

Media Advisory – Sept. 18, 2008

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County recommends \$3 million for housing/homelessness projects

Snohomish County’s Community Development Policy Advisory Board (PAB) has recommended 26 local projects receive more than \$3 million in local and federal funding for affordable housing and homelessness projects during 2009.

The county’s Human Services Department is responsible for distributing federal and local housing and homelessness grants on an annual basis through the Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development.

Making recommendations, however, is a policy board made up of government and business officials with an interest in seeing homelessness end.

The policy advisory board met Wednesday evening, recommending nearly \$1 million in local affordable-housing funds and estimated \$2.2 million in federal funding be spent on various projects.

Local money comes from document recording fees and federal funding includes Community Development Block Grants from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Traditionally, requests for funding outpace what is available, and that is no different this year. More than 30 applications requesting nearly \$7.5 million in funding were received.

“Dollars available for spending on affordable-housing projects come from an ever-shrinking pot,” said Deanna Dawson, a member of the policy advisory board and executive director in the Snohomish County Executive’s Office. “We must scrutinize every application and be sure that what we award will have direct-service benefits to families in Snohomish County.”

“We had to make some hard decisions, but I am grateful that we continue to resolve housing problems throughout the county,” said County Councilman Brian Sullivan, also a member of the policy advisory board.

Recommendations now go to the Snohomish County Council for final approval.

Specific grant projects and organizations to receive funding as proposed to the council are listed below. Recommended amounts are based on projections of local collections and estimated federal spending, which could change:

- HASCO's Autumn Leaf House, which serves seven single mothers with histories of alcohol and/or drug abuse and their children. \$24,500
- Catholic Community Services Colby Crest at Meadowdale for operation of 11 units set-aside for chronically homeless persons with disabilities. \$21,607
- Catholic Community Service Meadowdale Apartments in Lynnwood for 14 units set-aside for chronically homeless persons with disabilities. \$27,500
- YWCA Homeward Bound Transitional and Permanent Units located at the emergency shelter in Lynnwood. \$33,071
- Senior Services minor home repairs for 279 elderly homeowners and homeowners with disabilities living in Snohomish County. \$444,859
- Snohomish County Human Services weatherization services for 87 low-income homeowners living in Snohomish County. \$150,000
- HASCO for single-family housing repairs at 16 owner-occupied single family homes located in Snohomish County. \$452,500
- Housing Hope Homeownership Assistance Fund, which provides down-payment assistance to first-time homebuyers participating in Housing Hope's Urban Self-Help Housing program. \$16,108
- Senior Services of Snohomish County's Galway Bay project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 26-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons in Sultan. \$40,000
- Senior Services of Snohomish County's Wishing Well I project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 40-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons located in Marysville. \$40,000
- Senior Services of Snohomish County's Friendship House project, which will purchase and rehabilitate a 35-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly persons located in Monroe. \$40,000
- HASCO's Kingsbury East and Squire Mobile Home Parks project, which will partially re-pay bridge financing used to acquire two mobile home parks in Lynnwood that were at-risk of displacing elderly mobile home owners. \$576,800
- Cocoon House's Youth Emergency Shelter East (338 points) project, which will pay for the development costs of a new youth emergency shelter in Monroe. \$88,973
- Housing Hope's Woods Creek Village project, which will pay for bridge financing to acquire two parcels in Monroe for the construction of new affordable-housing units. \$388,904

- Parkview Service Homeownership for People with Disabilities, which offers down-payment assistance to families with physical or developmental disabilities. \$175,000
- Artspace Everett Lofts project, which will offer 40 units targeted to low-income artists. \$175,000
- Habitat for Humanity, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000
- Housing Hope, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000
- Senior Services of Snohomish County, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$30,000
- Washington Home of Your Own, which will receive funding for some operating costs. \$12,454
- Everett Gospel Mission Men's Shelter, which operates an emergency shelter for 130 single men. \$36,422
- Cocoon House Central Youth Shelter, which operates a homeless youth shelter. \$23,178
- The Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington Family Shelter, which provides 40 beds for homeless families. \$37,249
- YWCA Homeward Bound Shelter, which will use funds to support staffing expenses. \$24,684
- Cocoon House North Youth Shelter, which operates a homeless youth shelter. \$17,383
- Monroe Gospel Women's Mission Shelter, which provides 16 beds for single homeless women. \$22,654

Members of the policy advisory board are Nathan Gorton, executive officer of the Snohomish County-Camano Association of REALTORS; Gold Bar Mayor Crystal Hill; Sultan City Councilman Ron Wiediger; Lynnwood City Councilwoman Lisa Utter; Mountlake Terrace City Councilwoman Michelle Robles; County Councilman Brian Sullivan; County Councilman Mike Cooper; County Councilman John Koster; and Deanna Dawson, an executive director in the Snohomish County Executive's Office.

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