

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

98-219

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

AGENDA:
JUNE 1, 1998

SYNOPSIS —

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require that a Continuum of Care for the Homeless be a part of the Consolidated Plan.

SUBJECT:
CONTINUUM OF
CARE FOR THE
HOMELESS

FISCAL IMPACT –

In order to continue receiving Emergency Shelter Grant entitlement funds and to be able to apply for other homeless funding, the City must have an approved Continuum of Care for the Homeless.

TYPE:
RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:
JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval.

BACKGROUND –

The Continuum of Care model is based on the understanding that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying, unmet needs - physical, economic, and social. HUD believes the best approach for alleviating homelessness is through a coordinated community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the differing needs of homeless individuals and families. The basic components of a Continuum of Care system are:

- 1). Outreach and assessment to identify an individual' s or family' s needs and connect them to facilities and services.
- 2). Immediate (emergency) shelter as a safe, decent alternative to the streets.
- 3). Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services,

such as job training/placement, child care, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and instruction in independent living skills.

4). Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing arrangements.

While not all homeless people will need access to each of these components, all four must be present and coordinated within a community in order for the Continuum of Care to be viable. A homelessness prevention strategy is key to the success of the Continuum of Care. The Continuum of Care system serves the specific needs of all homeless sub-populations within the community. It is coordinated with non-profit organizations, state and local governmental agencies housing developers, service providers, private foundations, local businesses and the banking community, neighborhood groups, and homeless or formerly homeless persons.

In the opinion of staff, the Continuum of Care developed by the Process Group of the Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance meets the above criteria for a comprehensive and viable plan. Every organization in the city and county which deals with the problems and needs of the homeless has had the opportunity to be involved in this process.

The Continuum of Care is currently being presented to every municipality in Polk County and to the Board of Supervisors. To date the cities of Johnston and Windsor Heights have adopted the Resolution of Agreement to be Continuum of Care Partners.

We agree with the changes recommended by the Neighborhood Revitalization Board and recommend that the City Council adopt the Continuum of Care for the Homeless and the Resolution of Agreement for the Continuum of Care Partnership.