



**Date:** October 4, 2005  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager *gm cjs*  
**From:** Ronald R. Arias, Director, Department of Health and Human Services /s/  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** **Homeless Services Activity Update**

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At the request of the Mayor in response to public comment at City Council meetings, we are providing the following information on homeless services in the City of Long Beach.

#### Multi-Service Center for the Homeless

The Multi-Service Center for the Homeless (MSC) is operated by the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and is the main point of entry to services to persons who are homeless for the Long Beach Continuum of Care System. The MSC has 14 co-located non-profit agencies that provide an array of supportive services for homeless individuals and families helping them to re-enter housing and becoming self-sufficient.

In calendar year 2004, the MSC served 4,058 unduplicated people, with 28,382 total visits to the center. Of the 4,058 people, 1,006 were single males, 439 were single females and 770 were family units comprised of 921 adults and 1,692 children. In 2005, the MSC has to-date served (on average) 170 single men and women, and 80 family units each month. Thirty-six percent of those seen are children, and half of the family units are single mother-headed households.

#### Number of Homeless in Long Beach

The 2005 point-in-time count identified **4,475 homeless individuals and families** living on the streets or in shelters (3,194 adults and 1,281 children). Based upon this number and projections about homelessness, over the course of one year in Long Beach approximately 17,900 persons will be homeless. More than 87% of MSC clients self-reported that they are residents of Long Beach, 42% reported having family in Long Beach, and 65% have worked in Long Beach prior to becoming homeless.

#### Sheltering Availability

The following is a summary of the number of shelter beds available on a given night in Long Beach. The shelter beds in Long Beach have an occupancy rate of 98% or higher per night:

October 4, 2005

Page 2

- Emergency Shelter – individuals may stay 30-90 days, there are 413 beds - (178 for families and 235 for singles). There will be an additional 59 beds coming on line in 2005 for single adults. There are eleven agencies providing this service.
- Transitional Shelter – individuals may stay up to 24 months, there are 1,172 beds – (413 for families and 759 for singles). There are eighteen agencies providing this service. There are no new transitional beds anticipated at this time.
- Permanent Supportive Housing Units - Permanent affordable housing with supportive services, there are 331 units – (331 for singles with disabilities). There are four agencies providing this service.

Due to the volume of individuals/families seeking assistance and the length of stay in a shelter, there are only approximately 10 family units per month that can be placed in shelter. There are almost no single shelter slots available per month. Unless a homeless individual meets a sub-population category (e.g., mental illness, domestic violence, substance abuse), it is extremely difficult to provide that person any shelter options. The limited shelter space and permanent housing availability and affordability have caused many clients to feel there is no system of services in place to assist homeless people.

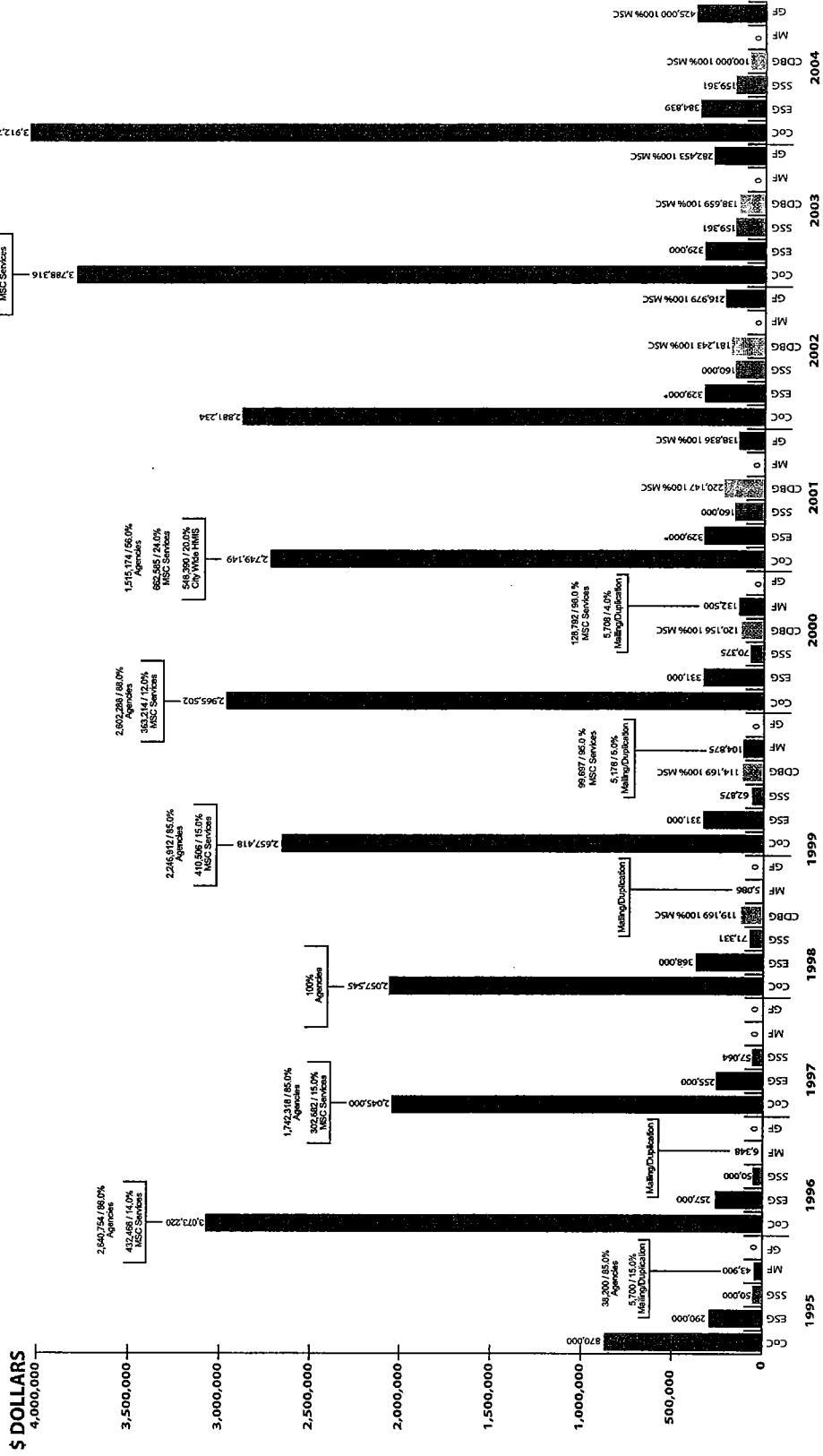
The MSC and Continuum of Care System in Long Beach are most effective in assisting those clients experiencing episodic homelessness (short term homelessness of less than a year) who can rapidly re-enter housing and maintain self-sufficiency. The chronically homeless (persons who are homeless for a year or more and who may have a disability), who comprise approximately 12% of the homeless population, present more of a challenge to the Long Beach Continuum of Care System, due to significant barriers to housing re-entry (physical health, mental health, addiction, low income status and housing affordability).

Persistence and follow through by outreach staff, and the willingness and ability of programs to be flexible with interim goals toward the outcome of permanent housing stability is required for the Continuum of Care System to be effective with both episodically and chronically homeless individuals/families. The barriers experienced by the chronically homeless are multiple, yet are surpassed each and every day as they enter into housing, by a small percentage of those experiencing prolonged homelessness in Long Beach. Attached is a chart showing funding for homeless services for the past 10 years.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 84016.

Attachment

# FUNDING CATEGORIES FOR HOMELESS SERVICES 1995-2004



NOTE: \* Traveler Aid returned Homeless Prevention Funds for City to Manage (37,000)  
 NOTE: If not otherwise noted 100% funding was passed through to nonprofit services  
 CoC: Continuum of Care (Federal Housing and Urban Development Funds)  
 ESG: Emergency Shelter Grant (Federal Housing and Urban Development Funds)  
 SSG: Social Services Grant Program (from 1995-2001 this was funded by the hospital sub-fund; from 2002, the funds were included 200,000 General Fund and 250,000 CDBG - the amount only represents homeless funded projects & is not tracked by \$ source)  
 MF: Mayor's Fund for the Homeless  
 GF: General Fund  
 CDBG: Community Development Block Grant (Federal Housing and Urban Development Funds)  
 HMS: Homeless Management Information System  
 MSC: City of Long Beach Multi-Service Center for the homeless

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Note: In the Mayor's Fund for the Homeless: In years where amount is 0, no funding was allocated to allow the fund balance to grow.