



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City and County Allocate Funding from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Local Organizations to Help Combat Homelessness

Santa Clara County, CALIF. – This week, the San Jose City Council and the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors approved the allocations of \$4,128,763 and \$717,484 respectively, to community organizations help combat homelessness in Santa Clara County. The funds, which come from the Federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will go to EHC LifeBuilders, Community Technology Alliance, and Sacred Heart Community Services Agency, which has formed a consortium with Inn Vision, St. Joseph's Family Center, and West Valley Community Services Agency. Services will become available to the public on October 1, 2009.

"A solid partnership between government agencies and community organizations is the key to ending homelessness," said County Supervisor Don Gage, who along with Mayor Chuck Reed, co-chaired the Blue Ribbon Commission to end homelessness in Santa Clara County. "Through such a partnership, we hope to best utilize the HPRP funding to assist people hit hardest by the current economic recession, including those who have become unemployed, lost housing due to foreclosure, and those facing temporary hardship due to the economic downturn."

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The funding can be used to provide up to 18 months of rental assistance to people who have lost or who are at-risk of losing their homes. It can also be used for security and utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs assistance, and hotel and motel vouchers. Community outreach, housing counseling, legal services, and credit repair services are also supported by this funding.

“San José and Santa Clara County are committed to pursuing an end to homelessness,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “This federal funding allocation will help us address the increased demand for services that our community needs while also assisting us in reaching our long-term goals.”

In July 2009, the City and County issued a joint Request for Proposals for the administration of both jurisdictions’ HPRP funds. A total of nine proposals were submitted.

“In our selection process for the HPRP funding, we were looking for agencies with the experience and capacity to provide the housing services immediately,” said Margie Matthews, County Office of Affordable Housing Director. “We were also looking for the ability and willingness to collect data on every dollar spent and report measurable outcomes back to the federal government.”

The City and County allocations will support services throughout Santa Clara County, with the exception of Sunnyvale, which received a separate direct allocation of HPRP funds.

About HPRP

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which includes a \$1.5 billion allocation nationally for HPRP. The primary objectives of the HPRP funding are to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be re-housed quickly.

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