

Priority:	Safety Net Services	Lead Agency:	County Human
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating	Program Contact:	Nancy Winters
Related Programs:	25050, 25051A, 25053		
Frameworks:	Poverty Framework, 10-year Plan to End Homelessness		

Executive Summary

Individuals experiencing temporary need due to mental illness can be helped with funds for basic services like food and shelter. Without these services, the situation would lead to hospitalization or incarceration. The Call Center, mobile outreach, and walk-in clinic are all able to distribute these funds provided by the State.

Program Description

The Call Center triages requests for crisis funds for vulnerable individuals with no other means of support who are experiencing poverty and in need of emergency assistance to meet basic living needs. This includes but is not limited to food, shelter and clothing. The Call Center staff is able to help fill gaps in service with emergency resources that can help individuals or families avoid unnecessary healthcare costs or further mental health decompensation. Other community mental health emergency programs such as the mobile outreach program and crisis walk-in program also access the Call Center for information, referral and assistance for mentally ill individuals needing help with basic needs. Mentally ill people who are suddenly homeless are likely to become vulnerable to victimization and more severe mental health symptoms.

Program Justification

This program links to the Poverty Framework and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness through its provision of needed social services in the form of temporary shelter. The program also links to the Basic Living Needs strategies by intervening when mentally ill individuals require emergency assistance with meeting basic needs, such as shelter or food. A primary factor for these individuals remaining stable is consistency of housing and addressing lack of basic needs due to poverty. The Call Center is able to triage requests for emergency housing vouchers that can be a first step towards stabilization. Once temporary housing has been provided, this is an opportunity for an individual to access mental health treatment that will address the longer-term need. The funding associated with this program directly prevents individuals from reaching the point of crisis that necessitates admission to a psychiatric facility. The other benefit of this program is that the funds can be utilized in a creative fashion that addresses basic needs to support the individual as they stabilize and the crisis resolves.

Performance Measures

Number of mentally ill individuals in crisis who are provided emergency housing. The number of people who are provided emergency housing vouchers on a temporary basis meet a basic need for people who would otherwise become homeless.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

All funds in this area spent primarily on payment for emergency housing in FY04.
Total individuals receiving vouchers for rent/hotels FY04 was 119.
Three individuals receiving vouchers for water/gas/electric FY04.

The increase in cuts to Federal housing programs is expected to cause an increase in the request for crisis funds to pay for temporary shelter for individuals and families with chronic mental health conditions.

Program Mandate: 3 Program Choice but No Funding/Service Level Choice

MHO Contract Statement of Work, Part II Section V Statement of Work (A) Benefit Package;(1)Flexible Services;

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
Program Expenses				
Contracts	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$1,053	\$2,979
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$3,011	\$3,457
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$4,064	\$6,436
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$130,000	\$4,064	\$136,436
Program Total:	\$130,000		\$140,500	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,436
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$136,436

Explanation of Revenues

The State funds this program almost entirely.

Significant Program Changes

As federal housing programs continue to be cut back, we anticipate a greater number of individuals requiring crisis funds specifically for temporary shelter.