

# Coalition of Housing & Homeless Organizations (COHHO) FY 2005 Baseline Budget Recommendations

FY 2005 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (FSA) HOMELESS SERVICES ACTIVITY BASELINE ADJUSTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
	LOCAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
<b>Baseline costs from FY 2004 budget<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>\$12,780,000</b>	<b>\$5,697,920</b>
<b>FY 2005 Baseline adjustments:</b>		
1) Offset loss of TANF bonus funds	\$1,664,215	(\$1,664,215)
2) Incorporate FY 2004 reprogramming into FY 2005 baseline	\$300,000	
3) Restore FY 2003 cuts to homeless services contracts	\$850,000	
<b>Recommended FY 2005 Baseline</b>	<b>\$15,544,215</b>	<b>\$4,033,705</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by DHS FSA, August 2003.

The DC Department of Human Services, Family Services Administration projected FY 2004 budget for homeless services includes \$17,385,045 in local and federal funds for direct services provided through contracts with community agencies. Another \$1,092,878 in local funds is projected to be spent by DHS on shelter repair and security.

## BASELINE ADJUSTMENTS

1. For three years (FY 2002 to FY 2004) FSA has received approximately \$1.6 million for homeless services from a federal TANF bonus awarded to DHS for reducing out-of-wedlock births to teen mothers. However, when Congress reauthorizes TANF this year, all bonuses are likely to be eliminated.
  - **RECOMMENDATION:** Increase the FY 2005 baseline budget by \$1,664,215 in local funds to plan for the loss of federal TANF bonus funds.
  
2. FSA has received mid-year supplemental funds (including reprogrammings and reserve funds) for homeless services in each of the last three fiscal years. In FY 2004, homeless services received a local funds increase; however, the need for an additional \$300,000 already in FY 2004 indicates that the local funds baseline should be further increased.
  - **RECOMMENDATION:** Permanently increase the baseline by \$300,000 (per FY 2004 reprogramming) to reflect the likelihood that hypothermia services will continue to be increased as rising need.
  
3. Homeless services contracts sustained across-the-board cuts of between 5 and 9 percent in FY 2003. These cuts have never been restored.
  - **RECOMMENDATION:** Adjust the baseline by \$850,000 to restore cuts to homeless services made in FY 2003<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> \$850,000 is a conservative estimate of 5 percent of the FY 2003 direct services budget.

## **ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. Street homelessness has increased by over 20 percent in the last year. Increased hypothermia services are needed to meet the requirements of the Frigid Temperature Protection Amendment Act and to address the growing numbers of homeless single adults. DHS could expand provide enhanced year-round street outreach to help reduce street homelessness and increase hypothermia prevention efforts in areas of the city currently not regularly covered. This could be achieved by the addition of three street outreach workers at approximately \$35,000 each in the neighborhoods of Ivy City / Northeast; Upper Georgia Avenue, and Southwest, for a total of \$105,000 (local funds).
2. Family homelessness in DC has more than doubled over the past three years, from 1,276 eligible families seeking shelter in FY 2000 to 3,100 families in FY 2003. With this dramatic rise, DHS is challenged to address the long-term need to eliminate the 300-family waiting list for emergency shelter. DHS could create 100 new family shelter units for a total operating cost of \$2,190,000 (100 units x \$60 per unit per day x 365 days per year). This total should include the creation of units for larger families with 5 or more children. DHS should prepare a cost estimate for capital funds needed for 100 new family shelter units. Capital fund investments could vary widely depending on facilities available to DHS.
3. DHS should prepare cost estimates for potential new projects for the FY 2005 – FY 2007 Capital Improvement Plan, addressing the need to make existing city shelters wheelchair and handicap accessible, the need to make permanent investments in existing facilities – e.g., improved HVAC and electrical systems, etc. and the need to renovate the Gales School as a permanent, low-barrier shelter and to permanently replace the low-barrier, hypothermia space at the Franklin School.