



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Human Services Agency
Office of Housing

DATE: July 24, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 20, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Maureen Borland, Director, Human Services Agency
Steve Cervantes, Director, Office of Housing

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with HIP Housing to operate the Self-Sufficiency Program for the term of August 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, and authorizing the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute subsequent amendments and minor modifications not to exceed \$25,000 per funding source

Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution:

1. Authorizing the execution of an agreement with HIP Housing to operate the Self-Sufficiency Program in the amount of \$194,100 for the term of August 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. Authorizing the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute subsequent amendments and minor modifications not to exceed \$25,000 per funding source.

Background

For several years HIP Housing (HIP) has been administering the Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP), spawned from one of the HSA SUCCESS subcommittees that convened in the mid-1990s in anticipation of welfare reform. SSP has gone through several "fine-tuning" iterations, but its centerpiece remains the short-term shallow housing subsidy offered to highly motivated clients desiring to move toward economic self-sufficiency from a welfare-subsistence level. The housing subsidies have always been marketed as "housing scholarships" and require clients to participate in an intensive case-management program promoting self-sufficiency. With the emergence of the County Housing Authority's Moving to Work Program, which offers longer-term housing subsidies to a clientele which matches that of SSP's, HIP's program once again is undergoing changes.

Discussion

Funding provided under this agreement shall be used by HIP to administer the SSP. This program provides housing resources and supportive services to extremely low-income families. The mission of the SSP is to create stability for clients in order to promote job achievement, retention and advancement through the provision of housing resources and supportive services, thereby enabling participants to reach and maintain self-sufficiency. Clients accepted into SSP may either enter HIP-owned, managed shared housing or scattered site housing, which provides Section 8 rental vouchers to these participants.

The SSP is in the process of transitioning its clients from receiving one-to-two year housing scholarships to longer-term (up to five years) Section 8 Moving to Work vouchers. SSP's participating landlords will be provided, or have already received required Section 8 orientation in order for them to make a determination whether to participate in the new program. To date, most have accepted.

This agreement has been approved by the County Counsel's Office, and meets HUD regulations. Risk Management has reviewed and approved the contractor's insurance coverage.

Vision Alignment

This action keeps the commitment to: Offer a full range of housing choices; and goal number 9: Housing exists for people at all income levels and for all generations of families. The action contributes to this commitment and goal by offering mid-term housing assistance to low-income individuals highly motivated to achieving an economic level relatively free of dependence on conventional forms of public assistance.

Fiscal Impact

This project is included in the current Office of Housing Budget for FY 2002-03. The County obligation under this agreement is \$194,100, provided under CalWORKS. No General Funds are involved.