



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

1221 S.W. 4th Avenue, Room 230
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 823-4151
Fax: (503) 823-3036
email: dan@portlandoregon.gov

Date: August 15, 2013
To: Mayor Charlie Hales
Cc: Gail Shibley
From: Dan Saltzman
Subject: Increased Support for Immediate Options on Homelessness

This memo is in follow-up to our recent conversations. One of my first directives to the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) was to find additional existing resources to devote to housing homeless women. The most recent Point-In-Time Count of Homelessness in Multnomah County indicated a 22% increase in homeless women, 41% of which have experienced domestic violence.

Homeless women are a particularly vulnerable population often becoming victims of sexual assault and violence while on the street. Through increased efficiencies, PHB will be able to allocate \$300K in one-time funds for the Options for Homeless Women program. I will bring this program to Council on September 18th.

The Options for Homeless Women program will:

Open existing shelter bottlenecks. Currently the two City-funded women's shelters have 130 & 190 person wait lists. We will expand existing shelter capacity by working with existing providers to shorten shelter stays and to free up existing beds.

Divert more women from shelter. Tools such as additional rent assistance, street outreach, and housing advocacy and placement services, will help move women from shelter into housing or retain their current housing.

The Options for Homeless Women program will serve women in families, couples, youth and individuals.

Requests for Additional One-Time Funds through the Fall BuMP: These investments would boost service providers' ability to use proven homelessness prevention methods citywide.

Additional \$700K for Options for Homeless Women: I would like to expand the program by \$700k this fiscal year to reach an additional 250 women. This program can be easily expanded on a quick time frame to reach more homeless women, families, and couples.



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

1221 S.W. 4th Avenue, Room 230
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 823-4151
Fax: (503) 823-3036
email: dan@portlandoregon.gov

*\$1M for Options for Priority Vulnerable Populations identified through **A Home for Everyone***: A \$1 million infusion into the service continuum allows us to use the same intervention and prevention tools for priority populations identified in the community plan to end homelessness, including: unaccompanied youth, communities of color, and adults with disabilities.

This type of investment would utilize a similar approach as the \$1 million special appropriation during FY 2010-11. The funding had an immediate and significant impact on reducing homelessness in the Central City. 311 households were moved from the streets into homes, and of those, 73% were still in housing a year later. The primary methods involved leveraging existing street outreach with rent assistance funds, as well as job and housing placement support services for youth.

These 2010-11 methods were supported by a stakeholder group that included service providers, law enforcement, business leaders, elected officials, and community partners. Two years later, we have updated information from the January 2013 Point-In-Time Count of Homelessness to better inform decisions on appropriate tools and target populations. The Point-In-Time also shows that half of the unsheltered population has been homeless for less than a year. We believe that these interventions will be effective with this population.

I will convene a similar group to advise not only on strategic planning and investments in the near term, but also to develop requests for additional ongoing resources for the next budget year. I look forward to presenting more details to Council following these discussions.

Attachments:

- Final report on FY 2010-11 \$1M Special Appropriation to Address Homelessness in Portland's Central City
- Options for Homeless Women background and recommendations