

**PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR THE SANTA MONICA HOMELESS
COMMUNITY COURT AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE COURT
June, 2006**

OVERVIEW:

The goal of the Santa Monica Homeless Community Court is to use the criminal justice system as a component of the continuum of care and as a mechanism to link chronically homeless persons living on the streets of Santa Monica to services. In addition, lessening the impact on the courts themselves of the “revolving door” of chronically homeless persons cited for quality of life violations who often have these minor complaints evolve into more serious warrants, is another goal of the program. This includes providing interventions with potential offenders prior to their accumulation of citations and warrants. In order for the court to be successful in both of these goals, we must build the capacity of the current homeless service delivery system to immediately address the needs of those chronically homeless individuals with a history of, or who are at substantial risk for, repeated interactions with law enforcement or the criminal justice system. Local social service providers have reported that up to 35 – 50 clients per month could benefit from such a service. As a pilot project, however, in order to ensure maximum use of court personnel, we are proposing a one-half day per month program which would serve up 15-20 individuals per month.

Program resources which are requested in this proposal will build capacity within the current homeless service delivery system in the areas of: rapid access to psychiatric and mental health services; greater access to substance abuse beds and emergency beds. These services would increase the existing capacity in the continuum of care to provide stabilization services that would increase the chronically homeless individual’s likelihood of establishing and maintaining life off the street, thereby reducing their interaction with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The stabilization services would be prioritized for those who access the Santa Monica Homeless Community Court or who have a history of repeated court appearances, however, having a current case before the court would not be a pre-condition for receiving these stabilization services.

BUDGET:

The total estimated costs for a 1 year, half-day pilot would be \$476, 237 (\$42,000 in court costs, and \$434, 237 for stabilization services which would support the goals of the court.)

Proposed Budget for Court Costs - \$42,000 (Estimate to be confirmed with County Court staff): Based on conversations with LA County Court Administrators, the costs of running one court room is approximately \$7,000/day. Thus, the costs of a court for a half day once a month would be \$42,000/year. This includes:

- 1 Judicial Officer
- 1 Bailiff
- 1 Judicial Assistant
- 1 Court Office Support

Supplies and miscellaneous expenses

The City of Santa Monica would provide the following contribution:

Facility for service delivery and coordination related to the Court

1 Santa Monica Police Officer to provide additional security

Coordination and outreach with clients and service providers

City Attorney

Proposed Budget for Stabilization Services in Support of the Court – \$434,237

Recovery from homelessness is not a linear process, especially for chronically homeless persons with multiple disabilities. As a result, stabilization services will need to be provided on an on-going basis even after some individuals have been placed in permanent housing. An

Resource Coordinator (s)

Psychiatric and Mental Health Services

Substance Abuse Treatment Beds

Emergency Beds

OUTCOMES:

If funded as requested, over the course of a year for ½ day per month:

For the court:

15 – 20 individuals will be seen by the court each month;

50% will engage in case management for at least three months after their first appearance at court.

For services in support of the court:

12 to 25 unduplicated persons who have interacted with law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system in the last year will enter residential treatment for substance abuse services

60-120 unduplicated persons who have interacted with law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system in the last year will receive an emergency bed directly funded by this program.

50-80 persons who have interacted with law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system in the last year will access psychiatric services.

Up to 40 persons who have interacted with law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system in the last year will be permanently housed.