



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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From the Desk of **STEVE BENNETT**
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG, CHAIR
PETER C. FOY
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long for One-Time Funding in Support of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to include the following \$3,100,000 in appropriations from the year-end fund balance when they bring the 2010-2011 Budget to our Board for adoption.

1. Appropriate \$2 million in one-time matching funds on a two-to-one basis to cities and/or their partners to develop year-round emergency shelters in their communities. The total amount distributed on a first come, first served basis is not to exceed \$2 million.
2. Appropriate \$600,000 for development and a 3-year pilot program for a Social Model Substance Abuse Treatment Center in Ventura County, and request staff to return with their recommendations on how to implement such a program.
3. Appropriate \$500,000 to the HOME Fund for development of a Ventura County Housing Trust Fund, contingent upon the CEO confirming matching funds.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently we have one-time revenues that will cause our reserve balance to grow at the end of the year. Many local governments will actually be decreasing reserves. It is appropriate for us to consider the rate that our reserves will grow given our current reserves and our current efforts on the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. The allocation of these funds from our year-end fund balance will decrease the rate that our reserves will grow, but they will continue to grow.

DISCUSSION:

Ventura County has made good progress in some areas of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness, but we have three major areas where we have made no progress or have actually fallen behind where we were at the start of the plan. We know that ongoing funds are limited, but we have some one-time funding that can be used to move forward to meet the stated goals of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. The following programs are needed to advance the goals of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness:

1. Appropriate \$2 million dollars in one-time matching funds on a two-to-one basis for cities or their partner agencies to build year-round emergency shelters in their communities. When this Board adopted the 10 Year Strategy to End Homelessness in 2007 the goal was to add 150 new emergency shelter beds throughout the County. Since that time, there has actually been a loss of 14 emergency shelter beds, at a time when our economy is driving more people into homelessness. Year-round emergency shelter beds are needed so that people can get off the streets and be safe while waiting for affordable housing, transitional housing or supportive housing programs. We are not able to discharge people safely from hospitals and jails or detox programs if there is nowhere for them to go while waiting for longer term housing.

Several cities in Ventura County are working with partners to develop year-round emergency shelters. The recommendation is to provide funding of \$2 million on a two-to-one matching basis to cities and/or their partners to develop these year-round shelters. Funding will be available on a first-come, first served basis and will be allocated by the CEO, with approval of this Board, until the total \$2 million in allocated funds for this program are exhausted.

