would spend a 20-30 minute session with the child. During this time the child would read a book of the appropriate level while sitting with the dog, having the opportunity to pet the dog while reading if he/she wishes to. The idea is to provide a comfortable atmosphere free from teacher and peer criticism so the child will feel at ease to read at his/her own pace. The child will also hear about the dog's story of rescue, rehabilitation and how it is now giving back to the community.

Sessions will last a month or semester, depending on what the teacher and Barrio Dogs Education Coordinator think would be most beneficial for their situation. Progress will be noted for each session and a final report compiled upon total session completion.

OBJECTIVES TO BE ATTAINED

1) Barrio Dogs *Youth and Paws (YAP)* Therapy Program:

By a child working one-on-one with a *Youth and Paws (YAP)* Therapy Dog (through a number of sessions), the objective is facilitate the development of confidence, self-esteem and self-determination. Developing the desire to push forward through personal obstacles is a beneficial life-long skill. By learning of the rescue dog's rehabilitation and observing its present social contribution, children may model a positive attitude towards current struggles and instability. Additionally, the exposure to unconditional canine love and companionship may be extremely valuable to a child that may be struggling in peer and adult relationships.

2) Barrio Dogs *Tales to Tails* Program:

By a child working with a R*E*A*D through a number of sessions that take place in a calm and non-competitive atmosphere, the objective is to help bring a

sense of confidence ,self-esteem and fluency in their reading skills. This program would be ideal to implement as an after-school enrichment activity.

CURRENT INSTITUTIONS BARRIO DOGS IS WORKING WITH

1) Barrio Dogs *Youth and Paws* (YAP) Therapy Program

Currently working with *House of Tiny Treasures*, a pre-kindergarten day care/educational facility for homeless children (multiple visits 2010-2011).

2) Barrio Dogs *Tales to Tails* Program

Browning Elementary School (multiple visits 2010-2011).
Cage Elementary School (multiple visits 2010-2011).



KEY STAFF

1) Gloria Medina Zenteno (Founder & President):

Gloria is a life-long resident of Houston's East End. After many years spent in animal rescue organizations, she created Barrio Dogs in hopes of reducing the large numbers of homeless animals present in our communities by focusing on upstream causes of animal homelessness. By focusing on education, support, and community building, her goal is to eliminate common causes of dog homelessness while enhancing safety and improving local neighborhoods by reducing instances of animal abuse and neglect. She aims to empower residents to take ownership of their local neighborhoods, to prompt discussion regarding the presumed responsibilities of pet ownership, and to become intolerant of animal abuse or mishandling. Gloria oversees all aspects of Barrio Dogs, Inc. and is particularly active in the Barrio Watch Dog and Barrio Dogs for Better Communities modules as well as providing social media marketing, fundraising, and participating in community education events and presentations.

2) Jennifer Washam (Education & Therapy Coordinator):

Jennifer is a long-term educator with varied interests including musical therapy camps for children, English as a second language, and educational presentations designed for elementary and pre-school children. She is an avid volunteer and has several years experience working with homebound and nursing home senior citizens, the Big Sisters/Little Sisters program, the Meals on Wheels organization, and various animal rescue agencies. She is highly experienced with canine therapies, and she is additionally educated in aspects of veterinary science. Currently, she serves as the Education and Therapy Coordinator for Barrio Dogs and implements the Barrio Dogs Youth Program, the *Tails to Tales* reading program, the

and Barrio Therapy Dogs program (which includes the *Youth and Paws (YAP)* program).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT BARRIO DOGS

Additional resources to learn about ongoing Barrio Dog activities include:

- 1) Website: www.barriodogs.org
- 2) Year-end video for 2010: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqMG2GmOzcQ>
- 3) Blog: <http://www.barriodogs.blogspot.com/>
- 4) Houston Chronicle: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/life/main/7442968.html>



NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE TRAVEL BLOGS JOBS

9 Comments 219 people

Barrio Dogs founder is a neighbor on a mission

By LARA BERKOWITZ Copyright © 2011 Houston Chronicle
Feb. 22, 2011 9:39AM



Gloria Medina Zenteno with Apollo, the founder of Barrio Dogs of Houston, which promotes volunteerism and pet care education.

After Gloria Medina Zenteno and her husband bought a house in the East End, what they grew up, she started noticing an abundance of neglected dogs around their new home.

"As the many dogs pregnant moms (stranded) dogs, I have photos I take photos on a daily basis. I've witnessed dogs running through the streets with owners on them. It's just not right," Zenteno said.

Zenteno, who did not own a dog when she moved back seven years ago, took action. She joined a volunteer rescue group to get the dogs veterinary care and new homes. She decided however that picking up strays didn't make a dent in the problem.

"I found out there was a real issue that it was just a never ending story. All the rescue groups are tapped out," Zenteno said. "There are just not enough homes for all the animals that we have."

So, instead of giving up, she decided to get to the root of the problem.

Zenteno was swimming up for starting a school when she founded Barrio Dogs of Houston a year ago. The nonprofit organization wants volunteers to educate to talk about pet care and responsibility and assist low-income residents who want to improve their animals' quality of life, which can include providing free services. Zenteno maintains a resource center to help people find lost dogs, spay and neuter programs and regular veterinarians.

"One of our really important programs is called the Barrio Stray Dog program where we try to really encourage the residents to report animal abuse and neglect — chained up dogs, animals that are left in cages and parks, she said. "These are our animals that are the most neglected. And they don't really take responsibility in reporting. I think it's important we get the information involved because if we don't then people are going to continue to do this."

Precinct 6 Constable Victor Trevino, who says stray dogs are an ongoing problem, applauded Zenteno's effort. "She's stepping up to the plate and I'm ready to support her and her organization and the philosophy behind it."

Trevino agrees that education is key to change. There are those who don't see a problem leaving a dog tied up in the middle of nowhere, he said.

"Sometimes I don't think the abuse is intentional," Trevino said. "You don't want to just keep a dog in your backyard. And don't give him attention, and you don't take him to the vet, and you don't take him for walks," Trevino said. That's abuse, he said, noting that many of his neighbors would disagree.

The constable said Barrio Dogs programs could help pet owners understand the commitment an animal requires. He foresees a partnership with Barrio Dogs in which deputies who are experts in animal cruelty laws participate in school programs.

In her community, Zenteno said animal owners often don't consider dogs part of the family. A major attitude keeps many from sterilizing their dogs. And although she sees the evidence because of its underground nature, Zenteno says organized dog fights take place.

Zenteno stated her educate, empower and transform mission on her street and the surrounding blocks. When she sees a loose or chained dog, she looks for its owner to talk about the animal's needs. If the dog is unwanted, she takes it to a boarding facility to stay while it gets vet care and waits for a permanent home.

She does a lot of business with GulfGate Animal Hospital and AC Grooming's boarding facility, because they are in the heart of the barrio, she said. She also collaborates with the Espy Neuter Assistance Program.

Zenteno emphasizes that she is not operating a rescue group, although there are 12 homeless dogs being boarded or in foster care with Barrio Dogs' assistance. Zenteno admits she has trouble saying no to an animal in need, but her full-time job as an IT professional at Spectra Energy also keeps her busy.

The nonprofit group plans a grand launch event 2-6 p.m. April 10 at Bohemian, 702 Telephone Road (www.barriodogs.org). Her website is www.barrio.zenteno.com, who has helped rally support from area musicians and artists will perform.

When residents hear about Barrio Dogs' mission, most are supportive. Some generously offer donations.

"People are willing to give money if you do it. I'm saying, 'Why don't we all try to do something?'" Zenteno said. "I'm dug in now. I care about the community, and I really want to see if change. I feel like this is my way to try and make a difference."



Brenda Stardig
Houston City Council Member
District A

March 25, 2011

Mr. James Noteware
Director, Housing and Community Development Department
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007

Director Noteware,

As the City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) assembles the 2011 Annual Action Plan for the allocation of federal funding, I would like to express my views on how some of the resources should be allocated, specifically Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

My primary focus as a Council Member is increasing the quality of life and standard of living for my constituents and all Houstonians. I strongly believe that more of CDBG funding should be allocated to finance demolitions of dangerous buildings and run down multifamily developments. Getting rid of neighborhood blight is the single, most important measure that can be taken to increase potential growth and reinvestment in the area to support a more healthy economy.

CDBG funds have previously been awarded in District A to enhance park space and community centers. I believe that another priority for CDBG funding should be to invest in improving park space and community centers. Enhancements in these areas bring citizens together and create a strong sense of community.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,


Council Member Brenda Stardig
Houston City Council District A

cc: Mark Eichenbaum, HCDD
Andrea Jones, HCDD



Quazi, Faroque - IT

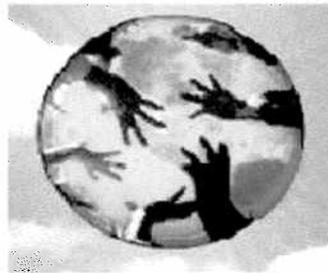
From: Quazi, Faroque - IT
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:45 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: We Need Your Input on How to Spend Federal Community Development Funds - my comments on community needs

Importance: High

I am a city of Houston resident and also a city of Houston employee. Can you make "WorldTEAM Park project" as a city of Houston economic development project? Or do you know what department or person or organization will be interested with WorldTEAM Park project? Please see below my business plan. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Faroque Quazi

Business Plan



WorldTEAM (World Trade Expo And Market) Park project
Nonprofit, tax-exempt, public charity organization

www.worldteampark.org

(Patent pending)

Elements of WorldTEAM Park project business plan

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Mission Statement
3. Vision Statement
4. Need Assessment
5. Programs

6. Beneficiaries
7. Goals
8. Scope of Works
9. Organization Structure, Management
10. Marketing Plan
11. Fundraising Plan
12. Resources

Executive Summary:

People, nations, and business models are changing in the twenty-first-century. Traditional way we cannot do business with other nations anymore. WorldTEAM Park will create an atmosphere to work as a *TEAM* not only in the United States of America but with entire world business communities.

Working as a partner with world business society is the best way to succeed in today's global economy. It will advance the export, import, and tourism businesses between USA and other countries. It will be a one stop center for export or import trade that also will be interesting and visiting places for tourist from around the world.

WorldTEAM Park initiative is not for a single individual or a business entity but for all the trade organization in our globe. Together we can build WorldTEAM Park one of the largest and best "*Business and Entertainment Centers*" in the world.

Mission:

To promote economic growth in Houston, Texas and ultimately the United States and the World.

Vision:

By 2022 a Theme Park of 5000 acres and serving as a trading and communication hub for 200 countries will be in operation in Texas.

Need Assessment:

Texas needs to accelerate job growth and an economic trading and communication hub should satisfy that need.

Programs:

The first ten years will be devoted to a start up program consisting of the following elements:

Obtain options on 5000 acres of contiguous undeveloped land in Texas.

Obtain commitments from a minimum of 30 countries to finance the portion of the Park that they would occupy.

Create land development infrastructure to sustain the development. That is, roads, water system, power, and sewers.

Satisfy political and jurisdictional requirements for the development.

Subdivide the land into suitably sized parcels and construct the required structures.

Beneficiaries:

1. Houston, Texas, USA Job market and economy
2. Tourism –WorldTEAM Park will be a Point of Attraction. Students and visitors will learn about visual world geography, people and culture.
3. Export and Import companies will have comfortable access to rest of the world's business community.
4. American values – children from entire world will learn about the tremendous potential of the free enterprise system.
5. WorldTEAM Park will promote United States is one of the best places to live, raise a family, and start a private business in the world.

Goals:

World Theme Park project will be initiating efforts to maximize the tourism, export, import, and convention business attracted to Houston, Texas, USA - will be providing services and facilities that promote and strengthen the cultural fabric.

1. WorldTEAM Park will originate many new jobs that mean economic growth for the USA.
2. All United Nations member countries relationship with the USA will be better and stronger.
3. Power of United – together we can make a better place to live, a better place to do business, and a better future for our self and next generations.
4. World Theme Park will be one of the recognized visiting places - wonder of the world.
5. Impression - the united power of America is significant to the rest of the world that only United States of America can start a project like World Theme Park for the Business World.
6. Provide first-class services and facilities that serve as a source of pride for Houstonians.

Scope of Works:

1. Hire Attorney and CPA who has experience to start and run World Theme Park project (Nonprofit Organization 501(c)(3) that are recognized as charitable organizations by the Internal Revenue Code).
2. Employ a grant application writer and manager.
3. Hire a consulting company to locate the raw land for the World Theme Park project.
4. Employ an architect and civil engineers to design World Theme Park real estate similar to world map.
5. Engage a consulting company to design and manage World Theme Park web site.
6. Advertise World Theme Park project and web site to most TV, radio stations, and web sites in the world.
7. Employ a property management manager, architect, civil engineer, web site designer, and real estate attorney for the World Theme Park office.
8. Develop raw land comparable to the world map.
9. Also, expand some area for hotels, restaurants, and entertainment center and lease the ground to them for 99 years – first 10 years is FREE.
10. Make an agreement to sign lease to U.S. 51 States' department of commerce for 99 years – first 25 years is FREE.
11. Build World Theme web site information desk for trade, visitors, and students.
12. Grand opening for visitors and students will be in the beginning of summer.

Organization Structure, Management:

We will have board of directors and volunteers from each U.S. States and other nation.

Marketing Plan:

Advertise WorldTEAM Park project and its web site to each country's department of commerce web site.

Fundraising Plan:

Initially fund will come from donors. Volunteer team members will present WorldTEAM Park project business plan to State of Texas, City of Houston, Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), The 400 Richest Americans, Fortune 500 companies in the USA, top 25 successful Houston base companies, foundations, United States economic development department, and other nations to raise \$1 billion dollar for the next 10 years.

When WorldTEAM Park will open for business, it will raise fund, on its own, by selling tickets to visitors and collecting Park's maintenance fee from each nation's department of commerce.

Resources:

Human resources: at the start two grant application writer and manager (paid employees), me (unpaid), and other volunteers.

In the future, we will hire the following personal from establish company and paid them as we need basic.

- (a) Attorney, (b) CPA, (c) Realtor, (d) Architect, (e) Professional park designer, (f) Civil engineers, (g) Raw land developer, (h) Web site designer , and (i) Property management manager.

Financial resources:

- (a) We will submit a grants application to Houston Endowment Inc. for initial start up fund of \$100,000 each year for the next 10 years. With this fund we will hire two full time grant writers from Houston job market. Their job will be to submit application to all foundation in Texas and other States.
- (b) We will submit business plan to State of Texas for funding of \$25 million to purchase 5000 acres of land or donate State own land, closer to I-10 anywhere between Houston, Austin, and San Antonio to World Theme Park project.
- (c) We will submit business plan to city of Houston, Austin, and San Antonio for funding of \$25 million from each city for the next 10 years to cover cost of infrastructure improvement.
- (d) We will also locate 25 U.S. fortune 500 companies to donate \$ 1 million each, for the next 10 years to World Theme Park infrastructure improvement.
- (e) After that, obtain commitments from a minimum of 30 countries to finance the portion of the Park that they would occupy. Note my target would be top 30 countries that U.S. imports product and services.

Mailing address:

Faroque Quazi, *Founder*
WordTEAM Park Project
13127 Sleepy Creek Meadows
Houston, TX 77083 - 1709
USA.

<http://www.myspace.com/551848233>
worldteampark@gmail.com

Faroque Quazi 3/25/2011

3/23/2011

We Need Your Input on How to Spend Federal Community Development Funds

The City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) seeks your input on how to prioritize and spend millions of dollars in federal community development funds. HCDD invites you to voice and share your community's greatest needs at a public forum.

Thursday, March 24, 2011
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Magnolia Service Center
7037 Capitol Street
Houston 77011

This forum is part of the City of Houston's Action Plan process, the annual request for federal Housing and Urban Development funds to provide services to low to moderate income Houstonians. The Action Plan process guides HCDD's allocation of these federal funds. Currently, funds are used to support affordable housing, single-family home repair, community development, economic development, neighborhood facility improvements and parks, as well as programs serving youth, the homeless, persons living with AIDS and people with special needs. Visit www.houstontx.gov/housing to view a draft of the 2011 Action Plan.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you are encouraged to send comments on community needs by Wednesday, April 13, 2011, to Andrea Jones, HCDD, 601 Sawyer, 5th floor, Houston 77007 or e-mail her at andrea.jones@houstontx.gov.

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MOST HONORABLE
MRS ANDREA JONES

I Am HENRY SMITH RICHARD

AGE 64, HIV POSITIVE
1997, HEPATITIS - C
2000, CHRONIC SCHIZOPHRENIA
SINCE 2002

AT PRESENT I LIVE AT
1 YEAR OR LESS, SHORT
TERM (30%) OF INCOME

^B 606.60 S.S. DISABILITY
RENT \$ 171.99 A MONTH
AT BRENT WOOD
CHURCH COTTAGES

13101 LAND MARK STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77045

DUE TO I AM A
EX-FELON, I
BEEN DENIED
HOUSING AT
1. W. LEO DANIELS
2. HOUSTON HEIGHTS
TOWER
3. NORTH LINE S.P.O
4. MAGNOLIA ESTATES

(2)

5. UPLIFT HOUSE
6. TURNING POINT CENTER
7. 3315 REEVES (832-244-9877)
MR GLOVER (REEVES ATT.)

I HAVE A CASE MANGER
MONTROSE COUNSELING
CENTER

MISS SHELLY ZEPEDA
703-800-0840

CAN YOU ASSIST
ME TO GET LOW
INCOME HOUSING

HENRY RICHARD

703-987-4074

YOUR HELP I APPRECIATE

MY 1 YEAR LEASE
EXPIRE 2ND MONTH

2012 AT BRENTWOOD

THANK YOU

MR Henry S. Richard

3-24-2011

March 25, 2011

Ms. Andrea Jones, Public Hearing Coordinator
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)
City of Houston
601 Sawyer, 4th Fl
Houston, Texas 77007

Dear Ms. Jones:

This letter is in follow-up to my comments made at the City of Houston, HCDD Annual Action Plan meeting on March 24, 2011 at the Magnolia MSC.

My requests are:

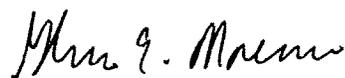
- How much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds have been spent in the East End each year for the past 10 years? The East End is geographically described with the boundaries from downtown, I-45 south, I-10 east and the inside loop 610. The neighborhoods in this area are Second Ward, Magnolia, Idylwood, Denver Harbor, Pecan Park, County Club Place, etc.; and
- How much administrative costs have been spent each year for the past 10 years from the programs listed in request #1? The issue is that these administrative costs could have otherwise gone to support services in needed communities.

As I mentioned last night, our needs in the East End are many. We need affordable homes for families and we support multi-family housing projects for Seniors like the one being planned by Catholic Charities on Canal Street. In addition, a community center at the Robert E. Lee Elementary site which was named for Leonel Castillo, a hometown legend, is critical for the seniors in the Inner City. Also home repair programs for Seniors are also needed.

The Latino community participated in the census to ensure that funding would come to our City and even with an undercount our participation was significant. We would like to see the same significance reflected as funding allocations are made. Thank you for your assistance and assurance that this will happen.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 713.894.6692 or gmoreno@rocketmail.com.

Sincerely,



Gloria E. Moreno, President
Second Ward Super Neighborhood

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Janet S. Donath [jdonath@gnhc.org]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 8:37 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Federal Community Development Funds

Ms. Jones

Good Neighbor Healthcare Center would like to put a Community Health Center in the Fourth Ward Area to replace the old Good Neighbor Healthcare Center that we outgrew. The Foundation still owns the property at 277 West Gray, cross street Taft. This would be an ideal location outside of the Medical Center for Primary Healthcare for all the residents, including the uninsured and underinsured. Adequate funding would allow us to provide for urgent care/walk-in extended hours to also help reduce the drain on the emergency rooms. I would appreciate any assistance or direction you may provide for us to apply for these funds.

Janet S. Donath, RN, BSN, MBA
Executive Director
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
190 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX 77007
713-387-7140 (direct)
713-529-3597 (main)
713-529-9169 (fax)

"True happiness is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." Helen Keller

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Ramos, Eddie - HFD
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 9:52 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Development Funds

Hi Andrea,

Re: Housing and Urban Development funds

Please check on the status of projects relating to drainage within the city. These projects may need immediate attention especially that it seems like this is one of the causes of flash flooding...Just a thought

Thanks and I wish I could be of more help.

Eddie Ramos

HFD/PPE Contract Compliance
713-247-8948

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Green, Lawanda - HLT
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 10:53 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Cc: Green, Lawanda - HLT
Subject: Spending Funds

I am a City of Houston employee, and I see elderly people strive for a better place to live and I think most of the funds should be geared towards helping them with what they needs are, especially because they are on a fix income. I have a father who's on a fix income and he barely making it he needs some work done we try to help as much as possible, but you have some parents where their kids are not participating and don't have concerns about their parents needs. I know if it was me and I had money my heart would go to the elderly first. I use to wish I could win the lottery and I would be the first person at different stores, waiting for the elderly to come in and pay their bills for them I know it may not be enough for all elderly but, people just don't understand it makes a big difference when it's just a little help, it let's them know we are concern about their needs, weather if they are our parents or not.

Thanks

La Wanda N. Green
Sr. Office Assistant
Northside Health Center
Ph: 713-696-5967
Fx: 713-694-4169

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Basha, Leticia R. - HR
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:31 PM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Community Development Forum

Hi,

I missed the forum below and I would like to send the following suggestions below.

Since we are talking about federal funds in today's economy, I wonder if the single-parent home repairs have an age limit.

If not, what qualification must a person meet. Plus, could city, state and federal employees be considered in the single-parent home repairs as meeting one of the qualification requirements? As a recently widower homeowner/city employee, many times I wish I could get assistance with repairs without being taken advantage of by price gorgers.

Additionally, in Los Angeles, California the state cares for the escapades and tree trimmings. Is that something we can use the federal funds for, i.e. pruning trees, escapades, and utility easements cleanups?

Not to mention that Miriam Park in southwest Houston could use an indoor pool for the community.

Leticia R. Basha
Phone: 713/837-9439
Fax: 713/837-9336

The City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) seeks your input on how to prioritize and spend millions of dollars in federal community development funds. HCDD invites you to voice and share your community's greatest needs at a public forum.

Thursday, March 24, 2011
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Magnolia Service Center
7037 Capitol Street
Houston 77011

If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet.

Jones, Andrea - HCD

From: Gabrielle Novello [gnovello2009@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Jones, Andrea - HCD
Subject: Federal Housing and Urban Development Funds
Attachments: 2010 Homelessness Report.docx

Hello Ms. Jones,

I recently received the City of Houston's call for suggestions on how to use Federal Housing and Urban Development Funds. I have a few suggestions:

1) Improve public transportation. Public Transport not only contributes to the greening of our city, it helps connect people to jobs, schools, healthcare and other social services. Improvements in public transport would need to include more RELIABLE bus routes, clearly marked bike lanes (especially on busy roads), expedited construction of new Metro Rail lines, and wider sidewalks.

2) Housing for the homeless. Numerous studies have shown that the costs associated with providing housing and integrated support services for the homeless are actually less expensive or equally as expensive as not providing this type of service. I have attached a report that I wrote to address homelessness in Austin. Houston has similar, if not more exacerbated issues with homelessness as compared to Austin, and the same recommendations in the paper apply to both cities.

3) Expand Urban Harvest and other farmers markets in the city. Texas, and particularly the area surrounding Houston, is home to a lively agriculture industry. Houston does little justice in allocating land and resources to sell farm-raised animal products and fresh produce to customers in the city. Demand exists for these services, as shown by the vast increase in the number of small farmers markets inside and outside the loop in the past 2-3 years. The Montrose Land Defense Coalition was another stark example of widespread demand for access to food vendors other than supermarket chains. In addition, Houston needs to expand farmers markets in "food deserts," or areas of the city that lack access to supermarkets. Farmers have been increasingly interested in serving food deserts because there is higher demand for their produce where supermarkets do not compete. More farmers markets and better access for more farmers to sell at these markets would provide citizens with better access to fruits and vegetables, integral parts of the diet that help to reduce incidence of chronic disease. Given that incidence of chronic disease is particularly high in our city, the expansion of farmers markets would not only stimulate economic growth for farmers (often marginalized communities), it would help promote primary prevention of debilitating disease.

Thank you in advance for your time in compiling suggestions for how to use federal funding to improve our city. I hope my suggestions are helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments, concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Novello

University of Texas School of Public Health
MPH Candidate '12 (Expected)
gnovello2009@gmail.com
(908) 922-9945

A Report to Address Homelessness in the City of Austin

Gabrielle Novello, B.A.

Baylor College of Medicine Teen Health Clinic

Prevalence of homelessness nationally and locally

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the term *homeless* refers to those persons who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and who reside in places not meant for human habitation or in emergency, transitional or supportive housing (“Voices of the Homeless Report,” 2008). Homelessness is a significant issue in the United States today. In 2009, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Homelessness Research Institute reported that there were an estimated 671,859 homeless persons on any given night in January 2007, including 123,790 chronically homeless persons and 248,511 persons in homeless families. These point-in-time counts far underestimate the actual number of homeless people over the course of a year. According to the HUD, there are 3.5 million people who experience homelessness each year (“HUD’s Homeless Assistance Programs,” 2007). Furthermore, the recent recession is likely to take a toll on the number of homeless persons living in America. On average, cities have reported a 12% increase in homelessness since 2007 (“Hunger and Homelessness Report,” 2008).

The state of Texas has one of the largest point-in-time homeless populations in the United States, only less than California, New York and Florida. In 2007, it was estimated that there were 39,761 homeless persons living in Texas on any given night of the year (“Snapshot of the Homeless,” n.d.). Texas has a high rate of unsheltered homeless persons, with an estimated 42% of homeless persons living without shelter. Austin, the Texas capitol, also has a significant homeless population. From 2005 to 2007, the total number of point-in-time homeless in Austin increased by approximately 136%, from about 1,892 to 4,468 (“Voices of Homeless Report,” 2008). The majority of this increase reflects an increase in the recorded number of unsheltered homeless persons, in part because of more in-depth count supported by an increase in volunteers and community partners. It will important to consider these numbers when planning homelessness reduction strategies.

Homelessness, mental health and substance abuse

Homelessness results from a diverse range of causes. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s report in 2009, the major causes of homelessness are a lack of affordable housing, poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness. Other major causes of homelessness include low-paying jobs and family disputes (“Hunger and Homelessness Report,” 2009).

Though only about 20-25% of the homeless reportedly suffer from severe mental illness, this is a large percentage relative to the 6% of Americans who have severe mental illness (“Mental Illness and Homelessness,” 2009). Among those suffering from mental illness, approximately half also have a substance abuse disorder. Addiction can develop due to attempted self-medication using illegal drugs and/or alcohol. Mental illness among the homeless can be a barrier to seeking help, services and appropriate healthcare, and often contributes to poor physical health. Furthermore, substance addiction, especially among the mentally ill, greatly increases the likelihood of transmission of blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis C and HIV. The combination of poor mental and physical health and substance abuse makes it extremely difficult to establish stable housing or employment, and thus often contributes to chronic homelessness.

In Austin, substance abuse/addiction is a major concern among the homeless. About one third of survey participants in Austin Stand Down, a one day outreach effort for the homeless, reported physical or mental disability as a primary reason for homelessness, a proportion higher than the national average (“Voices of Homeless Report,” 2008). This indicates that the provision of mental health and rehabilitation services for the homeless will be an important component in efforts to reduce or eliminate homelessness in Austin.

Profile of the homeless in America

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, in 2004, 25% of the homeless were between the ages of 25 to 34 (“Who is Homeless?” 2009). A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey found that in 2007, the majority (about 76%) of the homeless population was comprised of single individuals, and about 68% of the single homeless population is male. Among homeless members of households with children, however, 65% are female while only 35% are male, a possible reflection on the fact that women are disproportionately displaced by domestic violence (“Hunger and Homelessness Survey,” 2008).

In 2006, the sheltered homeless population was estimated to be about 42% African American, 38% white, 20% Hispanic, 4% Native American and 2% Asian (“Who is Homeless?” 2009). Additionally, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless, veterans make up a significant portion of all point-in-time homeless persons in the United States. On any given night, an estimated 130,000 to 200,000 veterans are homeless, making up between one fourth and one fifth of the point-in-time homeless population (“Homeless Veterans,” 2009).

In Austin in 2007, about 30% of the unsheltered were under 25, while about 85% were between the ages of 40 and 55. The majority of the unsheltered homeless population were male, however there were approximately as many females as males among the under 21 unsheltered homeless population. The majority (62%) of the unsheltered reported themselves as white, while 15% reported themselves as black and 10% as Hispanic. In addition, almost 40% of unsheltered homeless persons had a high school diploma or GED and 20% had at least attended college.

Recommendations from the literature

The majority of current literature strongly recommends the provision of affordable, permanent housing for the homeless as a preventative and curative strategy. According to Shinn and Baumohl (1999), while a range of social services do help, besides housing, “virtually nothing else works.” Recent studies of permanent housing projects for the homeless have shown that the cost of providing housing is often equal to or less than the cost of allowing them to remain homeless. Permanent housing often leads to improved mental and physical health, reducing costly inpatient care and hospitalizations, and reduces arrests and jail time, helps people gain stability, employment, and often leads to steady increases in income (“Supportive Housing is Cost Effective,” 2007). An example of success using the housing model was demonstrated by the Denver Housing First Collaborative. This program has targeted those who have been homeless for extended periods of time and moves them into permanent housing. In a 2006 evaluation by Perlman and Parvensky, the program was found to have reduced the public cost of services, including health, mental health, substance abuse, shelter and incarceration, for the homeless by approximately \$15,773 per person per year. This figure more than offset the \$13,400 annual cost of permanent supportive housing (Perlman & Parvensky, 2006).

In addition to the provision of housing, coordinated mental health services are a necessity to end homelessness. The National Mental Health Association and National Coalition for the Homeless have each endorsed a combination approach. The combination of support services for the mentally ill with permanent housing has shown improved success. In a recent review of the literature, Nelson, Aubry and Lafrance,(2007) found that programs that combine housing and support are more effective in keeping the homeless with mental illness off the streets and improving health and overall well-being as compared with other service methods such as intensive case management.

In order to build successful homelessness reduction programs, a 2004 report on Strategies for Reducing Chronic Street Homelessness suggested that a paradigm shift is necessary in terms of the organizations that take responsibility for the homeless. Through the present day, homeless individuals are most often cared for by charitable, often religious, organizations. These organizations most often utilize emergency shelters, transitional housing and sobriety-based programs, and do not plan or expect to end homelessness. The report suggests that

instead, the homeless should be cared for by mainstream public agencies. The new paradigm emphasizes setting clear and attainable goals, committing to a community-wide level of organization, maintaining strong leadership and an effective organizational structure, securing significant resources and funding, and ensuring mechanisms to track progress and handle any negative reactions to programs in neighborhoods (Burt et al., 2004).

Variables related to utilization of established homeless programs

There are a number of variables related to the utilization of established homeless programs. Some of these variables can be attributed to homelessness in itself. The transient nature of life on the streets creates instability in people's lives, making it difficult to regularly access appropriate services, if access is possible at all. Untreated mental illness also makes it extremely difficult for those suffering to reach out and ask for the help they need. In addition, many established homeless programs require those who wish to utilize them to be clean and sober. However, for many who struggle with substance abuse disorders, this stipulation is clearly a barrier. Availability of transportation to reach homeless shelters and other organizations can also be an obstacle for homeless persons trying to access services. Finally, many homeless persons are unaware of available services, causing a great deal of variability in the numbers who access programs at different points in time.

Other variables are based upon funding streams and policy that are directed by local, state and federal governments. In general, if leadership and organizational structures of homelessness programs are not dedicated to applying for a range of funding sources to run homelessness programs, these programs are in jeopardy of failing. Often, however, local and state governments are powerless to changes that occur in the federal government in relation to funding for homelessness programs, as well as economic fluctuations that affect the nation. One example of this variability occurred when Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which had been the largest cash assistance program for poor families with children. In 2005, TANF only covered one third of the children that AFDC had. Furthermore, TANF has not been able to keep up with inflation and from 2006-2008, its caseload has continued to decline while food stamp caseloads have increased ("Why are people homeless?" 2009). Another example of variability in funding occurred in response to the global economic crisis. In 2009, the federal government launched the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, a \$1.5 billion stimulus-funded program intended to prevent and curb homelessness resulting from the recession. While this has helped curb a potential upshot in numbers of homeless persons, the unemployment rate has increased significantly, which has left many across the country vulnerable to homelessness ("Snapshot of the Homeless," n.d.). In conclusion, funding from various federal programs that target the impoverished have the potential to help Americans avoid homelessness, however variability in those streams leave many vulnerable to homelessness at different points in time.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Homelessness is a problem across the country, and has become a prominent issue in the city of Austin. The number of point-in-time homeless has dramatically increased from about 1,892 in 2005 to 4,468 in 2007. In order to tackle issues of homelessness, Austin must: develop a comprehensive plan with a set of goals and objectives; establish leadership and an organizational structure, including professionals dedicated to the cause; garner support from local government officials and community leaders; and commit to involvement of mainstream agencies and investment of significant public resources. In addition, Austin must: commit to providing permanent housing; supportive housing for those with mental and or/physical disabilities, regardless of substance abuse status; mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation services; and a variety of other services, including reintegration services and viable employment options and/or employment searching services. Implementation of appropriate programs and targeted assistance is possible, and prior evidence makes it clear that homelessness is a problem with an end in sight.

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