

MDHI Happenings

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HUD Releases General Section of SuperNOFA

On Friday, January 20, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the first part of its Fiscal Year 2006 SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability). This is the general information section for all HUD programs, not the specific application for homeless assistance programs. The SuperNOFA announces the availability of \$2.1 billion in grants through 40 programs, including homeless assistance programs funded through the Continuum of Care. This is the first year that the general, non-program specific section of the SuperNOFA is released in advance of the program specific sections. The intent is to give programs more time to prepare the general information section. HUD expects to publish the remainder of the SuperNOFA within the next few weeks

Special Bulletin– HUD Homeless Programs Secure Increased Funding \$1.34 Billion for FY 06

WASHINGTON, DC. The Homeless Assistance Grants programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will receive about a \$100 million increase for FY 06, under an agreement reached by conferees for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. While this is less than the President's request for a \$200 million increase for the Samaritan Initiative for persons experiencing chronic homelessness, this \$100 million will be important to the continuing commitment of the Administration and Congress on homelessness and represents an 8.5% increase in homeless resources at HUD.

Conferees also provided an increase for the budget of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, raising its appropriation by 20% and extending its authorization.

Federal Surplus Property and Permanent Supportive Housing

A proposed policy change recently published in the Federal Register would allow homeless organizations to use federal surplus property for permanent supportive housing. In accordance with Title V of the McKinney-Vento Act, communities may use surplus federally owned property (for example, closed military bases) for services to homeless people. In the past, these properties could be used for emergency shelter, transitional housing, job training, food banks, clothing depots, basic life skills training, case management, mental and medical health screening and programs, drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation programs and homeless administrative offices.

If the policy change goes into effect permanent supportive housing will also become an eligible activity. This policy change was published in the Federal Register on January 26, 2006 for a comment period ending February 27, 2006.

Special points of interest:

- Domestic Violence and HMIS data
- Upcoming Seminar Women and HIV
- Dialogue on Homeless scheduled
- MDHI Highlighted
- State Homeless Count Coordinator needed

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Plan to boost outreach for homeless in Denver gets an initial ok

A Denver City Council committee forwarded to the full council a \$750,000 contract to boost outreach services to the homeless.

The contract follows the City Council's approval of a panhandling ordinance that prohibits anyone from sitting or lying on sidewalks or any public right of way from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the 120-block downtown district.

The city hopes the outreach workers will help direct homeless people violating the ordinance into

needed service centers and keep them from ending up in the city's jails.

"The outreach workers will be the eyes and ears of everything we do in the community," said Patrick Coyle, the city's homeless-programs director.

The contract with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is one of four expected to gain council approval in the coming months. The city previously spent \$315,000 annually on such services. Now it plans to spend \$1.16

million annually after all contracts are approved.

The increases are a crucial part of Mayor John Hickenlooper's 10-year plan to address homeless issues, said Deborah Ortega, executive director of the Commission to End Homelessness.

The \$1.16 million would allow the city to increase the number of outreach workers and dispatchers who help funnel the homeless to temporary housing and services

from 13 to 29. Before the contracts are finalized, they must receive approval from the full City Council.

The contracts will be financed with \$975,000 in property tax levies already dedicated to the city's Department of Human Services and federal aid.



Adams County Workforce:50 and Fabulous Program

The Adams County Workforce & Business Center will open two special resource centers to meet the employment needs of older workers. The 50+ & Fabulous program is a great resource for the older worker looking for employment opportunities. Whether these job seekers are looking to re-enter the workforce after retirement, have been laid off or are changing careers for other reasons, the Workforce & Business Center has the resources to assist in the transition.

Adams County is collaboratively working with Arapahoe/Douglas Works and Jefferson Tri-County through a grant from the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment. The grant provides 50+ & Fabulous job seekers with free services, including personalized staff assistance in the resource centers, job fairs, computer classes, specialized workshops, life skills training, hiring events and employer seminars – all tailored to the older worker. "Older workers bring experience, incredible knowledge and work ethic to support the business community and workplace," said Debbie Woodward, program administrator.

The resource centers, located at 550 Thornton Parkway in Thornton and 12200 N. Pecos St. in Westminster, opened this month. For more information about the services available through the 50+ & Fabulous program, please call 303.453.8600 or 303.452.2304.

Domestic violence service providers & (HMIS) participation in debate

The Office of the Colorado Attorney General recently completed a review of domestic violence service providers and participation in the HUD-required HMIS in accordance with Colorado statutes. The opinion and supporting information will be sent to HUD to seek an exemption for domestic violence service providers participating in HMIS. HUD will review the materials and issue a ruling to grant or deny the exemption.

The question presented to the Attorney General's Office was as follows: Does the federal requirement to participate in a Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) conflict with the Colorado victim-advocate privilege?

In summary, domestic violence service providers in Colorado who administer programs whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are not required to participate in HMIS. We will continue to provide updates as progress is made towards a conclusion to this issue.

Boulder County Commissioners approve \$450,000 in grants to area nonprofits

The Boulder County Commissioners approved \$450,000 in Worthy Cause grants to eight local nonprofit human service agencies on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006. The grants fund capital projects such as building and land purchases or major renovations.

The Worthy Cause sales tax, approved by county voters in 2003 for a five-year period, provides approximately \$1.4 million in revenue each year for investment in capital projects by nonprofit agencies that focus their services on high-risk children, youth, and seniors. The bulk of the revenue collected each year is allocated to eleven "designated" nonprofits approved by voters in 2003, including four community health centers, two domestic violence shelters, mental health day programs, emergency services, and transitional/affordable housing. The remaining revenue, about \$450,000 per year, is distributed through a competitive grant process in which nonprofits apply for funding.

St. Francis Night Shelter Ending

A year and a half of providing emergency night shelter for people who could not get into other night shelters, St. Francis Center will need to conclude its night services to over 250 or more people who regularly found safety, solace, and a place to spend the night. Because of the unwillingness of the Curtis Park Neighborhood Association to continue an agreement made with the City of Denver to allow the St. Francis Center to be open at night, the night-time hours, 9pm until 7am the next morning will end on May 1, 2006. St. Francis Center will remain open during day time hours as it has for 23 years in the neighborhood just a few blocks from downtown Denver.

St. Francis Center, the City of Denver, and some other organizations are searching out other possible sites to provide space for the people who have been coming to the Center at night. It's not easy in these days of NIBMYism.

Celebrating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

A seminar titled "Beyond Condoms: Women & HIV Prevention" What's on the horizon for women: microbicides, vaccine trials, violence as a risk for HIV infection, effective prevention is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.) at The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

For directions and parking go to: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ic/location.asp> The Registration deadline is Friday, March 3 and please don't forget to bring 50 business cards and program brochures for networking.

State Homeless Count Coordinator Wanted

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing will be accepting bids for a Homeless Count Coordinator contract position. It is anticipated that the bid will be released at 1:00 p.m. on February 23. Further details about this position may be found at that time on the Colorado State Purchasing website at www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/spo/index.htm go to Open Solicitations, then at the top of the page go to REGISTER).

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Disaster Comes In Many
Forms



MDHI At A Glance



Founded in 1996, the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) is a non-profit organization that works on the behalf of over 150 other local agencies, faith-based organizations and government agencies addressing the issues and needs of more than 10,000 men, women and children that are homeless in our seven-county Metropolitan Denver area.

As the HUD designated Continuum of Care for Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, MDHI is responsible for submitting a yearly federal application that brings between \$8M and \$12M in funding for these agencies to provide permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and shelter plus care housing for our homeless community. For more information on MDHI please visit our website www.mdhi.org or contact Linda Murphy, Director at 303.561.2194 or Linda.murphy@unitedwaydenver.org.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

MDHI Executive Committee Meeting 3/3/06 8:30- 10:00 AM at St. Francis Center 2323 Curtis St, 2nd Fl.

MDHI Data Collection Committee Meeting 3/8/06 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM At Mile High United Way

MDHI Board Meeting 3/9/06 from 1:30-4:00 PM at Arapahoe Green 1135 S. Xenia St.

MDHI Mainstream Resources Committee 3/17/06 at 10:00 am-12:00 PM at Broomfield Health and Human Services 6 Garden Centre in Broomfield

MDHI Education Meeting 3/24/06 8:30 –10:00 AM at Mile High United Way

MDHI Funding and Finance 3/28/06 11:30 AM –1:00 PM at Mile High United Way

MDHI Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness 3/30/06 8:30 AM– 10:30 AM at Volunteers of America

A dialogue on homelessness (CHUN) there are six dialogue groups that will meet throughout the Greater Capitol Hill. Each group will meet four times to thoroughly discuss the challenges and suggest actions that could be taken to address homelessness. For more information on meeting dates and locations please visit Capital Hill United Neighborhoods at www.chundenver.org

Register Now for the 2006 Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Annual Conference on Homelessness

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2006 CCH Annual Conference on Homelessness. The conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th 2006 at the Denver Merchandise Mart 652 E. 58th Avenue in Denver , Colorado .

Full workshop details and online registration capabilities for the conference are currently available. Visit coloradocoalition.org or call 303-291-6946 to learn more.