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Homeless Programs Get \$6.3 Mil

By Harry Saltzgaver
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Long Beach received news last week that its homeless services programs will get the largest infusion yet of federal cash.

The annual Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant totals \$6.3 million this year, up from \$5.4 million last year. The grants are spread among 31 programs with a number of different providers, all coordinated through the city's Health and Human Services Department.

"Critical services are provided under these grant-funded programs," Ron Arias, Health Department director, said in a release. "These grants will allow the Health Department to continue our work with community partners in addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families to provide a broad range of health and social services that will improve their well-being. The benefits to the community are great, especially in this time of economic hardship."

Susan Price, the city's Homeless Services Officer, said that the increase came largely through adjustments for leasing facilities. Two new program requests — one a good Samaritan project and the other for rapid rehousing — were denied.

"These are essentially all our existing projects in our continuum of care," Price said. "A lot of it offers housing support. It serves veterans, seniors, families with children. This is the safety net for the people out there who are vulnerable."

What is not included in this grant is permanent low-income housing — the Section 8 vouchers and other rental subsidies. Those programs are run through the city's Housing Authority Bureau in the Community Development Department, and are paid for through separate HUD grants.

The \$6.3 million is divided among 31 programs. There are nine citywide programs. The rest are either in the Villages at Cabrillo complex or the city's Multi-Service Center.

The single largest amount, \$650,823, goes to PATH Ventures for its Family Commons at Cabrillo project at 2200 Willard St. The smallest amount, \$46,998, goes to Catholic Charities at the Multi-Service Center for its case management and outreach programs.

Mental Health America (MHA) of Los Angeles will take the largest chunk of grant money, with \$1.42 million spread over five projects. The United States Veterans Initiative (US Vets), also will receive more than \$1 million for five programs. The city has four programs it administers directly in the grant package, and the Health Department will receive \$811,572 for them.

In all, the city had requested \$7.3 million in grants, and received \$6.3 million. The difference was in the two new project proposals — \$888,710 for the rapid rehousing proposal from Beyond Shelter and \$414,240 for MHA's proposed Good Samaritan project.

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