City of Albany
Homeless Task Force
Thursday, August 16, 2012 – 7:00 pm
Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Avenue – South Room

Meeting Outline

1. Welcome

2. Review of Board, Commission & Committee Handbook

3. Review of Homeless Task Force Objectives

4. Review of EveryOne Home Goals

5. Workshop Follow-up: Task Force Members will discuss the information provided at the workshop and identify topics of interest for future meetings.

6. Homelessness in Albany: Staff will provide information on the homeless in Albany**.**

7. CDBG Funding: Staff will provide an overview of CDBG funding.

8. Adjournment

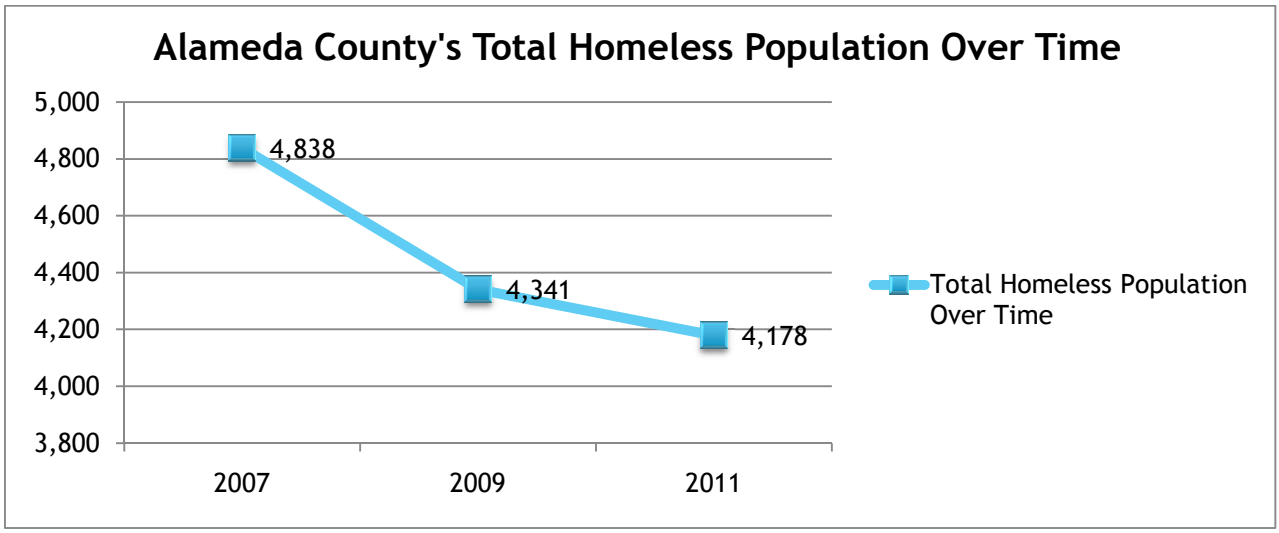
Introduction

This summary highlights the key findings from the 2011 Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey Report, reflects on how recent activities undertaken with the local system of care may have contributed to the results, and discusses implications for future efforts to reduce and end homelessness.

The overall count is down 3.8% with significant reductions in persons living with serious mental illness, veterans, and families. Intentional and strategic investments of resources such as federal homeless prevention and rapid rehousing (HPRP) funds have achieved promising results. Unfortunately, the data also reveals a growing population of unsheltered single adults, providing our system of care a compelling mandate to find ways to reverse this troubling trend.

Overall Count

The 2011 Homeless Count and Survey estimates that 4,178 people were homeless in Alameda County on a given day in late January 2011. This decrease from the 4,341 estimated in the 2009 count contributes to a 13.6% reduction in the homeless population since January 2007.

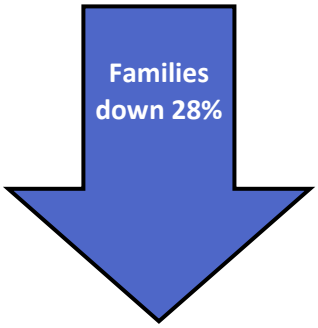


Source: Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey, 2007, 2009, and 2011.

The community was especially concerned that the 2011 Count might show an increase in homelessness due to the recession and because the 2009 Count had identified just over 3,000 "hidden homeless" people, those living temporarily with friends or family, staying in hotels or motels, or about to be evicted within seven days, a 2.5 times increase since 2003. In light of this marked increase, the community focused resources on preventing the hidden homeless from joining the ranks of the literally homeless, those sleeping in shelters, on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation.

Using Federal Stimulus resources, the Alameda County system of care launched a countywide prevention and rapid rehousing program, known as the **Priority Home Partnership**, targeted at both the hidden homeless and those living in shelters. **The program assisted thousands, and despite the recession, the numbers of literally homeless did not grow**.

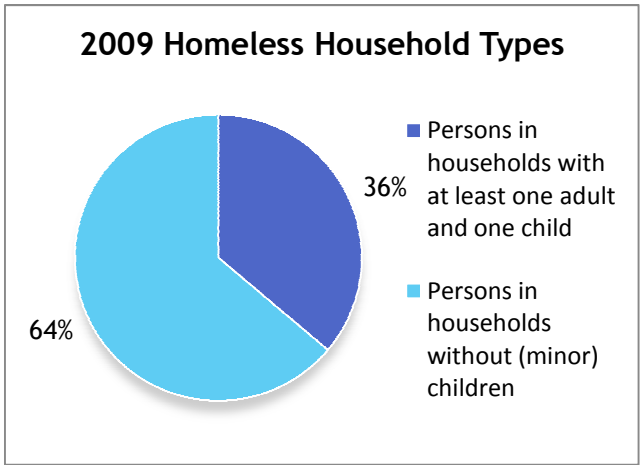
Decreased Family Homelessness, Increased Single Adults

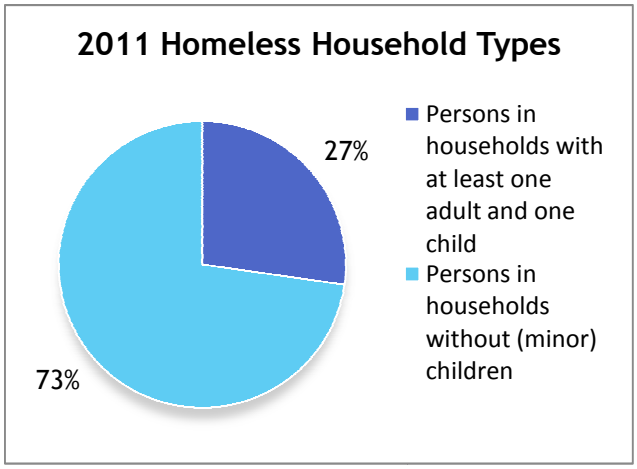


The number of persons in homeless households with at least one child decreased by 28%, from 1,570 to 1,139. The decrease was most significant for unsheltered families - down 67% from 72 families in 2009 to only 24 in 2011.

New resources effectively housed families with minor children and contributed to these significant reductions. Priority Home Partnership helped 272 people in families with children, both sheltered and unsheltered, move into permanent housing, and forty families moved from shelters to permanent housing through resources secured from the County's participation in the federally funded Family Options Study. Resources connected to the study included 60 permanent housing subsidies from local housing authorities.

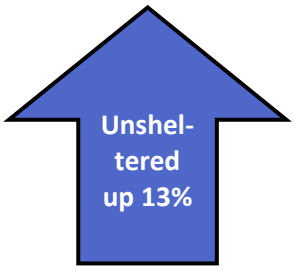
Unlike the reduction in family homelessness, the number of homeless adults without children increased by 10% since 2009, from 2,771 to 3,039. In 2009, nearly two thirds of the homeless were adults without children (single individuals, couples, and members of all-adult households). In 2011 that proportion grew to nearly three-fourths of the total homeless population.



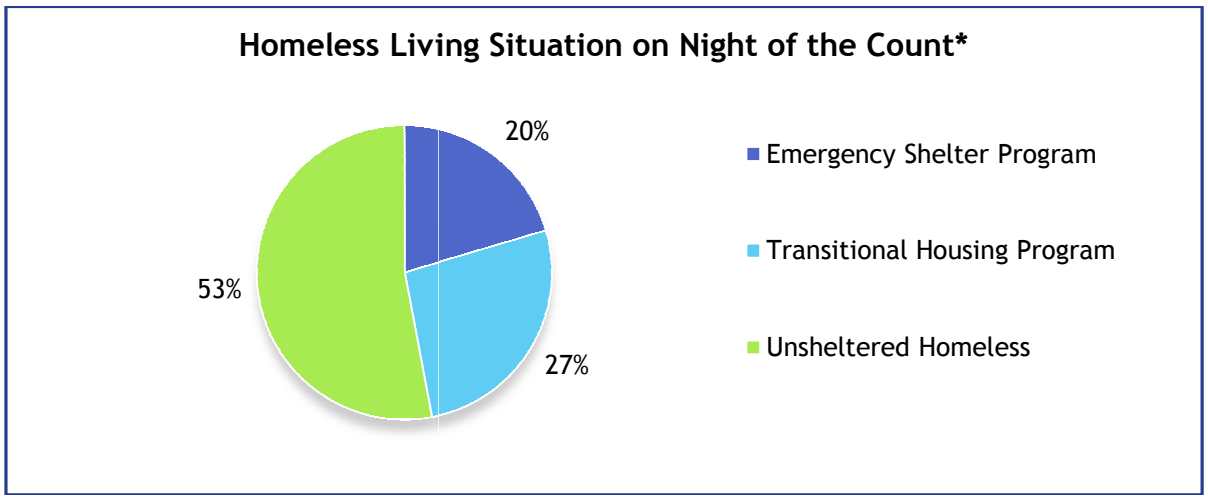


Source: Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey 2009 and 2011.

Unsheltered Persons

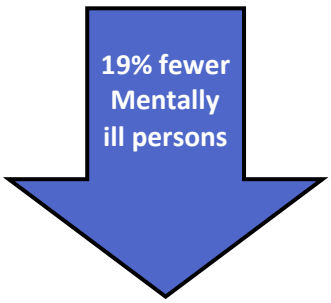


The number of unsheltered adults without children increased significantly while the number of unsheltered families dramatically decreased. The number of unsheltered adults without children grew by 34.5%, up from 1,541 in 2009 to 2,072 in 2011. This increase is offset by the reduction of unsheltered families noted above, resulting in a net increase of 13% of unsheltered persons. In 2009 45% of the homeless population consisted of unsheltered persons. The percentage rose to 53% in 2011. The number of unsheltered persons now exceeds those living in emergency shelters and transitional housing combined.



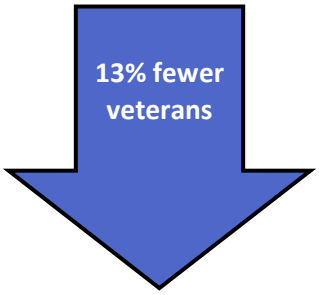
Source: Alameda Countywide Homeless Count and Survey 2011. * January 24, 2011, Alameda County

Changes to Sub-populations

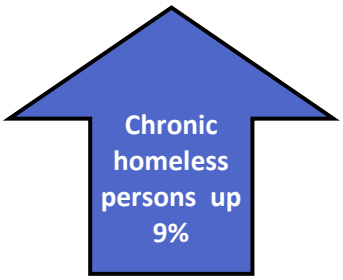


Our efforts to target resources to homeless persons with mental illness are showing remarkable results. 818 homeless persons are living with severe mental illness, a 19% reduction from 1,007 persons in 2009. Unsheltered persons with mental illness declined by nearly 30% since 2009 (27.8%). In 2011 persons with mental illness comprise 20% of the homeless population.

Since 2009 Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) has provided more than $4 million per year on short- and long-term housing financial assistance using Mental Health Services Act funds for homeless and at-risk persons living with severe mental illness. In addition BHCS has contributed $4 million in capital funds for recently completed units targeted to this population.



Our efforts are also making a difference in reducing homelessness among veterans. 488 homeless persons are veterans, a 13% reduction from 561 persons in 2009. Over the past two years, new funding for subsidized housing vouchers through the federal Department of Veteran Affairs enabled 102 homeless veterans to move into permanent housing in Alameda County. Of these, 33 were chronically homeless veterans. Veterans are 12% of the homeless population, down slightly from 2009.



The total number of chronically homeless single adults increased 9%, from 1026 in 2009 to 1,116 in 2011. Chronically homeless adults are disabled and have been homeless for 12 consecutive months or more, or at least 4 times in the last three years. They constitute 27% of Alameda County's homeless population; 84% of the chronically homeless are unsheltered. **Still, the number of chronically homeless individuals is 11% lower than its highest point of 1,257 in 2007.**

Other significant changes in subpopulations include:

- Chronic Substance Abusers: The Count found a 16% increase in homeless persons with chronic substance abuse issues. This increase coincides with a nearly $4.5 million reduction of state funding for alcohol and drug services in the county over the past two years.
- Persons with HIV/AIDS: A significantly higher portion of the homeless population with HIV/AIDS were reported as unsheltered. Although the total sub-population is small and did not increase, the shift from mostly sheltered to mostly unsheltered warrants continued monitoring and possibly additional interventions to examine potential correlations to increased chronic substance abuse or reduced funding for targeted residential beds.
- Transition Age Youth: The number of homeless youth declined in this Count. This age group, while a small portion of the overall homeless population, are frequently considered to require specialized services to reach them. For example, Alameda County developed a Priority Home Partnership program targeted specifically to transition age youth which may have contributed to this decline in homeless youth.

Policy and System Design Implications

We are seeing results where the Alameda County system of care has focused its resources, utilized best practices, and employed innovative approaches. Homelessness among families with children, veterans, and those living with serious mental illness are down by double-digit

numbers since 2009. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness issued its strategic plan in 2010 calling for an end to veterans' homelessness in five years and family homelessness within ten years. Our progress in Alameda County puts those goals within reach. We need to continue to invest in the strategies that have worked to rapidly house and exit these groups from our homeless system back to permanent housing that they can sustain over time.

Future planning must address how our system of care can reach and rapidly rehouse those who are unsheltered. The substantial increase in the number of people living on the streets and in other places not meant for human habitation calls us to a serious examination of our system of care. Adults without children now represent 74% of the homeless population. We must examine whether to target resources differently. Furthermore, we must deploy strategies to reduce lengths of stay and improve permanent housing outcomes in more of our programs, enabling us to serve more individuals who exit to permanent homes in a given time period.

The success of our prevention and rapid rehousing program, Priority Home Partnership, even during a time of unprecedented economic uncertainty encourages us to continue supporting targeted strategies that benefit both the literally homeless and the hidden homeless. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, one lagging indicator in a poor economy is homelessness. People with housing crises use friends, family and other safety net services before becoming homeless in a shelter or on the streets. In 2011, the estimated number of service contacts at outreach programs, drop-in centers, served meal and food pantry programs was 32,009, an increase of 19.7% over 2009. This rise in utilization of services, predominantly food pantries, signals a new wave on the horizon of people who could become homeless and points to the need for increased funding for safety net and homelessness prevention programs to help stabilize the hidden homeless before they enter the homeless system of care.

Conclusion

Alameda County is committed to using data to plan, implement, evaluate, and refine our service delivery system for homeless and at risk people. The information contained in the 2011 Homeless Count and Survey Report informs not only our understanding, but our actions as we seek to improve outcomes for people who have lost their homes. We will use this information to target resources and refine programs, believing that we can continue to reduce homelessness for families, veterans, and persons living with serious mental illness while simultaneously achieving reductions in the numbers of homeless adults, particularly those who are unsheltered. We will continue to work together to innovate, replicate effective strategies, and maximize the use of our resources. Together we can and will end homelessness.

For questions regarding the data or trends in Alameda County, contact Elaine deColigny, Executive Director, at Elaine.decoligny@acgov.org or 510.670.5944.

CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: 3/5/12
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: 2012-2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) City-County Agreement

FROM: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director
Ann Chaney, Community Development Consultant

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the use of FY 2012-13 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, projected to be in the amount of $73,088 ($66,488 + $6,600) jurisdictional improvements + $6,600 general administration), for the following projects:

- Meals on Wheels program - $16,000
- Congregate Senior Meal program - $3,000 (new CDBG program)
- Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) - $1,473
- 2-1-1 Call Program for Housing, Health, and Human Services - $5,000
- Curb Ramps (Citywide) - $47,615

DISCUSSION

The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department is the lead agency in administering federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The City of Albany is eligible to use these funds within census tracts that meet specified income levels and for specific projects that will benefit low and moderate-income households.

According to County officials, the City's projected allocation is based on information released from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in December 2011. Although this amount may be subject to change, the County recommends that Albany, and the other Urban County areas, base our applications on this amount for planning purposes. Funding has been declining for the past several years, and this year's projected allocation is about $17,000 (19%) less than Albany's 2011-12 allocation.

Examples of past projects funded through Albany's CDBG allocation include:

- Support to the Meals on Wheels program for seniors, 2-1-1 Program, and Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
- Accessible curb ramps (city-wide; Pierce Street project)
- Senior Center repairs and expansion project
- Teen Center upgrade and Ocean View Park restrooms

As noted on the attached 2012-13 CDBG Projected Allocation, Albany's total CDBG allocation is projected at $95,250. Of this amount:

- $66,488 (70%) is assigned to "Jurisdictional Improvements" (i.e., eligible locally-designated projects);
- $22,163 (23%) is assigned to the Housing Rehabilitation program, managed by Alameda County (Minor Home Repair and Rehabilitation); and
- $6,600 (7%) is designated for general administration, which Albany has typically applied to projects and programs.

Housing counseling services (e.g., housing/tenant/landlord rights), are administered through the County's CDBG allocation. These services, totaling $89,250, are currently provided by ECHO housing and available to all Albany residents and landlords, as well as other Urban County areas.

DISCUSSION

A requirement for using CDBG funds, with very few exceptions, is that at least 51% of the recipients must have an income that meets the definition of very low or low (50% to 80% of the countywide median income). In Albany, as the median income for the community continues to rise, meeting this requirement has become increasingly difficult. Programs that benefit disabled persons or seniors usually have no difficulty meeting these income limits. Another stipulation of this program is that no more than 20% of CDBG funds can be applied toward social services. The intent of this funding is that the major portion be used for capital projects. The County has determined that federal law is being met, as long as the "Urban County", overall, does not exceed the 20%. The Urban County includes County unincorporated areas and five cities, of which Albany is one.

Staff is proposing that the funding available for FY 2012-13 be allocated to five programs:

1. **Meals on Wheels - $16,000**
   Ongoing program that helps pay staff costs for Meals on Wheels program coordination; program provides hot meals to eligible homebound seniors. Staff recommends that CDBG funding to this program be increased from $15,000 to $16,000 to help offset staffing costs.

2. **Congregate Senior Meals - $3,000 (new program)**
   Program provides one meal per day, five days a week, to an average of 32 seniors. Meals are served at the Senior Center. Staff recommends that CDBG funds be used to support program staffing that was previously lost due to budget cuts.

3. **Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) - $1,473**
   Program provides services and collects information on Alameda County's homeless in order to better serve this population.

4. **2-1-1 Program - $5,000**
   Program provides a free, accessible, three digit telephone number enabling anyone to access the vital community services that they need. Program targets the most at-risk populations including older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and non-English speakers.

5. **Curb Ramps (citywide) - $47,615**
   Although CDBG funds have been used to install numerous curb ramps citywide in the past several years, some intersection corners still lack a curb ramp, or the ramp that exists is extremely substandard. These monies will be used to install ramps where needed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Albany's use of CDBG funds assists low and very low income persons in a variety of ways. They are used to provide hot meals to seniors and homebound persons, provide curb ramps for the disabled, support systems that provide information (2-1-1) to lower income persons and collect data on the homeless to better serve this at-risk population (HMIS), and provide a safe and comfortable place for seniors to gather. These programs are compatible with values of sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed use of CDBG funds will result in a direct savings to the General Fund of $16,000 in FY 2012-13, by offsetting the City's cost of the Meals on Wheels program. CDBG funds will enable the City to reinstate the prior level of service provided through the Congregate Senior Meal program. Funds for the HMIS and 2-1-1 programs further Albany's goals to assist homeless and at-risk populations. Use of CDBG funds for curb ramps benefit disabled persons and seniors, and will help offset the use of Measure F monies.

Attachment
Projected 2012-13 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation

2012/13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
Projected Allocation based on info released from HUD in early December 2011
12/14/2011

Jurisdiction	Jurisdictional Improvements (60%)	Housing Rehabilitation (30%)		Affordable Housing Fund (10%)	Total Project Funding (100%)	Housing Counseling Services	General Administration (20%)	CDBG Annual Total (100%)
		Owner (20%)	Rental (10%)*					
Totals	**$664,875**	**$221,625**	**$110,813**	**$110,813**	**$1,108,125**	**$89,250**	**$299,344**	**$1,496,719**
					$1,440,565	$89,250		
Albany	$66,488	$22,163			$88,650		$6,600	$95,250
Dublin	$46,541	$11,081			$57,623		$6,600	$64,223
Emeryville	$33,244	$35,460			$68,704		$6,600	$75,304
Newark	$119,678	$44,325			$164,003		$7,800	$171,803
Piedmont	$13,298	$6,649			$19,946		$6,600	$26,546
County	$385,628	$101,948	$110,813	$110,813	$709,200	$89,250	$265,144	$1,063,594
Total	**$664,875**	**$221,625**	**$110,813**	**$110,813**	**$1,108,125**	**$89,250**	**$299,344**	**$1,496,719**

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