

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 12/05/05  
Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT: Alameda County-wide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan**

**REPORT BY:** Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the Plan and refer to the Social and Economic Justice Commission for any recommendations specific to Albany's participation.

**BACKGROUND**

There are as many as 16,000 people who are homeless during the course of a year in Alameda County and more than 5,000 homeless on any given night. While Alameda County has a history of innovative and successful programs to address homelessness and special needs housing, simply continuing with the same programs will not end the chronic homelessness present in Alameda County. In addition, a variety of separate agencies are involved in providing a variety of services related to homelessness and conditions which contribute to homelessness.

The Alameda County-wide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan was sponsored and funded by nine agencies or departments within Alameda County, the City of Berkeley and the City of Oakland. This is the first time that any County has developed an integrated, regional housing and service plan for those who experience homelessness and/or are living with serious and persistent mental illness and/or HIV/AIDS. The five broad goals of the plan are as follows:

1. Prevent homelessness and other housing crises.
2. Increase housing opportunities for the plan's target populations
3. Deliver flexible services to support stability and independence
4. Measure success and report outcomes
5. Develop long-term leadership and build political will.

The sponsoring agencies and an Advisory Council will create a countywide Interdisciplinary Council that includes funders and key housing and service providers from the homeless, HIV/AIDS, and mental health systems, as well as from the leadership of mainstream housing and service systems. The interdisciplinary Council will support and advise the work of the Leadership Team, develop detailed implementation plans, and incorporate the strategies into a revised service delivery system. This is envisioned as a 15 year process, with the following outcomes desired by 2020:

- Achieve long-term appropriate housing situations for more than 35,000 individuals and families in Alameda County who have experienced homelessness or are extremely low-income and living with serious and persistent mental illness and or HIV/AIDS in precarious or inappropriate housing situations.
- Provide people experiencing a crisis or in need of basic medical, behavioral health and/or social services with the ability to access user-friendly and up-to-date information and services through any provider of such services in the county.
- Demonstrate an accurate understanding by elected officials, community leaders, and the public, through charitable contributions, volunteer service, funding decisions, and state and federal advocacy, of how to prevent homelessness and a solid commitment to remedy the complex social and health issues faced by extremely low-income people living with HIV/AIDS, serious and persistent mental illness, chemical dependency, and other disabling conditions.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Plan is being circulated for public review to commissions and City Council of cities throughout Alameda County, and the Board of Supervisors will be asked to review and approve the plan in the winter of 2006. The City of Berkeley staff report is attached.

Approving the Plan does not commit the City to any additional actions or financial commitments, but is a statement of support for the work being proposed in the plan by the ten agencies involved in provided services.

In Albany, homeless populations exist intermittently on the Albany Bulb, Albany Hill, and under the freeway overpasses. The City does not provide any direct services, but works with BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency) and other social service agencies that provide shelter or other services on an as-needed basis. The City is also part of the Albany/Berkeley Mental Health District, which provides community based mental health services to Albany residents. The District receives funding from the State based on medical necessity and income levels of those served within the Albany/Berkeley District. The City does not contribute any funding to the District, but the City Council has contributed some funds to BOSS and to the Berkeley Food and Housing Project as part of its annual discretionary grant allocations.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None. However, it is possible that the City might choose to participate at some additional level in the implementation of this plan, which might involve additional monetary commitment.

### Attachments

Memorandum, October 6, 2005, from Jane Micallef to Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission.

Alameda Countywide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan, Final Draft, July 15, 2005