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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1994

94 MAY 25 09:29

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARK GEARAN
JONATHAN PRINCE

SUBJECT: Homeless Plan Promotion

Mark received your note on the USA Today article indicating that "we need to do more to promote" the homeless plan. This memorandum summarizes those efforts. As you will observe, it is largely a HUD-led effort and we have limited your direct involvement -- but all of HUD's work is designed to definitively portray this as a Presidential plan and a Presidential initiative.

As Andrew Cuomo explained to you yesterday, Secretary Cisneros and he are leading a very aggressive, campaign-style effort to promote the plan.

- * **Endorsements.** In the first week, HUD held 10 press conferences in different cities -- including New York and Los Angeles where Mayors Giuliani and Riordan endorsed the plan. HUD has plans to build on these initial endorsements with a series of press conferences featuring endorsing mayors around the country.
- * **Mailings.** They have mailed information on the plan to approximately 35,000 constituency groups, providers, elected officials, and editorial boards.
- * **Editorial boards.** Conference calls have been conducted with 15 editorial boards since the plan's announcement. The New York Times, the Washington Post and the Miami Herald have already endorsed the plan. The Los Angeles Times is expected tomorrow and the Detroit Free Press later in the week. Additional editorial board meetings are planned.
- * **Radio.** Administration officials have been available for extensive radio interviews. Andrew himself, as the plan's principal spokesman, as conducted over 25 in the last two days.
- * **State by state releases.** We released from the White House a state by state breakdown of funds that would be made available through the plan.

- * **Interest groups.** All of the major related interest and advocacy groups -- including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Community Development Association -- have endorsed the plan. It is HUD's plan to replicate these national endorsements with similar announcements by local affiliates and members of these organizations; this will lay the foundation for solid grassroots support.
- * **Congressional field hearings.** A series of congressional field hearings on the plan are part of the next phase of the promotion strategy.

Because of extensive and competing demands for your time, your current schedule does not include personal participation in this effort. However, when you look at some of the attached clips, you will see that the plan is almost universally portrayed as a Clinton initiative.

We will keep you informed on the plan's progress. Obviously, if you wish more extensive personal involvement, please advise.

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\$1.7B plan promises to cut homeless by one-third

By Debbie Howlett
USA TODAY

Vowing to "break the cycle of homelessness," the Clinton administration offered a plan Tuesday to reduce the number of homeless by a third.

The \$1.7 billion proposal, if approved by Congress, would triple the amount spent on the homeless in the final year of the Bush administration.

"We have a moral imperative ... to put an end to this crisis," said Tipper Gore, the vice president's wife, who has taken on homelessness as a cause.

Along with the plan, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros gave an official estimate of 600,000 homeless people, far more than the 168,309 homeless counted in the 1990 Census.

And from 1985 to 1990, he said, as many as 7 million were homeless at some point.

"This is not merely a housing problem but a convergence of elements," Cisneros said.

He blamed poverty, drug abuse, mental illness and a lack of affordable housing.

The plan, drafted by a task force from 17 agencies, outlines a "continuum of care" from crisis intervention to drug counseling to education and job training to health care.

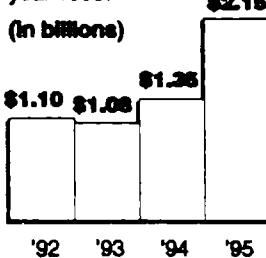
Among the plan's details:

- ▶ Granting federal money to local, non-profit groups.

- ▶ Consolidating six HUD programs for cities into unique, locally run systems.

Homeless aid boost sought

Federal spending on homeless programs, and what President Clinton is requesting for fiscal year 1995:



Source: The White House

By Marty Baumann, USA TODAY

- ▶ Establishing four centers that target homeless veterans.

- ▶ Making mental health and drug abuse services more available to the poor.

Most of the money for the project would be added to the 1995 HUD budget.

Cisneros expects resistance from some in Congress, even though some of the money to pay for the plan would come from cuts in HUD's budget.

"Undoubtedly some might try and take this money and redirect it," he said. "We can make the case there's no group suffering more. We can defend that (\$1.7 billion) amount."

Most who deal with the homeless praised the plan.

- ▶ The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty called the plan a good start, but said, "It needs more specifics on how the administration intends to accomplish its goals."

- ▶ Mayors nationwide "welcome this new approach to ending homelessness in their cities," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Foes look again at employer-paid health insurance

By Judi Hanson
USA TODAY

President Clinton's proposal that all employers insure their workers, a crucial but controversial key to his health-reform plan, is getting a second look from some lawmakers who have been opposing it.

The latest: Sen. John Breaux, D-La., who floated a version at a private lunch of Senate Democrats on Tuesday that would impose the requirement but ease the burden on small businesses, including an exemption for those with 10 or fewer employees.

The idea mirrors one put forth last month by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, who has been trying without success to muster enough votes from conservatives on his committee who oppose the employer mandate.

It provides an option for slightly bigger businesses: instead of premiums, a 1% payroll tax for those with 11 to 15 employees, and a 2% payroll tax for those with 16 to 20.

Breaux is not endorsing the idea he circulated Tuesday. He and Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., are sponsoring an alternative to Clinton's proposal. Instead of a mandate, it calls for new insurance rules to foster competition among insurers to drive down premiums.

Breaux has said that less drastic action, such as overhauling the insurance market, should be tried before ordering businesses to insure workers. Clinton's bill would require all employers to pay at least 80% of workers' premiums.

"I don't like mandates," Breaux says. "I don't think they work. They are particularly harmful to small business and cause a loss of jobs."

But, he adds, "It's an option. ... I'm just suggesting, let's talk about it here. Let's not set our feet in concrete."

Says Breaux, a member of the Senate Finance Committee chaired by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., which is working on its own version of health reform, "People are looking for ways to solve the problem, and this may be one."

▶ Editorial, 12A

WORLD ROUNDUP

Crisis looms with North Korea

Defense Secretary William Perry on Tuesday indicated the United States could be only weeks away from a major crisis with North Korea if the Stalinist regime in Pyongyang refuses to cooperate with international nuclear weapons inspectors. Perry, visiting Canada, said North Korea could divert spent fuel rods from its Yongbyon reactor into enriched plutonium for use in nuclear weapons within weeks if international inspectors cannot prevent it.

EGYPTIAN LAWYERS: Police in Cairo used clubs and tear gas to break up a demonstration of lawyers protesting the death in police custody of an attorney who defended Muslim extremists. Abdel-Harith Madani, 32, died in government custody after being taken

blindfolded from his office April 26 by security agents. Amnesty International and the Egyptian Lawyers' Syndicate say Madani may have been tortured. Egypt says he suffered an asthma attack in detention.

CHRISTOPHER VISIT: Secretary of State Warren Christopher became the first international dignitary to visit the Palestinian self-rule enclave in Jericho, demonstrating U.S. support for Palestinians who have taken control of the West Bank town under an agreement with Israel. Christopher called it a "tremendous thrill" to witness the transition as he tries to broker Israel-Syria peace talks.

ALSO ... Amid fraud charges, the Dominican Republic's longtime ruler Joaquin Balaguer held the lead in the Caribbean nation's presidential election. ... France signaled disappointment in efforts to stem the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by indicating it may sharply cut its 6,800-strong peacekeeping force.



HUD News Summary

Highlights:

**Priority: Home!
The Federal Plan to
Break the Cycle of
Homelessness**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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The Invisible Parade

For over a decade, the homeless have been parading, shivering, ranting, eating, drinking, sleeping and occasionally dying within view of the north-facing windows of the family quarters of the White House. At last, perhaps, we have a President who can see them. It is about time.

Homelessness in America is a spectacle to crack any caring heart. The scores of homeless who shuffle among the springtime tulips and winter snowbanks of Lafayette Park in Washington are the unelected representatives of a far-flung constituency. During the Reagan and Bush Administrations, neither these Washington representatives of the homeless nor the Congress itself could get the residents of the White House to open their eyes.

Finally, the Clinton Administration seems ready to make the Federal Government look at and respond to homelessness. The new report prepared by the secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development argues that addiction and mental illness account for about half of the adult homeless population.

It also blames structural changes in society and the economy for causing growing numbers of poor Americans — there are 37 million of them — to lose their shelter. In the 80's, available jobs and wages for unskilled workers declined. Among women with dependent children, the buying power of welfare benefits has eroded in the last 20 years. Meanwhile, the study asserts that "huge numbers" of cheap units have disappeared from the rental market. In short, some poor citizens who were

not addicted or mentally incompetent became homeless because the cost of bad apartments increased as the amount of money in their pockets declined.

The new report was written by Andrew Cuomo, the Assistant Secretary of Housing who produced a much praised and largely ignored report on homelessness in New York City in 1992. As in the earlier report, Mr. Cuomo called for a mix of remedial and preventive measures as well as new programs that enlist nonprofit organizations in delivering services to the homeless.

The report does not pretend to answer every question. For example, its finding that up to seven million people were homeless at some point in the late 80's does not answer how many are homeless at this moment. Guesses range from 500,000 to several million.

It does not take a head count to affirm the evidence before our eyes night and morning. Nor should the White House's formal commitment to the spirit of this draft report await clearance from the Office of Management and Budget. After 12 years of willful myopia, the numbers are less important than the commitment to behold the mundane suffering outside the windows of Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Streets across America.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Clinton described the residents of our door stoops and underpasses as "people who are battered and bruised and broken, but who still have a lot of God's grace left in them." To have left them so long to the grace of God alone is an insult to our national values.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

HUD on the Homeless ...

THE ADMINISTRATION'S new "federal plan to break the cycle of homelessness" is an admirable, long-awaited effort. Nobody thinks it is going to make the problem disappear. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros set the more realistic, but still ambitious goal the other day of reducing the homeless population by a third during President Clinton's term in office. It's not even certain that that will be achieved either. Even so this is a useful report. It proposes constructive changes not just in the pattern of aid but in comprehension of the problem.

The government in the past has too often treated homelessness as if it were a passing and peripheral problem unlikely to last. Wait awhile, and it might recede just as quickly as it arose. It wasn't all that many years ago, after all, that the country didn't have a homelessness problem, or at any rate didn't recognize one.

The administration people say that's a delusion, that the problem is not just real but structural and likely here to stay, in part a combination and symptom of other problems but also an issue in its own right. The report takes seriously studies that say that perhaps 600,000 people across the country are homeless at any one time, while as many as 7 million may experience an episode of homeless-

ness over a period of, say, five years. Some of are chronically homeless, others only briefly so. Those with chronic conditions—mental illness, alcoholism or any of the familiar rest—need one kind of help, while those whose main problem is lack of sufficient funds by virtue of job loss, family breakup or a shortage of affordable housing need another. But it's a large combined population that for one reason or another is vulnerable.

The better to help, the administration proposes to consolidate the existing array of fairly narrow-gauge programs into a system of grants that communities could use as they thought best, and to increase funding. The theory behind the consolidation is that local officials are likelier than federal ones to have a sense of what will work. Department officials point out that the feds do not intend to simply walk away, but rather will have to pass on the suitability of proposed programs and will monitor their success. As to the increase in funding, it's already in the president's budget, but to make room for it, other housing programs—notably public housing—had to be cut. It isn't clear Congress will go along, at least not all the way. But this is a good-faith effort to do a better job of dealing with as discouraging a problem as the country faces. The administration deserves credit for that.

VIEWPOINT

SECTION
SUNDAY,
MAY 22, 1994

The Herald

Plain logic on homelessness

Federal programs to combat homelessness seem to proliferate in the dark, like wire hangers in closets. As theories about the problem change — one year it's a housing shortage, next it's drug abuse, then family breakdown, and so on — a new program arises to suit this or that theory. There are by now 32 federal programs aimed at homelessness, costing \$1.4 billion, yet the problem is more entrenched than ever.

The Clinton administration, keen on reinventing government, would like to clear out the tangle in its closet, but probably can't. Many of those programs are the proud invention of some member of Congress, and consolidating them all would be a political Armageddon.

Less radical, but still helpful, is a plan outlined recently in a lucid little report by the government's main housing and social service agencies. The group urges consolidation of the half dozen biggest homeless programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and doubling the funds allotted to them.

Under current rules in several of these programs, localities have to compete for funding, project by project. The projects needn't fit well together; in fact, it's actually hard to combine them sensibly. The piecemeal funding militates against the kind of system likeliest to succeed: a

IN NEW FEDERAL PLAN
Washington has plenty of programs to help the homeless. The tough part is making sense of them.

smooth progression from temporary shelter to education and drug or alcohol rehabilitation, to job training, and finally into permanent housing.

To make that system possible, HUD would give a fixed sum for

homeless aid to each community, based on its population and depth of poverty. To get the money, a locality would first have to submit a single, plain-English plan describing its whole continuum of services, how they fit together, and where money is to be spent.

Then, best of all, the plans would have to be published in an easy-to-read format. "Once the press and people understand what's going on," says Assistant HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, "you're going to see a much different, more responsive system."

This is all especially relevant in Dade County, which is trying to create a coherent, integrated solution to homelessness. Under current rules, coherence is normally the first casualty of federal funding. With this proposed reform, Dade and others might just have a chance at crafting a solution that works.

Better planning won't end the homeless problem. But it could remove some obstacles that now prevent communities from ending it. That's hardly a breakthrough in government social policy, but it's a refreshing dose of common sense.

Los Angeles Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994
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U.S. Vows Major Cut in Homeless

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry G. Cisneros unveiled a new federal effort to combat homelessness Tuesday and pledged that the Clinton Administration will reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term.

In a report by Cisneros' department that was a year in the making, the Administration contended that on any night, 600,000 of the nation's people are among the ranks of the homeless and that 7 million people were without a permanent residence at some point before.

Please see HUD, A11

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HUD: One-Third Cut in Homelessness Vowed

Continued from A1
Between 1985 and 1990.

The Administration vowed in its report to take a new approach to the problem by giving local governments more responsibility for creating comprehensive programs designed to establish emergency housing and to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other problems believed to be at the root of homelessness.

The report's release Tuesday coincided with the Administration's attempts to push legislation for a variety of programs through Congress and was designed to help defend its proposal to double federal funding for homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1995.

Homeless advocates applauded the report as the first federal acknowledgment of the extent and complexity of homelessness in the United States. But they cautioned that even the resources being contemplated by the Clinton Administration would be dwarfed by the need.

"It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time the federal government understands the problem and because of political reasons it cannot respond at the level necessary," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, which represents homeless advocates in 40 cities.

Louisville, Ky., Mayor Jerry Abramson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said that the report marks the first time the White House has responded to the mounting demand for services for the homeless.

"Each year we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem," Abramson said. "The response during those years came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House."

Traditionally, the federal government has granted money on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations with the expectation that they would provide emergency shelter and services to the homeless. But the Administration argues that the problem is too intractable to be alleviated in such piecemeal fashion and must be addressed through coordinated, comprehensive public policy headed by local government with guidance from federal officials.

While responses will certainly vary from city to city, depending on the extent of the problem, each would be expected to use the

federal funds to provide.

- Emergency shelter.
- Transitional and rehabilitative services, including substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services and independent living skills instruction.
- Permanent affordable housing.

"This comprehensive approach to homelessness should be instituted and coordinated by localities," the report says. "Unlike not-for-profit providers, the locality can view the entire system in the jurisdiction to ensure that transitions from each stage can be smooth. Unlike the federal govern-

ment, the locality is intimately familiar with the needs of its neighborhoods."

The Administration has been working with the District of Columbia—the first municipality awarded a special \$20-million grant to create a model approach to homelessness—since soon after President Clinton took office.

Los Angeles, the second winner of a pilot grant, is drafting its final proposal on how it will use the \$20 million it is scheduled to receive. Other cities qualifying for pilot programs have yet to be announced.

LA Times
May 19, 1994
homeless

LOS ANGELES**Riordan Hails Clinton Plan
to Cut Ranks of Homeless**

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan on Wednesday hailed a proposal that the Clinton Administration claims could reduce the number of homeless by a third in two years.

"Priority Home!" would give local governments more responsibility for providing emergency housing and treatment for substance abuse, mental illness and other problems of the homeless.

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros also wants to double funding for homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1996

which could bring another \$39 million into Los Angeles

"The additional funding would double the dollars we could use to break the cycle of homelessness and despair—and use these resources efficiently and sensibly," Riordan said of the plan, which was unveiled Tuesday

Chicago Tribune

Chicagoland

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1994

U.S. moves to hike funding to aid Illinois homeless to \$90.4 million

By Flynn McRoberts
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Illinois would receive nearly seven times more federal funding for programs that help the homeless under increases proposed Wednesday by President Clinton.

The proposal, if approved by Congress, would give Illinois \$90.4 million in homeless assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 1995. By comparison, HUD has given Illinois an average of \$13.1 million a year in funding over the previous six years, according to HUD figures.

Clinton's request includes similar increases for many other states.

The White House released the figures a day after HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros announced a national plan that seeks \$900 million in new funding to reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third. There are 600,000 home-

The plan reflects 'a change of attitude that the problem of homelessness is much more complex than was previously recognized.'

Jeanne Crowley

less in America at any one time, according to federal estimates.

HUD's request for more funding is part of the agency's plan to take "a whole new approach to fighting homelessness," said Jeanne Crowley, special assistant to the HUD secretary's representative for the Midwest region.

Rather than combating homelessness chiefly on an emergency basis, HUD hopes to expand "the whole continuum of care, from emergency shelters to transitional housing to permanent housing,"

Crowley said, including "all the support services that go with that—mental health, job training, substance abuse."

HUD's plan resulted from an executive order that Clinton signed last May, directing the Interagency Council on the Homeless to revamp the way the federal government treats homelessness.

The additional money is included in HUD's proposed Housing Choice and Community Investment Act, Crowley said.

Whether or not Congress approves the requests for additional funding, she said, elements of the plan still will be carried out, including a reorganization of current programs intended to make them more efficient in moving people from the streets to permanent housing.

Crowley said the plan reflects "a change of attitude that the problem of homelessness is much more complex than was previously recognized."

Advocates for homeless hail \$1.7 billion aid plan

By Kendall Anderson
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

The federal government's announcement Tuesday of a massive \$1.7 billion plan to eliminate homelessness means more than increased funds and decreased red tape, say advocates for the homeless.

The proposal to double funding for the Housing and Urban Development Department's homeless assistance budget in 1995 signals a long-awaited change in national priorities, said Keith Mitchell, spokesman for Community for Creative Non-Violence. The Washington, D.C.,

homeless advocacy group runs the nation's largest homeless shelter.

"Finally we've got an administration looking at the figures realistically, looking at the problem realistically," Mr. Mitchell said. "The only negative I can say about it is that it took so long to happen."

Besides committing an unprecedented level of money to help the homeless, the plan would streamline the HUD grant application process and tie federal funding to local cooperation.

Supporters of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness plan said it also breaks new ground in the federal government's acknowl-

edgment of the homeless problem.

"It's good to see the full scale of the homeless problem acknowledged in Washington," said John Fullinwider, director of Common Ground, a grass-roots housing group based in Dallas. "In the past they've tried to low-ball the figure and deny the full extent of the problem."

The task force, which laid out the plan in a 160-page report, estimated that by the late 1980s, there were around 7 million homeless people in the United States — a much larger number than previous administrations have estimated.

That calculation is based on a

broader definition of homelessness to include recently evicted people and others on the fringe of down-and-out homelessness.

The report was unveiled Tuesday by HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown and Tipper Gore, the wife of Vice President Al Gore.

The plan, which will be submitted to President Clinton, was the combined effort of 17 government and nonprofit agencies.

Mr. Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work

hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

This is the first time the government has addressed the homeless problem in its entirety, said Jacquie Lawing, deputy assistant HUD secretary for homeless services.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem," Mr. Cisneros said Tuesday, "but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions that once cared for persons with mental and physical disabilities."

To address the root causes of

homelessness, the plan calls for a "continuum of care" that would provide everything from emergency shelter needs to long-term job training to chemical abuse counseling.

The Rev. Bubba Dailey, co-director of the Austin Street Shelter, in Dallas, welcomes that.

"Until you address the root problems of why these people are out there on the street, nothing is going to change. That's great if the government sees that," said Ms. Bailey. "It's great to hear, but let's wait and see where it goes."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

A Strategy To Alleviate Homelessness

*Administration Backs
'Continuum of Care'*

By Guy Gugliotta
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Clinton administration yesterday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by President Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The 100-page plan, entitled "Priority: Home!" was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brought together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless people in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period.

"On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables," he said.

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations, can move homeless people through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that would rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD. Overall federal homeless assistance would rise to \$2.15 billion for fiscal



Tipper Gore, right, shows report to Georgia Ferguson of Trinity House, left, as Emily Vazquez of Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless looks on.

treatment and housing opportunities for currently homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros released the report in a ceremony at Franklin Park, a frequent gathering place for the homeless.

Speakers yesterday belittled previous Republican administrations accused of underestimating homelessness or ignoring it. "The report should be received as a reality check that is long overdue," Brown said.

But coming 14 months into the Clinton administration, much that is in the report has been previously announced in a piecemeal fashion. Yesterday, Cisneros outlined HUD's efforts to consolidate programs under the 1987 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, a proposal submitted to Congress several weeks ago. He expressed confidence that HUD would be able to more than double homeless assistance to \$1.7 billion for fiscal 1995, an initiative first mentioned in budget discussions with Clinton at the beginning of the year.

Shalala reviewed "overall domestic policy," suggesting how health care reform, welfare reform, tax rebates for the working poor and other contemplated or already enacted legislation could help "prevent tragedies like homelessness."

monly known or previously acknowledged," but Cisneros's estimate of 600,000 homeless comes from a seven-year-old Urban Institute study, while the 7 million figure is based on Columbia University research conducted in 1990.

Still, homeless advocates gave the administration a pleased, if qualified, pat on the back: "It's a good list of the issues," said Maria Foscarinas, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "It identifies the needs for housing, health care and mental health and substance abuse treatment."

The report divides the homeless population into two large groups: those living in "crisis poverty" where homelessness is a "transient or episodic disruption in lives that are routinely marked by hardship"; and those with "chronic disabilities," in which "homelessness can appear to be a way of life."

It reviews homeless research to develop profiles: single men account for 75 percent of the homeless population; half the homeless have had alcohol or drug abuse problems; one-third of homeless children do not attend school; 30 to 45 percent of the male homeless population are veterans.

It stresses solutions that are comprehensive and coordinated among different federal agencies. "None of this will be easy," the report concludes. "But given the alternative—a deepening morass of half-

White House wants double the money for homeless plan

By MARILYN RAUBER
Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration yesterday unveiled a new plan for the homeless — and asked Congress for \$1.7 billion, double the amount spent last year, to fund it.

The proposal was spearheaded by Assistant Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who is going national with the "one stop shopping" idea he pushed as chairman of the city's coalition for the homeless.

Under the plan, a half-dozen federal programs would be consolidated into one funding pool — cutting red tape and many regulations. Cities would fashion

their own plans and apply for grants.

The local plans would have to offer emergency shelter, transitional housing, services like drug treatment, counseling and job training, and permanent housing.

Non-profit groups, rather than local governments, would run many of the programs.

Clinton is asking for \$1.7 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to pay for the bulk of the pro-

gram. Last year, HUD spent only half that amount on homeless programs.

If Congress goes along, New York City would be expected to get about \$100 million in HUD grants for the homeless — compared to \$50 million last year, according to Cuomo.

"It's a recognition that homelessness is indeed a crisis . . . the big question is, where's the money going to come from?" said Josh Taylor, a spokesman for New York's Partner-

ship for the Homeless.

But some New York activists are skeptical, grouching that earlier this year, HUD refused to fund a \$7 million "one-stop shopping" demonstration project put together by the city and almost two dozen non-profit groups.

HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros predicted Congress will provide the extra bucks, and said the administration's goal is to slash the homeless population by one-third by 1996.

He said it's now about 600,000.

A spokesman for Mayor Giuliani said the proposal is similar to his approach that homelessness "is not just a lack of shelter."

\$900 MILLION

Clinton tells plan to cut number of homeless

Local governments, shelters, churches and non-profit groups would move the homeless to self-reliance.

WASHINGTON POST

Washington, D.C. — The Clinton administration Tuesday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

17 Agencies

The 100-page plan, entitled "Priority Home," was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period: "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a "streamlined" approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and non-profit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

Two-Pronged Strategy

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995, up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for currently homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros released the report in a ceremony at Franklin Park, a frequent gathering place for the homeless taken over by official Washington.

The Atlanta Constitution

CLINTON TEAM'S PLAN

Boost in spending urged to aid homeless millions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington — A Clinton administration task force Tuesday unveiled a new strategy for dealing with what it now estimates are 7 million Americans without homes.

The estimate was far more than Census Bureau calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to help adequately.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be at \$2.1 billion — or three times the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night.

Previous administrations put

cause the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Anita Beatty, co-director of the Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless and president of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said her organizations are pleased with the administration's "sensitive" acknowledgment of the magnitude of the need.

But she said the recommendations don't go far enough and continue to "pathologize" the homeless with an underlying assumption that people are homeless "because something is wrong with them."

"To tie services [such as counseling and drug treatment] to housing, as a requirement for getting housing, is appalling, but offering services as a choice is necessary," she said.

"We would like to see an entitlement to housing — universal access. Some of the strategies aren't new but are being re-framed, which gives us hope that people that are homeless and people who work with homeless people can be involved with planning and strategizing to prevent homelessness."

"This administration is listening, which is impressive."

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

Staff writer S.A. Reid contributed.

OPTIONAL FORM 92 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages

From

To

Phone

Fax

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

5009-101

NSN 7540-01-017-7348

6A DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCHESTER, N.Y., MONDAY, MAY 23, 1994

OPINION



Democrat and Chronicle

GOVERNMENT

Remember the homeless? They haven't gone away

What with the national media so enthralled with what Bill Clinton did or didn't do with Paula Jones back when he was governor of Arkansas, it's easy to forget that the president is indeed pushing ahead with the agenda he was elected for.

The latest example came last week when the administration proposed to triple the amount of money spent to help homeless people. At least a part of the \$1.7 billion that would be needed would come from cuts in other government spending, rather than new spending. And most important of all, the plan would coordinate a large variety of other programs, including mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment and job training. Most homeless people need more than just a bed to sleep in.

The last time anyone took a close look at homeless people in Monroe County was 1988, when the Center for Governmental Research conducted an extensive study. The center found an average of 300 to 325 individuals and families homeless on any given night. Over the course of a year, that adds up to several thousand who were homeless for at least a short period of time.

One of the most shameful findings was that the single most frequent reason people were homeless — 29 percent of them — was that they had been thrown onto the streets by the "downsizing" of



The Associated Press

Homeless man huddles against building during rainstorm in New York City.

mental health institutions, principally the Rochester Psychiatric Center. No doubt a good many of the others also suffered from psychiatric problems, even if they had not been institutionalized.

Several different organizations in Rochester run shelters and other services for homeless people. They're not sure whether the problem is about the same or worse than in 1988.

Ruth Niebor of the Salvation Army, for example, says that last year the group sheltered some 4,000 people, at least for one night. That's roughly twice the number of a few years ago, but she's not sure whether the reason is that more people need help or simply that new rules making it tougher to get assistance from the Department of Social

Services have sent more people to private agencies.

Those agencies have asked the city's Office of Housing to fund a new study to find out how many are homeless and who they are. Certainly that needs to be done soon, so that officials will know how best to help them.

But most who deal with the homeless agree that mental illness remains the most difficult problem. Niebor says she senses that those who suffer from mental problems actually have more serious illnesses than they did a few years ago.

The "deinstitutionalization" of the mentally ill over the past 20 years was touted as a reform, but it has turned into a disgrace. True, many people who once were locked up in institutions didn't need to be. But state legislators cynically refused to fund the smaller community agencies that were to take the place of the big institutions. Zealotry on the part of some civil liberties organizations also played a part. You're not helping a person who is incapable of making rational decisions by giving him or her the right to live and die in the street. We need to find better ways to cope with the mentally ill.

There are no easy answers to any of the problems of homelessness. But whereas Presidents Reagan and Bush largely ignored them, President Clinton has put them back on the national agenda. That at least is a start. □

A 'first step' against homelessness

Medical care, job training also at issue

By Richard Benedetto
USA TODAY

Cities may be cheering a federal plan to double the money spent on homelessness and give them more say on how the cash is doled out. But even if the plan is approved by Congress, experts warn against overly high expectations.

Between 1987 and 1993, the federal government spent \$4.2 billion on homeless programs, an average of \$700 million a year. State and local governments and private agencies spent hundreds of millions more, all without making a noticeable dent in the problem.

This year, the federal government has raised homeless spending to \$823 million. And next year Clinton proposes it be raised to \$1.7 billion. When related programs are added in, the fiscal 1995 homeless budget will total \$2.1 billion.

That's about equal to the annual federal subsidy to run the U.S. Postal Service, and nearly as much as the cost of running Congress for a year.

Advocates for the homeless say that's nice, but still not enough money to solve the problem.

"It's a first step," says Maria Foscarinis, of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "On the dollar amount, it's an increase, but it won't meet the entire need."

But cities have long taken the brunt of the nation's homeless problem. And mayors, who will get more power to shape programs in their



By Paul T. Whyte, USA TODAY

CUOMO: Alcohol, drug abuse, mental illness part of homeless picture.

communities, welcome any additional money to fight homelessness.

Assistant Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, key architect of the administration plan, says that on any given day, as many as 600,000 homeless people are on America's streets.

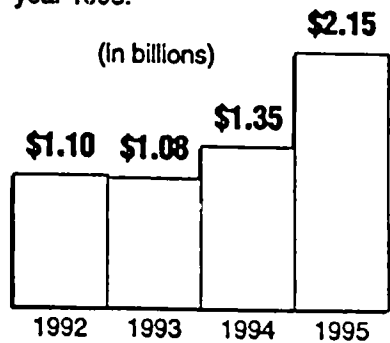
About \$1 billion a year is spent on shelters, but there is more at issue than housing.

Many of the homeless have a history of drug and alcohol abuse. Cuomo estimates that one-third suffer from severe mental illness. Most have no jobs or marketable job skills. And health problems for the group as a whole occur with uncommon frequency.

Addressing those problems requires a wide array of costly services that include medical care, job training and education, mental health and drug treatment, and personal and family counseling. In many cases, Cuomo adds, people will need to be

Homeless aid boost sought

Federal spending on homeless programs and what President Clinton is requesting for fiscal year 1995:



Source: The White House

By Stephen Conley, USA TODAY

cared for in mental institutions.

But even when programs are created and services are offered, it doesn't guarantee the homeless will take advantage of them. Many don't want help — particularly those who suffer from mental illness.

In New York, the problem is so acute that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced earlier this month that the city would deny shelter to the homeless if they refuse to participate in treatment programs.

Robert Moffitt, of the conservative Heritage Foundation, says a sizable dent can be made in the visible homeless problem by reinstitutionalizing many of the severely mentally ill now on the streets.

"Some of these poor souls need professional help because they're basically not capable of caring for themselves," he says. "And if that's not on the table, these efforts also will fail."

BEYOND SHELTERS

US Plan for Homeless Hits Against 'Fatigue'

By David Holmstrom

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BOSTON

ACKNOWLEDGING the complexity of problems among homeless people, the Clinton administration has proposed a \$1.7 billion solution aimed at cutting the number of homeless by one-third.

With a "continuum of care" approach, the administration wants to meet the housing needs of the homeless and provide specialized social and health services.

For years the stereotype of the homeless in the United States was a disheveled man standing on a street corner with his hand out, or waiting bleary-eyed in line at a soup kitchen.

But over the last decade, jobless parents with children, divorced women, able-bodied veterans, the mentally ill, and many elderly became homeless as a result of roller-coaster economic and social changes. Also affordable housing became scarce. Add to this the men and women with persistent drug and alcohol problems. In 1987, the Urban Institute estimated that some 600,000 Americans were homeless, although an accurate count of the homeless in the US today remains difficult.

According to US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) secretary Henry Cisneros, in announcing the new Clinton plan last week, "as many as 7 million people may have been homeless some time in any five year period." The administration plan, breaking from the concept of homelessness as primarily an "emergency" problem, would have local governments, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and shelters bring a coordinated effort to the

problem.

But many cities, disturbed by the growing aggressiveness of some homeless, adopted anti-loitering laws. These cities include Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

"People saw the homeless as temporary when it

really began in the recession years of the Reagan years," says Bill Ayres, director of World Hunger Year in New York. "Millions of people reached out with shelters and food banks, but after a few years the homeless didn't go away. Now you hear about 'compassion fatigue,' and that the homeless are a nuisance."

As people from all walks of life became homeless for short periods of time, the problem of chronic homelessness became more visible. Some cities changed zoning laws to bar new shelters, and did sweeps of downtown areas to remove the homeless.

"What the cities have done," says Jim Stewart, director of a homeless shelter for men in Cambridge, Mass., "is to criminalize individuals engaging in an activity which is essentially begging for mercy. People can be aggressive in this, but we already have existing ordinances, so it is a disgrace to criminalize these people to salve our conscience."

The Clinton plan would utilize about \$900 million from HUD, putting funds into locally run programs, and ask Congress for approval of funds tripling the amount spent on the homeless in the last year of the Bush administration. The plan, to be coordinated by the federal Interagency Council on the Homeless, would link 17 agencies in the effort.

Some of those who deal with the homeless advocate integrated services and "early intervention" to prevent homelessness, but not at the sacrifice of housing. Because the homeless have multiple problems, Mr. Ayres says, "you try to fund groups that can provide as many services as possible in one place."

"A lot of health care services doesn't mean anything if you don't have a base to operate from," Mr. Stewart says. "You can't address your problems from the back of a car or a cot in the basement of a church. Shoveling money into shelters and health care does little to get people out of emergencies. It doesn't address the things that precipitate homelessness."

'Millions of people reached out with shelters ... but after a few years the homeless didn't go away.'

- Homeless advocate

IDAHO STATESMAN, BOISE, ID

Wednesday, May 18, 1994 (Page 3A)

The Idaho Statesman

Homeless Americans could total 7 million

By Sonya Ross

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Government officials estimate that seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995; to put overall federal homeless aid at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be three times more than the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the



The Associated Press

Tipper Gore, right, shows the homeless report to Georgia Ferguson, left, who is pictured with her family on the cover.

Boise's homeless estimated

Statesman staff

Bill Brown, Boise City Community Services coordinator, estimates the number of homeless in Boise at 3,000.

That's far above the official U.S. Census estimate of 480 for the entire state.

Brown said it's nearly impossible to get accurate measures of homeless, because it's such a fluid number. "You don't catch the people living in their cars or camped out in campgrounds."

Boise's estimated numbers generally reflect people who seek help in shelters or medi-

cal treatment at the Boise Clinic. Brown will conduct a "point in time" survey Thursday night to see how many homeless people are using shelters and other frequently used spots.

The 1990 U.S. Census turned up these figures, according to the state Data Center:

■ Idaho: 461 people in emergency shelters, 19 living on the streets.

■ Ada County: 117 in shelters, 17 on the street.

■ Canyon County: 59 in shelters, none living on the street.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly.

go through these steps," Karnas said. "Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

more than 1 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of today's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, gives them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then places them in affordable, permanent homes.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system is a good idea, but should not be the only option.

"We have to be real careful in suggesting that, in order to get out of homelessness, you have to

and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

It also suggested that non-profit groups be allowed to help homeless people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the process directly to the streets.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

HUD releases plan for homeless

It calls for \$900 million to fight homelessness. "We'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third," Cisneros said.

By Guy Gugliotta
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration yesterday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by a third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order by Clinton, marks the first time a president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry G. Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The 100-page plan — "Priority Home" — was developed during the last year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

'Reasonable estimates'

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there were 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as seven million people who may have been homeless in any five-year period.

"On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables," Cisneros said.

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests an approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

ing overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995, up from \$1.25 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.

'A reality check'

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros released the report in a ceremony at Franklin Park, a frequent gathering place for the homeless.

Speakers yesterday belittled previous Republican administrations accused of underestimating homelessness or ignoring it altogether.

"The report should be received as a reality check that is long overdue," Brown said.

Cisneros expressed confidence that HUD would be able to more than double homeless assistance to \$1.7 billion for fiscal 1995, an initiative first mentioned in budget discussions with President Clinton at the beginning of the year.

Shalala reviewed "overall domestic policy," suggesting how health-care reform, welfare reform, tax rebates for the working poor and other contemplated or already-enacted legislation could help "prevent tragedies like homelessness."

The report says that "the crisis of homelessness is greater than commonly known or previously acknowledged." But Cisneros' estimate of 600,000 homeless comes from a seven-year-old Urban Institute study, while the seven million figure is based on Columbia University research conducted in 1990.

Homeless advocates gave the administration a qualified pat on the back.

'A good list'

"It's a good list of the issues," said Maria Foscarinas, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "It identifies the needs for housing, health care and mental-health and substance-abuse treatment."

The report divides the homeless population into two large groups: those living in "crisis poverty" where homelessness is a "transient or episodic disruption in lives that are routinely marked by hardship," and those with "chronic disabilities," in which "homelessness can appear to be a way of life."

It reviews homeless research to develop profiles: single men make up 75 percent of the homeless population; half the homeless have had alcohol or drug-abuse problems; one-third of homeless children do not attend school; 30 to 45 percent of the male homeless population are veterans.

from paper in
Portland, Maine

HUD devises new program to cut homelessness by a third

Local governments will have more responsibility for emergency housing and for treating substance abuse, mental illness and other problems.

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros unveiled a new federal effort to combat homelessness Tuesday. He pledged that the Clinton administration would reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term.

In a HUD report a year in the making, the administration contended that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are among the ranks of the homeless and 7 million people were without a permanent residence at some point between 1985 and 1990.

The administration vowed to take a new approach by giving local governments more responsibility for creating comprehensive programs to establish emergency housing and to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other problems.

The report's release Tuesday coincided with the administration's attempts to push legislation for a variety of HUD programs through Congress and was designed to help defend its proposal to double federal funding for HUD's homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1995.

Homeless advocates applauded the report as the first federal

"Each year we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem. The response during those years came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House."

Jerry Abramson, president,
U.S. Conference of Mayors

"Each year we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem," Abramson said. "The response during those years came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House."

Traditionally, the federal government has granted money on a competitive basis to non-profit organizations with the expectation that they would provide emergency shelter and services to the homeless. But the administration argues that the problem is too intractable to be alleviated in such piecemeal fashion and must be addressed through coordinated, comprehensive public policy headed by local government with guidance from federal officials.

While responses will certainly vary from city to city, depending on the extent of the problem, each would be expected to use the federal funds to provide:

- Emergency shelter.

- Transitional and rehabilitative services, including substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services and independent living skills instruction.

- Permanent affordable housing.

"This comprehensive approach to homelessness should be instituted and coordinated by localities," the report said. "Unlike not-for-profit providers, the locality can view the entire system in the jurisdiction to ensure that transitions from each stage can be smooth. Unlike the federal government, the locality is intimately familiar with the needs of its neighborhoods."

acknowledgment of the extent and complexity of homelessness in the United States. But they cautioned that even the resources being contemplated by the Clinton administration would be dwarfed by the need.

"It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time the federal government understands the problem and because of political reasons it cannot respond at the level necessary," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Louisville, Ky., Mayor Jerry Abramson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said the report marked the first White House response to mounting demand for services for the homeless.

Proposal targets suburban homeless

Federal plan would give state \$90 million for programs

By RAY MINOR
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Area towns could see a dramatic increase in funding to fight homelessness under a federal proposal released Thursday.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is suggesting Illinois receive more than \$90 million in federal funds in 1995 to combat homelessness. That would be up from \$13 million this year.

The final decision rests with Congress and won't be made until later this year.

Cook County suburbs would get nearly \$7 million, up from about \$250,000 in 1994; DuPage County would get more than \$2

million, up from about \$60,000; and Lake County would get nearly \$1.4 million, up from about \$36,000.

The money would be used to coordinate efforts to get people out of homelessness, said Edwin Eisendrath, HUD's Midwest representative.

"There is a myth that homelessness exists only in the big cities," Eisendrath said. "This gives the collar counties the resources they need to come up with solutions to this problem. Homelessness is our top priority."

County housing authorities and private housing organizations such as Public Action to Deliver Shelter and other groups would be eligible for the

money, Eisendrath said.

Most of the money would be spent on organizing different county, state and federal programs that operate shelters and offer job training, counseling and housing advice, Eisendrath said.

Because so many different organizations offer services, some duties overlap and others are not covered at all, he said.

"You need to have all of these elements but we're saying to the local boards 'Come up with your own plan,'" he said.

Housing advocates say if the money does come through, it would be a tremendous boost.

"It's certainly welcome," said Stephen Hanson, president of

DuPage PADS. "It shows that the feds aren't burying their heads in the sand."

DuPage PADS has been trying to expand its daytime counseling and lunch service to seven days a week, Hanson said. If PADS is included in the funding it could make that dream come true.

In Lake County, the funds would help organizations, such as Catholic Charities and PADS, assist the county's homeless, said Jean Baenzinger, Lake County Housing Authority board commissioner.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Bob McKee contributed to this report.

3rd governor can

By MADELEINE DOUBEK
Daily Herald Political Editor

After the 1990 election, Harold Washington Party Chairman David Reed admitted he had received help from then-Cook County Republican Party Chairman James E. Dvorak in getting a \$50,000 loan.

The loan to get the third-party operation running also had the effect of helping to draw potential black voters away from the Democratic candidate for governor, Neil F. Hartigan.

Today, Dvorak is a convicted felon, Reed is preparing to run for governor, and current Republican Gov. Jim Edgar is anxious to quell speculation that he or his operatives encouraged Reed to make another run in order to again draw black voters away from his opponent, Dawn Clark Netsch, and the Democratic Party.

"If you can remember, that county chairman and I weren't real close. I can't speak for all Republicans. I can tell you about Jim Edgar and Jim Edgar's campaign and we had nothing to do with this," Edgar

Chain O'Lakes marine rescue unit gets honors for late-night heroics

By LAURA JANOTA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The emergency call from Grass Lake came about 2 a.m. on a foggy night last July as officers from the Lake County Sheriff's Marine Safe Unit prepared to go home.

The six-member marine unit was being dispatched to one of the worst boating accidents ever on the Chain

who got trapped by the boat as gasoline and noxious fumes were pouring out.

"I knew we were a long way from safety. We had to get them medical help," said Wernikoff.

Honored officers at Thursday's event included: Wernikoff, a Long Grove firefighter and paramedic; Jerry Kiplinger, a retired engineering manager for AT&T; Tim Gaden

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4A • WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994 • USA TODAY

\$1.7B plan promises to cut homeless by one-third

By Debbie Howlett
USA TODAY

Vowing to "break the cycle of homelessness," the Clinton administration offered a plan Tuesday to reduce the number of homeless by a third.

The \$1.7 billion proposal, if approved by Congress, would triple the amount spent on the homeless in the final year of the Bush administration.

"We have a moral imperative... to put an end to this crisis," said Tipper Gore, the vice president's wife, who has taken on homelessness as a cause.

Along with the plan, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros gave an official estimate of 600,000 homeless people, far more than the 168,309 homeless counted in the 1990 Census.

And from 1985 to 1990, he said, as many as 7 million were homeless at some point.

"This is not merely a housing problem but a convergence of elements," Cisneros said.

He blamed poverty, drug abuse, mental illness and a lack of affordable housing.

The plan, drafted by a task force from 17 agencies, outlines a "continuum of care" from crisis intervention to drug counseling to education and job training to health care.

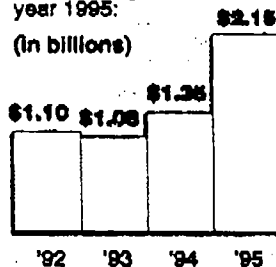
Among the plan's details:

- ▶ Granting federal money to local, non-profit groups.

- ▶ Consolidating six HUD programs for cities into unique, locally run systems.

Homeless aid boost sought

Federal spending on homeless programs, and what President Clinton is requesting for fiscal year 1995:



Source: The White House

By Mary Baumann, USA TODAY

- ▶ Establishing four centers that target homeless veterans.

- ▶ Making mental health and drug abuse services more available to the poor.

Most of the money for the project would be added to the 1995 HUD budget.

Cisneros expects resistance from some in Congress, even though some of the money to pay for the plan would come from cuts in HUD's budget.

"Undoubtedly some might try and take this money and redirect it," he said. "We can make the case there's no group suffering more. We can defend that (\$1.7 billion) amount."

Most who deal with the homeless praised the plan.

- ▶ The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty called the plan a good start, but said, "It needs more specifics on how the administration intends to accomplish its goals."

- ▶ Mayors nationwide "welcome this new approach to ending homelessness in their cities," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

NN may get money to fight homelessness

Clinton's budget doubles funding

By Felice Belman
Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS

If Congress approves President Clinton's proposed federal budget for next year, Newport News will receive twice as much money to fight homelessness as it received this year.

The appropriation would increase from about \$500,000 to \$1 million and could be used for a variety of programs.

Other large communities in Hampton Roads would see an even bigger increase. Norfolk, for instance, would see its allotment grow from \$82,000 to \$3.1 million.

Smaller communities and those with fewer homeless people, including Hampton, would have to apply for the new money, said Frances Kenney, spokeswoman for the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Richmond.

The new financing comes at the recommendation of numerous federal agencies that want to change the way the government deals with the problem of homelessness.

The federal government would no longer prescribe what is needed for the communities; rather, the

localities will have maximum flexibility in how the funds are used and will work from a single, streamlined, coordinated plan," Kenney said.

If the money is approved, Newport News will be required to draft a new comprehensive plan that includes all available services for homeless people in the city, said Karen Wilds, director of community development for the city's housing authority.

Though she is not yet sure what the new money would be used for, Wilds said there are plenty of needs.

"There are a lot of proposals that come to the city, and there's just not the money there to fund them," she said.

The Friends of the Homeless shelter, for instance, needs money to finance a building expansion, she said. And the Virginia Peninsula Council on Domestic Violence, which provides services for some homeless women, will likely receive less grant money from the city next year than this year.

"The new money will really give us the resources to help nonprofit organizations help the homeless," Wilds said.

If the budget is approved, the money will be available after Oct. 1, Wilds said.

N.N. DAILY PRESS 5-20-94

Prez' plan a boon to homeless

Doubles city's money

By KAREN BALL

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — New York stands to potentially double the \$40 million in federal aid it now gets to help the homeless under a plan outlined yesterday by the Clinton administration.

No exact figures were outlined for New York in the \$1.7 billion package. But a Housing and Urban Development official said cities most plagued by homelessness — such as New York — could get as much as twice what they now receive.

The proposal needs Congress' approval and would be for the budget year starting in October. With the \$1.7 billion infusion, the administration is trying to triple the amount spent on the homeless in the last year of the Bush administration.

The new money would go for emergency food and shelter and for what the White House considers long-term aid — helping the homeless get education, job training and counseling so they can find their own homes.

To homeless advocates, it's overdue recognition that the federal government has a massive problem to tackle.

"The words are exactly

what we hoped for when a Democrat won the White House," said Josh Taylor of the Partnership for the Homeless. "We're happy with the words. We just hope the money's there to back it up."

New York has between 75,000 and a quarter-million homeless people, Taylor said, depending on whether the homeless living with relatives are counted with those living on the street.

Adam Glantz of the New York HUD office said one recent study estimates that 24,000 homeless people use shelters in New York on any given night.

The homeless report was put together by various federal agencies at President Clinton's request.

Nationwide, about 7 million Americans are homeless. The administration predicted that even with the extra money, only about one-third would be permanently helped off the street.

is declared himself delighted at
read. Bipartisan support that has
his nomination.

Mitchell, D-Maine, said he expected the Sen-
ate to give Breyer "an overwhelming vote of
confidence" following a "serious and thoughtful

late as the second week in July.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., escorted
Breyer around the Hill.

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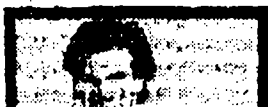
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New estimate puts homeless at 7 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gov-
ernment officials estimate that
seven million Americans are home-
less, far more than Census calcula-
tions of 600,000 people and far too
many for current federal programs
to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a
new strategy unveiled Tuesday that
would devote \$1.7 billion to home-
less programs in fiscal 1995.

The 100-page report, if ap-
proved by President Clinton and
submitted to Congress, would rep-
resent the first time the government
has labeled homelessness as a
major problem demanding large-
scale federal action.

Under the plan, overall federal
homeless aid for 1995 would be at
\$2.1 billion — or three times the
\$555 million spent on homeless aid
in the last year of the Bush admin-
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tion officials said that even with the
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helped off the streets for good.

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Henry Cisneros. "We are doing
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assistance, and untold numbers
who move in with families or
friends or pay more than half their
monthly income in rent.

House OKs changes

Homelessness gets status of major American problem

Federal officials put the number of homeless at 7 million and say \$1.7 billion more in aid is needed to ease the crisis

By SONYA ROSS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans are homeless, far more than 1990 census calculations of 600,000 people on the street and far too many for current federal programs to help adequately.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to programs for the homeless in fiscal 1995, to put overall federal aid to the homeless at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be triple the \$555 million spent on aid to the homeless in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to get off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand in hand with welfare and health-care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1990s, with 600,000 on the street on any



Tipper Gore, Vice President Al Gore's wife, introduces the report on the homeless. George Ferguson (left) admires the cover, showing her and her family. Emily Vazquez (center), an advocate for the homeless, looks on.

given night. The most recent draft of the new report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.53 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshots" rather than in a continuous survey that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over a long period.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report did count up to 1.6 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without supplies or a place to study.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care" which would take homeless people into short-term emergency shelters,

give them transitional housing while they underwent counseling or job training, then place them in affordable, permanent homes.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system was a good idea but shouldn't be the only one.

"We have to be real careful in suggesting that, in order to get out of homelessness, you have to go through these steps," Karnas said. "Homelessness is complex, and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

It also suggested that nonprofit groups be allowed to help homeless people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, even by taking the process to the streets.

In Portland, Chuck Currie, coordinator of Burnside Advocates Group,

praised the initiative.

"This plan is the clearest signal yet that President Clinton will keep his promise to make a real differ-

ence in the lives of homeless Americans," Currie said. He called on Oregon's congressional delegation to support the plan.

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Mark Finks

A8 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

NATION

Administration announces national plan to combat homelessness

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration announced a national plan Tuesday that would commit \$900 million in new money to a strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The proposal, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by President Clinton, marks the first time a president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on

some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The 100-page plan, "Priority Home!" was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates"

showing that there are 600,000 homeless in America and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period. "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third," he said. "It is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient as-

sistance.

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion by fiscal 1995.

The policy will enhance medical and housing opportunities for homeless people. To eradicate the causes of homelessness, the plan calls to rely on Clinton administration priority initiatives.

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros said the plan is "a first step toward ending homelessness."

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MAY 19 '94 15:28

THE STATE, COLUMBIA, S.C.

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fairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros re-
leased the report in a ceremony at Franklin
Park, a frequent gathering place for the
homeless taken over by official Washing-
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Speakers Tuesday belittled Republican
administrations accused of underestimat-
ing homelessness or ignoring it altogether:
"The report should be received as a reality
check that is long overdue," Brown said.

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But coming 14 months into the Clinton
administration, much that is in the report
has been previously announced in a piece-
meal fashion.

Baltimore

THE



SUN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994



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Administration Unveils \$1.7 Billion Proposal for Homeless
By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Clinton administration today unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. ... The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem, but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000; the most recent draft of today's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

The population estimates did not include 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, the 1 million seeking federal rent assistance or untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

Federal Plan, AP p. 2

But it did tally up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

The draft plan suggested creating special school and recreation programs for homeless children, to remove "significant barriers" to equal education.

It also recommended spending large amounts of money on housing, mental health care and making sure that homeless people who qualify claim the earned-income tax credit for low-income workers.

AP-DS-05-17-94 0156EDT

CLARION LEDGER
May 18, 1994

Jackson, Mississippi

\$1.7 billion plan unveiled to combat homelessness

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale action.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be at \$2.1 billion — or three times the \$555 million spent on it the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

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The plan, compiled by the Inter-agency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care": begin with short-term emergency shelters, move them into transitional housing during counseling or job training, then place them in permanent homes.

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of pages 1

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FAX TO MARK FINKS
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The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Wednesday, May 18, 1994 ★★ A-3

Plan gives homeless \$1.7 billion in '95

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

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Denver

THURS. MAY 19, 1994 Rocky Mountain

Homeless programs in line for \$12.6 million

Rocky Mountain News Staff

Colorado could receive \$12.6 million to combat homelessness under a plan released Wednesday by federal and local officials.

"The proposed funding for HUD homeless programs in 1995 will mean a substantial increase in homeless assistance for Colorado," said Tony Hernandez, regional administrator for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

From 1987 to 1993, the state has received about \$3.6 million a year for HUD homeless projects. Under the plan proposed by the Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless, the amount would increase to \$12.6 million by 1995.

The proposal still must go to Congress and President Clinton.

6A THE ALBANY HERALD Wednesday, May 18, 1994

THE NATION

Program tries to move homeless into society

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration Tuesday unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Sec-

retary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

The plan, compiled by the Inter-agency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. ... The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"For people who live in poverty, homelessness is an ever-present threat," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force. "In the past, people have misunderstood the dynamics of homelessness. The plan we've delivered to the president today attempts to comprehend and respond to these dynamics."

That pleased homeless advocacy groups who had long argued that the government's approach to homelessness was too scatter-shot.

"For the first time, the federal government has understood and stated the connection between homelessness and the larger is-

suues of poverty," said executive director Fred Karnas.

Maria Foscarinis, director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, said that while the proposal lacks detail on how it will work at the community level, it is very specific on how much money is needed and will be spent.

"In some ways, it's a plan to make a plan," Foscarinis said. "But it sounds like the chances are pretty good that they'll get the money."

Cisneros said some aspects of the plan, such as funds to community groups, would begin immediately. Others require legislation.

But, he said, the administration hopes to cut the homeless population by one-third by the end of Clinton's term.

The task force report estimates the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000; the most recent draft today's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

The draft plan suggested creating special school and recreational programs for homeless children.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, Wednesday, May 18, 1994 - Front Page

U.S. plans help for homeless

Program to earmark \$25 million for Texas

BY ELIZABETH SHOGREN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros unveiled a new federal effort to combat homelessness yesterday and pledged that the Clinton administration will reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term.

In a HUD report a year in the making, the administration contended that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are among the ranks of the homeless and 7 million people were without a permanent residence at some point between 1985 and 1990.

The administration vowed in its report to take a new approach to the problem by giving local governments more responsibility for creating comprehensive programs designed to establish emergency housing and to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other problems believed to be at the root of homelessness.

The report's release yesterday coincided with the administration's attempts to push legislation for a variety of HUD programs through Congress and was designed to help defend its proposal to double federal funding for HUD's homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1995.

Andrew Short, executive director of the Texas Homeless Coalition, said the plan will earmark about \$25 million for Texas compared with

(More on HOMELESS on Page 4)

Homeless

From Page 1

about \$2 million annually under the old plan.

Short, the former director of Fort Worth's Presbyterian Night Shelter, estimates that Tarrant County's current homeless population is between 4,000 and 4,500.

To obtain money under the new program, each city must submit its own comprehensive plan and then must have it approved, Short said.

Because Fort Worth already has a homeless coalition, the city is prepared to take advantage of the program, Short said. But cutbacks in Dallas' homeless programs may hurt that city's chances, he added.

"While Tarrant County has a coalition, Harris County has a coalition and Austin is hiring a homeless coordinator, Dallas is getting ready to cut \$88,000 in homeless funding a year," he said.

Other homeless advocates applauded the report as the first federal acknowledgment of the extent and complexity of homelessness in the United States.

But they cautioned that even the resources being contemplated by the Clinton administration would be dwarfed by the need.

"It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time, the federal government understands the problem, and because of political reasons it cannot respond at the level necessary," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, which represents homeless advocates in 40 cities.

Louisville, Ky., Mayor Jerry Abramson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said the report marked the first time the White House has responded to the mounting demand for services for the homeless.

"Each year we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem," Abramson said. "The response during those years

came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House."

Traditionally, the federal government has granted money on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations with the expectation that they will provide emergency shelter and services to the homeless.

But the administration argues that the problem is too intractable to be alleviated in such piecemeal fashion and must be addressed through coordinated, comprehensive public policy headed by local government with guidance from federal officials.

Although responses will certainly vary from city to city, depending on the extent of the problem, each would be expected to use the federal funds to provide:

- Emergency shelter.
- Transitional and rehabilitative services, including substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services and independent living skills instruction.
- Permanent affordable housing.

Homeless advocates and mayors support the report's recommendation that funding be provided to localities in lump sums based on a formula that reflects need. Now money is allotted through many separate programs to the nonprofit organizations, and in some cases cities, which must compete for it. The money tends to be awarded to the organizations that are best at explaining how the money would be used.

Critics of the administration's effort, however, pointed to the slow start of its maiden homeless initiative as evidence of the questionable wisdom of giving grants directly to local governments.

The administration has been working with the District of Columbia — the first municipality awarded a special \$20 million grant to create a model approach to homelessness — since soon after President Clinton took office.

Staff writer Bill Hanna contributed to this report.

Homeless plan could net \$25 million for Texas

Star-Telegram
Ft. Worth, TX

MAY-18-1994 15:06 FROM HUD CPD RB 8-917-885-6666 TO 817 885 6666

From Staff and Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — As Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros unveiled a federal effort to combat homelessness, he pledged that the Clinton administration will reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term. HUD report a year in the past, the administration counted that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are in the ranks of the homeless. An estimated 1 million people were without a permanent residence at some point in 1985 and 1990. The administration vowed in its first year to take a new approach to the problem by giving local govern-

ments more responsibility for creating comprehensive programs designed to establish emergency housing and to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other problems believed to be at the root of homelessness. The report's release yesterday coincided with the administration's attempts to push legislation for a variety of HUD programs through Congress and was designed to help defend its proposal to double federal funding for HUD's homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1995. Andrew Short, executive director of the Texas Homeless Coalition, said the plan will earmark about \$25 million for Texas compared with about \$2 million annually under the

old plan. Short, the former director of Fort Worth's Presbyterian Night Shelter, estimates that Tarrant County's current homeless population is 4,000 to 4,500. To obtain money under the new program, each city must submit its own comprehensive plan and then must have it approved, Short said. Because Fort Worth already has a homeless coalition, the city is prepared to take advantage of the program, Short said. But cutbacks in Dallas' homeless programs may hurt that city's chances, he added. "While Tarrant County has a coalition, Harris County has a coalition and Austin is hiring a homeless coordinator. Dallas is getting ready to cut \$88,000 in homeless funding a

year," he said. Other homeless advocates applauded the report as the first federal acknowledgement of the extent and complexity of homelessness in the United States. But they cautioned that even the resources being contemplated by the Clinton administration would be dwarfed by the need. "It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time, the federal government understands the problem, and because of political reasons it cannot respond at the level necessary," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, which represents homeless advocates in 40 cities.

\$1.7 billion plan aims at getting homeless aid

MAY-19-1994 13:05

FROM HUD OFD PG 3-5-10-885-5592

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Homeless

From Page 1

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions; and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem, but a condition that

can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000; the most recent draft of today's report gave a range of 4.95 million to 9.52 million.

The population estimates did not include 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, the 1 million seeking federal rent assistance or untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

But it did tally up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without ad-

equated supplies or a place to study.

The draft plan suggested creating special school and recreation programs for homeless children, to remove "significant barriers" to equal education.

It also recommended spending large amounts of money on housing, mental health care and making sure that homeless people who qualify claim the earned-income tax credit for low-income workers.

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Residence final goal in strategy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration today unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Inter-agency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

(More on HOMELESS on Page 3)

from Bangor, Maine
BANGOR, MAINE

\$1.7 billion plan to aid homeless

By Sonya Ross
3/15/94

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans were homeless sometime during the second half of the 1980s, far more than 1990 Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995, to put overall federal homeless aid at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be three times more than the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary

Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population as totaling 7 million during the 1985-90 period, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of Tuesday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

Plans to lessen homelessness would give cities more say

MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration estimated yesterday that 7 million people were homeless at some point during the years 1985-1989 — a number far larger than previously acknowledged.

In a 100-page report from three Cabinet secretaries, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness said homelessness is a crisis greater than previously known or acknowledged and is not — as widely believed — dominantly a condition of the mentally ill. Although the severely mentally ill, for

example, make up between one-quarter and one-half of the literally homeless single population on any given day, they (make up) a much smaller percentage — between 5 (percent) and 25 percent — of those in the course of a year," the report said. It suggested that many people are at risk of being homeless for short periods because their incomes are low and their family savings and other sources of support in hard times are insufficient.

Poverty, lack of affordable housing, changes in the labor market and other structural changes in a family's life or economy are causes of homelessness in addition to illness,

alcoholism or disabilities that send someone into the street, the report said.

The report, made public in a ceremony at a public park where homeless people often spend nights, endorsed the administration's plan to reorganize programs for the homeless and double federal spending from \$823 million to \$1.7 billion beginning next year. The money is in Clinton's budget for the year.

The plan outlined yesterday also calls for reorganizing HUD's programs for the homeless. Instead of six that say what a locality can do, HUD would pool all those funds. Local governments would devise their own plan,

then apply for federal money.

HUD Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo, son of New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, compiled the report, which said the cities need to set up three levels of aid: emergency shelters to get the homeless off the street, transitional housing as the homeless recuperate or learn job skills and more affordable housing once the homeless have an income.

The plan also calls for trying to find a way to use the tax code to provide rent or home ownership incentives for lower income people. But HUD officials said that such a mechanism has yet to be drafted and would have to

be approved by Congress.

While agreeing with estimates that as many as 600,000 Americans are homeless each night, officials said homelessness is not static and cited studies showing the number from 1985 through 1989 from "4.95 million to 9.32 million, with a mid-point of approximately 7 million." A change in a family's income, such as a layoff or an injury, can send them looking for shelter, said Henry Cisneros, secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Cisneros was joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown.

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a connection with a accident in Botetourt month has two drunken ictions on his record led driver's license. wealth's Attorney Rob esday confirmed that a e Police probe into the an W. Andrews is

ntered that Andrews a car driven by Charles on the night he died. whose driver's license ed for three years after DUI conviction in 1992, has denied he was ar.

records show that Kirk t passenger, told State Shelor was driving at just past midnight on the car ran off Virginia k several trees and

found about eight 12- bottles at the scene. She- lence that he had been o much earlier in the t he could hardly walk, o court records.

23, further told police ke Memorial Hospital old him his blood-alcohol 2 1/2 times the legal limit eation when he was there following the

Trooper Steve Oliver has search warrant to gain helor's medical records.

the search warrant affi- ates that police are look- ssible involuntary man- arge, Hagan says he is g all his options, includ- ble murder charge.

efined the State Police "homicide" investigation. t the first time that Shelor at the center of a well- case involving allega- nking and driving.

ober 1990 he was arrested en driving charge after his f the road and struck a he 8000 block of Willow ve in Roanoke County.

crash battered down the wall where a 9-year-old st gone to bed and sent her flying across her room. timated damage to the 15,000.

girl's mother, contacted t home, said the crash has longed impact on the girl, in't sleep for a long time t counseling.

r was ordered to pay \$700 ution and ordered to

driving offenses

DEC. 22, 1992

Convicted of driving under the influence in Botetourt County after his blood-alcohol content was found to be more than two times the legal limit for intoxication.

SEPT. 12, 1991

Convicted of possessing alcohol while under the age of 21 in Botetourt County.

DEC. 3, 1990

Convicted of driving under the influence in Roanoke County after crashing into a house near a bedroom containing a child.

SEPT. 18, 1990

Involved in an wreck in Roanoke County resulting in property damage.

SEPT. 7, 1990

Convicted in Roanoke General District Court of speeding.

APRIL 25, 1990

Convicted in Roanoke County General District Court of speeding.

JAN. 21, 1990

Involved in an accident in Roanoke County resulting in an injury.

Staff

participate in an alcohol counseling program.

According to court records, Shelor was referred to Mount Regis Center, where he was found eligible for intensive outpatient treatment as well as individual counseling.

But after he successfully completed the requirement set forth by the court in March 1992, he was arrested again five months later for drunken driving in Botetourt County.

Court records show that his blood-alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit for intoxication. He pleaded guilty to that charge in December 1992, was fined \$500 and was sentenced to six months in jail, with all but two days suspended. His driver's license was suspended for three years.

mittee of the U.S. House of Representatives approved up to \$8 million Tuesday to study a Virginia route for Interstate 66, a proposed cross-country transportation corridor.

Money for the study was included at the request of Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Roanoke, in National Highway System legislation being worked on by the committee.

Goodlatte's proposal would bring the route into Virginia from Beckley, W.Va., near Covington, from where it would proceed to Roanoke, Lynchburg and the Atlantic coast.

The proposed I-66 would n. Los Angeles. It might wind up interstate highway, but the state would pass are studying other incorporate high-speed rail tra netic levitation vehicles or a hig road" technology on which veh at speeds up to 150 mph.

It also might involve more transportation, Goodlatte said.

In any case, the new east not be completed until well into

Plan unveiled to aid homeless

Government pledges \$1.7 billion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration on Tuesday unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would be the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of present programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said.

"The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as a house fire or the loss of a job, pushes them onto the streets.

"For people who live in poverty, homelessness is an ever-present threat," said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force. "In the past, people have misunderstood the dynamics of homelessness. The plan we've delivered to the president . . . attempts to comprehend and respond to these dynamics."

Cisneros said some aspects of the plan, such as funds to community groups, would begin immediately. Others require legislation. But, he said, the administration hopes to cut the homeless population by one-third by the end of Clinton's term.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000; the most recent draft of Tuesday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

ROANOKE TIMES & WORLD NEWS

MAY 18, 1994

Thursday, May 19, 1994

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Effort for homeless appears to ignite progressive agenda

WASHINGTON

With a three-strikes-and-you're-out crime bill and a two-years-and-you're-out welfare program, the Clinton administration sometimes looks like the 10th inning of the Reagan revolution.

Budget cuts, free trade, law and order, and streamlining government may be the nation's critical unfinished business, but they are not the authentic uniform of a Democratic franchise. This week, with the launching of a big interagency program to do something for the



JOHN HALL

homeless, the Clinton team finally came up with a program to ignite the progressive movement that remains the heart of the party of Roosevelt.

To be sure, a reorganization of McKinney act programs into block grants for the homeless, plus a doubling of appropriations to a level of \$1.5 billion, isn't the New Deal and Great Society reborn. In fact, the measure is in some respects a repudiation of old, big-spending solutions of the past. And it isn't even new: the money was part of Clinton's budget submitted three months ago.

The tone is different

What is different is the tone. Written by Assistant Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, son of New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, the report of the Interagency Council on the Homeless called "Priority: Home" is a cry for Clinton and Congress to get to work on the great social challenge of this day: not just the homeless, but the festering poverty of the inner city.

People are living on the streets "under circumstances that would have shamed a turn-of-the-century ragpicker," the report says. In the last half of the 1980s, the number of homeless people "had surpassed anything seen since the Great Depression" and may have totaled 7 million temporarily displaced Americans, not just the hard core of drug addicts and mentally ill who are permanently without shelter.

The Cuomo council makes it plain that this is not simply a problem of shelter, but a symptom of massive social disruption. Homelessness in the '90s is a product of "unsolved social and economic problems of the 1970s" and neglect in the 1980s, the council says.

Clinton ordered this report a year ago, but was not on hand to receive and endorse it when it was launched by three of his Cabinet secretaries,

led by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros. The ceremony was in a public park, not the Rose Garden.

Cisneros, who has become the engine for progressive policies in this Cabinet, does not seem at all disturbed about Clinton's hands-off attitude. HUD is one of the few departments in the government with more money to spend this year, and Cisneros says Clinton has personally reassured him he is fully behind the all-fronts assault the former San Antonio mayor is starting to make on homelessness and inner-city housing.

This is what I ran for

"Do I like it?" Cisneros quoted Clinton after he heard Cisneros's briefing on his plans. "This is what I ran for office to do."

The most controversial of these ideas is to begin tearing down heavy concentrations of inner-city public housing and begin redistributing poor people throughout metropolitan areas, including the suburbs.

If this is a trial balloon, Cisneros has barely inflated it, let alone launched it. There has been no formal announcement, and a recent Chicago speech on the subject got hardly any notice. But Cisneros says he is already taking heavy flak from both ends of the spectrum — not only from big city race baiters riling up the white populations but from minority politicians fearful of seeing their bases of support thinned out.

Cisneros, nonetheless, said he was determined to proceed city by city with his idea, a simple one: that if people choose to live in the inner city, it should be in safety and dignity, and if they choose to move out, poverty and race should not be a barrier.

Decried enclaves of despair

He decried housing projects that are enclaves of despair "where gangs and drug dealers control the stair wells, where children can't go outside to play, where mothers put their infants to bed in bathtubs and erect mattresses in the windows at night to protect their families from stray bullets." He said he wants to tear some housing projects down, leverage private capital to erect new ones with more humane architecture and find ways to help people move elsewhere through rent subsidies and other programs.

All this, plus a vow to show visible progress within the next year on sheltering "grate people," is the heaviest agenda in Washington in a time of shrinking government support, compassion fatigue and a politically overloaded presidency.

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

MAY 18, 1993

PAGE 9-A

\$900 MILLION

Clinton tells plan to cut number of homeless

Local governments, shelters, churches and non-profit groups would move the homeless to self-reliance.

WASHINGTON POST

Washington, D.C. — The Clinton administration Tuesday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

17 Agencies

The 100-page plan, entitled "Priority Home!" was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period: "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and non-profit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

Two-Pronged Strategy

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.16 billion for fiscal 1995, up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for currently homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros released the report in a ceremony at Franklin Park, a frequent gathering place for the homeless taken over by official Washington.

Local advocates of homeless laud the president's new plan

MAY 18 1994

■ Proposal increases the estimate of the number living on the streets and seeks to spend \$1.7 billion.

By Diana Penner
STAR STAFF WRITER

President Clinton on Tuesday significantly increased the federal government's official estimate of the number of homeless people in the country and the amount of money he wants aimed at the problem.

Local and national advocates for the homeless cheered the shift in federal posture, saying it gives them reason to be more optimistic that some progress will be made.

Clinton and Secretary Henry Cisneros of the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a 100-page, \$1.7 billion plan, compared with the \$555 million spent during President George Bush's final year in office.

The plan, developed by the Interagency Council on the Homeless during the past year, estimates that 7 million Americans experienced homelessness at some point in the late 1980s and that 600,000 are homeless in America at any one time.

The official 1990 U.S. census counted 600,000, and most federal programs have been based on that number. The new estimate of 7 million counts the many people who move in and out of homelessness but who might not be homeless when a formal count is taken.

"It's a fundamental shift in the federal analysis of the cause of homelessness, and therefore of the solutions to homelessness," Dr. Matias Vega told the members of the Indianapolis Homeless Network at a meeting Tuesday.

"It's good news, finally, for a change," he said. "I, for one, am in a damn good mood because of it."

The new plan calls for coordination of federal services for the homeless and funding, as opposed to the sometimes scattershot approach of the past. It also requires local communities to coordinate their programs to spend that money and address the problem.

To do that, communities will have to develop a "continuum of care" to look at the range of needs of the homeless, from emergency, transitional and permanent housing to job training and medical care, Vega said.

Vega, who sits on the executive board of

See HOMELESS Page 2

INDIANAPOLIS STAR & NEWS

Seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census Bureau calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help, according to a government report. The estimate was released in conjunction with the administration's unveiling of a \$1.7 billion proposal for homeless programs.

HOMELESS

Continued from Page 1

The National Coalition for the Homeless, said because that requirement was expected to be included in this report, homeless-service providers in Indianapolis already are taking that concept into account.

The providers who have been coordinating efforts to seek the use of buildings at Fort Benjamin Harrison, which is slated for closure, have also been developing a "continuum of care" to better coordinate their applications for property and to be in line for the new federal requirements for all funding for the homeless.

The president's plan now is to go to Congress, where separate pieces of legislation would be required to fund it. Those portions of the plan might be determined this fall, but others can be implemented administratively, so local officials could see some changes soon.

The legislative portions of the plan might encounter significant hurdles, but the plan itself is a good starting point, Vega said.

"This will be something we can really hold the administration to. The leadership is there, at least."



Associated Press

NEW PRIORITY: Tipper Gore (right), wife of Vice President Al Gore, displays a copy of a new homelessness report to Georgia Ferguson (left), whose family is pictured on the cover.

he said.

And the plan shows recognition that homelessness continues to be a significant problem in America, he said. For some time, the issue

had fallen by the wayside of public and governmental attention, Vega said.

"I think some reawareness is happening," he said. "And with

the continual increases in the numbers, it's clear that (homelessness) is not a problem that you can continue to sweep under the rug."

NASHUA, N.H.

Clinton changing strategy toward homeless

By SONYA ROSS
The Associated Press

■ U.S. says problem is far more severe than Census Bureau reports.

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans were homeless sometime during the second half of the 1980s, far more than 1990 Census calculations of 600,000 people and

far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that

would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995, to put overall federal homeless aid at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be three
See HOMELESS, Page 7

Homeless

■ From Page 1

times more than the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated

the nation's homeless population as totaling 7 million during the 1985-90 period, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of Tuesday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school,

without adequate supplies or a place to study.

The plan, compiled by the Inter-agency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, give them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then place them in affordable, permanent homes.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system is a good idea, but should not be the only option.

"We have to be real careful in suggesting that, in order to get out of homelessness, you have to go through these steps," Karnas said. "Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

It also suggested that non profit groups be allowed to help homeless people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the process directly to the streets.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"It's not about finding a place to get a good night's sleep," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. "It's about poverty. We have to get at the root causes."

Plan urges \$1.7 billion for homeless programs

The Clinton administration yesterday unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for government aid to the homeless to help them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would mark the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggests that homeless people be placed in short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

MARK FINKE
FAX
202-708-3363

Homeless problem

US drafts strategy to get aid to streets

Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — The Clinton administration has a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggests that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

The draft plan also suggests creating special school and recreation programs for homeless children, to remove "significant barriers" to equal education.

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It also recommends a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and calls for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," said the report, which was made public Tuesday. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem, but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, who headed the task force.

The report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s.

\$1.7 billion plan would get homeless off streets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington — The Clinton administration unveiled today a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page plan, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggests that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommends a dramatic overhaul of current pro-

grams, and calls for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report says. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The report describes two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty."

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem, but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

The Atlanta Journal 5-17-94

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

MAY 17, 1994

PAGE 1

PAGE 1 of 2

Plan Would Expand Aid to Homeless

BY STEPHEN BUTTRY
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — A Clinton administration task force Tuesday proposed an overhaul of federal aid to homeless people to ensure them access to a broad range of services at the local level.

It would include a "local seamless system of services" that extends beyond simply providing shelter to deal with issues such as mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, education and job training.

Omaha officials serving the homeless had not seen the 100-page report of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. They agreed, though, that solutions involve more than housing.

"If there's anything that's lacking, it's jobs — decent jobs," said Kevin

McGuire, who runs the Day House soup kitchen. "There's too many young, able-bodied men down here who'd jump at the chance to work."

Sheila Moulton, director of Lydia House, said some of the women seeking shelter at the house are homeless because of repeated domestic violence. To help those people, Miss Moulton said, "We need to try to break that cycle."

Paul Koch, executive director of Saint-Francis House, said: "About 80 percent of the people we house have a primary problem other than poverty, such as domestic violence, substance abuse or mental illness. ... Those problems need to be addressed before you put people in housing."

The administration report, which must be approved by President Clinton and passed by Congress before being adopted,

proposes that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters. They would be given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

The plan also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

The task force recommends doubling the 1994 funding level for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless assistance programs to \$1.7 billion.

It also proposes more tax credits to help working poor people meet housing costs. Another proposal calls for improved treatment for mentally ill homeless people.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. ... The result is a disjointed approach (that) provides for some needs while ignoring others."

Dave Tollefson, director of housing services for the Salvation Army in Omaha, said support services can make the difference in whether a person has the self-esteem or basic ability to find a job or housing. He said one woman turned her situation around after workers got her eyeglasses and treatment for severe dental problems.

"That really seemed kind of simple, but it really enabled her to get ahead," Tollefson said. "Every individual has a unique and special situation. That is the part where the counseling and support services are so important."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem, but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night.

The population estimates did not include 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, the 1 million seeking federal rent assistance or untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

But it did tally up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study, the report said.

The draft plan suggested creating special school and recreation programs for homeless children in order to remove "significant barriers" to equal education.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

THE TENNESSEAN

Volume 90, No. 130 7 months \$5.00

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Second Class postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.

Billions to go to homeless

President 'serious' about huge problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans were homeless during the second half of the 1990s, far more than 1990 U.S. Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too far from current programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled yesterday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1996, to put several federal homeless aid at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be three times more than the \$550 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to get off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The President is very serious about this."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at totaling 7 million during the 1990-95 period, with 300,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of yesterday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 6.95 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshots" taken.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.5 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent subsidies, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, give them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or training, then place them in affordable permanent homes.

Tears still flow in Israel



Above: Haya Yairi comforts her daughter at the funeral of her husband, Rafael Yairi, 35, in Hebron, the occupied West Bank. Yairi died while being treated by Army medics after an Arab gunman ambushed a car. Another Jewish settler died; a third was injured.

Right: An Israeli soldier escorts mourners during Yairi's funeral procession. Story on 3A.



Alter school to end

By ROBERT KLAMMERTZ

Murphy Alternative School, which the Metro school system says is open, still has no students, no teachers and no chalkboards. "There were some last-minute glitches that didn't get worked out," Delphis Spence, director of high schools, admitted yesterday.

On Friday, school officials, including director Richard Benjamin, announced that the building at 3000 Murphy Ave. would open Monday to house Metro's problem students — those who have been suspended, taken weapons to school, or have a history of truancy.

They linked the Murphy Alternative School to the claim to another parents angry after Terrance Murray was shot and killed in school.

New for substiti

Girl paid pals to

CHICAGO (AP) — When some fourth-graders decided they didn't like their substitute teacher, they didn't bother with childish pranks like putting socks on his chair. Instead, one girl offered to

chastise \$1 bribe to finally accuse the teacher of sexual abuse, authorities said.

A police investigation eventually uncovered the plot, and school officials are trying to decide what punishment the children

THOMPSON

The teacher, Albert Thompson, hasn't gotten another teaching job. "We're in a society where you gossip until proven innocent."

VA chief reconsiders future of four reactors

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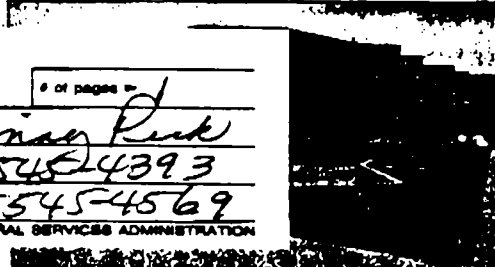
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

view options for alternative energy sources.

TVA will consider whether the four nuclear reactors should be finished, abandoned or converted for

Fairgrounds uncannily self-de



The city of Louisville in 1955 built a new Kentucky fairgrounds with state money. On a centrally located

By SHEILA WISNER

May 16/94

"The fairgrounds could be a great deal more than it is, no question about it. I think it's an unutilized asset."

— Mayor Phil Broderson

In 1955, Nashville's city fathers faced a decision which continues today to influence the complexion of the city: what to do with the state fairgrounds.

That year, most fairgrounds' buildings burned to the ground. An ambitious multimillion-dollar rebuilding program was recommended, but not implemented. Instead, the insurance money from the fire was used to construct several smaller buildings, which have remained relatively unchanged

THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, N.H. — Wednesday, May 18, 1994

3

Administration Unveils \$1.7B Plan for Homeless

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration yesterday unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000

U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not

planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts.

... The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

MAY 18, 1994

PAGE 6

Homeless-Aid Plan Announced

Clinton Earmarks \$900 Million More

THE WASHINGTON POST

Washington — The Clinton administration Tuesday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

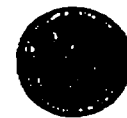
The 100-page plan titled "Priority Home!" was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in the United States at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period: "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995, up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.



Top of the News

Homeless plan calls for \$1.7 billion in aid

study says people living on the street should be put in affordable homes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Tuesday unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them to homes of their own.

The 100-page report — if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress — would represent the first time the government



NATION

has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, said homeless people should be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then be placed in affordable, permanent homes.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The

THE HOMELESS IN COLORADO

Metro area organizations for the homeless gave cautious support Tuesday to the proposed \$1.7 billion federal effort to help the homeless.

"I think both on the local and on the national level there is a recognition that a bucketshot approach hasn't worked too well and that it only creates bigger gaps," said Gerald Koch, director of social services with the Salvation Army.

The state has about 6,000 homeless people on any given day, according to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. In metro Denver, the figure is 2,200.

current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some

needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," for

whom a sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"For people who live in poverty, homelessness is an ever-present threat," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

Maria Foscarnis, director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, said that while the proposal lacks detail on how it will work at the community level, it is very specific on how much money is needed and will be spent. "In some ways, it's a plan to make a plan," Foscarnis said.

Rwanda rebels defy U.N.

Peacekeepers must stay neutral or be fired on

Reuters

MULINDI, Rwanda — Rwandan rebels warned Tuesday that if United Nations peacekeepers come between their forces



Bone of oldest European found

Reader

LONDON — Europe's oldest man lived 500,000 years ago, ate elephant and was tall and robust, British archaeologists said Tuesday.

Homeless strategy unveiled

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By GUY GUGLIOTTA
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Tuesday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The 100-page plan, titled "Priority: Home!" was developed during the past year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which brings together staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period: "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an emergency basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and non-profit organizations, can move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995 up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for currently homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.



Associated Press

REPORT PARTICIPANTS: Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Gore, holds a copy of a homeless report titled "Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness" Tuesday while introducing the report by the Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless Georgia Ferguson, a resident of Trinity House in Washington, left, looks at the report's cover, which shows her family.

Ex-HEW chief: Tobacco firms

HUD plans new attack on woes of homeless

FROM TRIBUNE WIRES

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration Tuesday laid out a blueprint for dealing with the nation's homeless, who number some 600,000 on any given night.

In a 126-page report entitled "Priority: Home!" an administration task force said that as many as 7 million Americans experienced homelessness at least once in the latter half of the 1980s.

It recommended doubling to \$1.7 billion the Housing and Urban Development's budget for homeless assistance programs, broad reforms of the nation's welfare and health-care systems and providing the poor with greater access to government aid programs.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, gives them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then places them in affordable, permanent homes.

The report said the homeless population was mainly made up of people under age 40, with badly worn family ties, no steady employment and a higher than average amount of drug and alcohol problems as well as mental illnesses.

The report traced the problem to two main causes: poverty and chronic disability (including mental illness, substance abuse, AIDS and tuberculosis).

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem," said HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force, "but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions that once cared for persons with mental and physical disabilities."

The report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

Not included in the report's tally of homeless were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report also discounted nearly 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

Seven million Americans seen homeless amid unveiling of new strategy

Star-Ledger Wire Services

WASHINGTON—Government officials estimate that seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled yesterday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

It also marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be at \$2.1 billion—or three times the \$655 million on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that

even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The President is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1990s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of today's report gave a range between 4.86 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshots" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homeless-

Plan would reserve \$1.7 billion in a landmark view of problem

ness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.1 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, gives them transitional housing

while they undergo counseling or job training, then places them in affordable, permanent homes.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system is a good idea, but should not be the only option.

"We have to be real careful in suggesting that, in order to get out of homelessness, you have to go through these steps," Karnas said. "Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

It also suggested that non-profit groups be allowed to help homeless

people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the process directly to the streets.

"We are ready to mobilize the powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that roughly 500,000 U.S. veterans are homeless at some time over the course of a year.

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"It's not about finding a place to get a good night's sleep," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. "It's about poverty. We have to get at the root causes."

Homeless advocates gave the administration a pleased, if qualified, pat on the back: "It's a good list of the issues," said Maria Pocarinas, exec-

utive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "It identifies the needs for housing, health care and mental-health and substance-abuse treatment."

Shalala reviewed "overall domestic policy," suggesting how health-care reform, welfare reform, tax rebates for the working poor and other contemplated or already-enacted legislation could help "prevent tragedies like homelessness."

The report divides the homeless population into two large groups: those living in "crisis poverty" where homelessness is a "transient or episodic disruption in lives that are routinely marked by hardship," and those with "chronic disabilities," in which "homelessness can appear to be a way of life."

It reviews homeless research to develop profiles: single men make up 75 percent of the homeless population, half the homeless have had alcohol or drug-abuse problems; one-third of homeless children do not attend school; 30 to 45 percent of the male homeless population are veterans.

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NATION / WORLD

Clinton plan to aid homeless
has price tag of \$1.7 billion

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans were homeless sometime during the second half of the 1980s, far more than 1990 Census calculations of 600,000 and too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be \$2.1 billion — three times the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in

the last year of the Bush administration. Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Detroit News

May 18, 1994

Page 1A

Clinton vows to reduce homelessness

■ **Plan:** Adds \$900 million to effort, aims to cut homeless rate by a third.

DETROIT NEWS WIRE SERVICES

WASHINGTON — Vowing to "break the cycle of homelessness," the Clinton administration Tuesday announced a plan to cut the number of people reduced to living on America's streets by one-third.

In a report titled "Priority: Home!" an administration task force estimated 600,000 Americans now are homeless — far more than the 168,308 counted in the 1990 Census.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, who chaired the task force, said the recommendations in the report would not just "stand on some

shelf" but are "destined for action."

President Clinton, he said, "has put federal resources where his intentions are" and will urge Congress to authorize \$900 million in new money for HUD's homelessness programs in 1995, bringing total funding to \$1.7 billion.

The report recommends priorities that include funding local, nonprofit groups involved with the homeless; making mental health and drug abuse services more available to the poor; and establishing four centers to target homeless veterans.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem," Cisneros said, "but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions that once cared for persons with mental and physical disabilities."

He pointed to the report's conclusions

that:

■ A disproportionate share of the homeless — about a third — are veterans and minorities.

■ Three-quarters are single men, most of them under 40, who have badly worn family relationships.

■ A higher than average proportion suffer from mental illnesses or have drug or alcohol problems.

■ Root causes of homelessness are poverty and chronic disability — including mental illness, substance abuse, AIDS and tuberculosis.

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests a streamlined approach in which local governments, together with shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations, move the

homeless through a "continuum of care" toward self-reliance or outpatient assistance.

Although responses will certainly vary from city to city, depending on the extent of the problem, each would be expected to use federal funds to provide not only emergency shelter, but permanent, affordable housing and services such as substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health care and independent living skills instruction.

"We'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third," Cisneros said. "It is important to commit to numbers and timetables."

Homeless advocates suggested the plan did not yet have enough detail.

"It needs more specifics on how the administration intends to accomplish its goals," said Maria Foscarines, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, who nevertheless called the plan a "good start."

"It's a good list of the issues," Foscarines said. "It identifies the needs for housing, health care and mental-health and substance-abuse treatment."

Critics pointed to the slow start of the administration's model homeless program in the District of Columbia — awarded a \$20 million grant soon after Clinton took office.

"They've been working with D.C. for a year, and I don't see any change whatsoever," said Anna Kondratas, who headed homeless initiatives at HUD for the Bush administration.



CLARENCE TABBE JR./The Detroit News

Eddie Lane, who has been homeless for four years, would appreciate any help Clinton could give.



CLARENCE TABBE JR./The Detroit News

Jeffery and Cecilia Hsieh and family, homeless in Detroit for two months, hailed the news.



\$1.7B homeless plan unveiled

With 7 M estimated homeless, U.S. calls it a major problem demanding action.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans were homeless sometime during the second half of the 1980s, far more than 1990 Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995,

to put overall federal homeless aid at \$2.1 billion.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The \$1.7 billion would be three times more than the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substan-

tial cut at the problem of homelessness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work hand-in-hand with welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, give them transitional housing while they

undergo counseling or job training, then place them in affordable, permanent homes.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population as totaling 7 million during the 1985-90 period, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of yesterday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions and those in "crisis poverty," who are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

Prez' plan doubles city's homeless aid

WASHINGTON — New York stands to potentially double the \$40 million in federal aid it now gets to help the homeless under a plan outlined yesterday by the Clinton administration.

No exact figures were out-

lined for New York in the \$1.7 billion package. But a Housing and Urban Development official said cities most plagued by homelessness — such as New York — could get as much as twice what they now receive.

The proposal needs Congress' approval and would be for the budget year starting in October. With the \$1.7 billion infusion, the administration is trying to triple the amount spent on the homeless in the last year of the Bush administration.

The new money would go for emergency food and shelter and for what the White House considers long-term aid — helping the homeless get education, job training and counseling so they can find their own homes.

To homeless advocates, it's overdue recognition that the federal government has a massive problem to tackle.

"The words are exactly what we hoped for when a Democrat won the White House," said Josh Taylor of the Partnership for the Homeless. "We're happy with the words. We just hope the money's there to back it up."

CORRECTION

The News Phone Poll on whether Ellis Island should belong to New Jersey or New York carried incorrect phone numbers yesterday. The following poll numbers are correct:

DAILY NEWS

PHONE POLL

SHOULD ELLIS ISLAND BE PART OF NEW YORK?

DIAL: 1-900-678-

3341 — YES: New York

3342 — NO: New Jersey

75¢ per call. Under 18 requires parental consent.

05/19/1994 11:16

201-645-4465

HUD LEGAL NEWARK

PAGE 05

A18 THE NEW YORK TIMES NATIONAL WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

Major New Spending Urged for Homeless

WASHINGTON, May 17 (AP) — A Federal task force today unveiled a plan that would devote \$1.7 billion in new spending on programs for homeless people in the next fiscal year. The increase would put overall Federal aid to the homeless at \$2.1 billion.

The report, ordered last spring by President Clinton and drafted by an interagency group headed by three Cabinet Secretaries, represents the first time the Government has labeled homelessness as a problem demanding large-scale Federal action. The plan, if approved by the President, would be submitted to Congress.

The report called for short-term emergency shelters, transitional housing during counseling or job training, then placement in affordable, permanent homes.

It recommended a overhaul of current programs and "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society. It also suggested that nonprofit groups be allowed to help homeless people get Federal aid like food stamps or rent vouchers.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE May 18, 1994

White House Plans to Cut Homelessness by a Third

New approach gives cities more responsibility

By Elizabeth Shogren
Los Angeles Times

Washington

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros announced a new federal effort to combat homelessness yesterday and pledged that the Clinton administration will reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term.

In a HUD report a year in the making, the administration said that 800,000 people are homeless on any night in the United States and that 7 million people were without a permanent residence at some point between 1985 and 1990.

The administration pledged in its report to take a new approach to the problem by giving local governments more responsibility for creating comprehensive programs to establish emergency housing and to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other problems believed to be at the root of homelessness.

The report's release yesterday coincides with the administration's attempts to push legislation

HOW FUNDS WOULD BE USED

- Emergency shelter.
- Transitional and rehabilitative services, including substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services and independent living skills instruction.
- Permanent affordable housing.

for a variety of HUD programs through Congress and was intended to help defend its proposal to double federal spending on HUD's homelessness programs to \$1.7 billion in 1995.

Advocates for the homeless applauded the report as the first federal acknowledgment of the extent and complexity of homelessness in the United States. But they

HOMELESS, Page A13 Col. 6

San Francisco Chronicle A13

HOMELESS

From Page 1

cautioned that even the resources being contemplated by the Clinton administration would be dwarfed by the need.

"It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time, the federal government understands the problem and because of political reasons it cannot respond at the level necessary," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, which represents homeless advocates in 40 cities.

Mayor Jerry Abramson of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said the report marks the first time the White House has responded to the mounting demand for services for the homeless.

"Each year, we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem," Abramson said. "The response during those years came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House."

Traditionally, the federal government has granted money on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations with the expectation that they would provide emergency shelter and services to the homeless.

But the Clinton administration argues that the problem is too intractable to be alleviated in such piecemeal fashion and must be addressed through coordinated, comprehensive public policy headed by local governments with guidance from federal officials.

Although responses will certainly vary from city to city, depending on the extent of the problem, each would be expected to use the federal funds to provide:

■ Emergency shelter.

■ Transitional and rehabilitative services, including substance abuse treatment, short-term mental health services and independent living skills instruction.

■ Permanent affordable housing.

"This comprehensive approach to homelessness should be instituted and coordinated by localities," the report said. "Unlike not-for-profit providers, the locality can view the entire system in the jurisdiction to ensure that transitions from each stage can be smooth. Unlike the federal government, the locality is intimately familiar with the needs of its neighborhoods."

Both homeless advocates and mayors support the report's recommendation that federal money be provided to localities in lump sums based on a formula that reflects need.

Currently, money is allotted through many separate programs to nonprofit organizations and in some cases cities, which must compete for it. The money tends to be awarded to the organizations that are best at explaining how the money would be used.

Critics of the administration's effort, however, said its homeless initiative got off to a slow start and cited that as evidence of the questionable wisdom of giving grants directly to local governments.

The administration has been working with the District of Columbia — the first municipality awarded a special \$20 million grant to create a model approach to homelessness — since soon after Clinton took office.

"They've been working with D.C. for a year, and I don't see any change whatsoever," said Anna Kondratas, who headed the homeless initiatives at HUD for the Bush administration. "They run a great risk by choosing to work through the cities because a lot is dependent on city bureaucracies."

If the administration had worked with local nonprofit organizations, she argued, the services would already be available to homeless people.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER May 18, 1994

Estimate of homeless soars; so may funding

\$2.1 billion sought for 7 million on street

By Sonya Ross
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million people in the United States are homeless, far more than Census Bureau calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to adequately help.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled Tuesday that would devote an additional \$1.7 billion to homeless programs in fiscal 1995.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be at \$2.1 billion — or nearly four times the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration. But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people are likely to be helped off the streets for good.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homeless-

ness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

The 100-page report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of the report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that didn't consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report did count up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992.



Los Angeles Times

SATURDAY

MAY 21, 1994

CCT

Clinton Plan for Homeless Could Be L.A. Windfall

■ **Funding:** Administration is seeking to double funding to \$1.7 billion and allocate it in proportion to the number of needy.

By TED ROHRLICH
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Clinton Administration's plan of attack on homelessness, unveiled earlier this week, holds the promise of vastly increased federal funding to fight the problem in Southern California.

The projected windfall for Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside counties would come because the Administration is seeking to double overall funds to combat homelessness to \$1.7 billion, as well as to change the way such funds are distributed.

The Administration says it wants to assign money to areas in proportion to how many poor and unemployed people live there, rather than award them to the providers of services for the homeless who write the most persuasive grant proposals—regardless of their area's needs.

"It's a whole different theory," said Phillip Johnson, a spokesman for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to figures released this week by the
Please see FUNDS, B8

METRO NEWS

FUNDS: Money for Homeless

Continued from B3

White House, local governments here could expect to receive \$88 million next year to fight homelessness. Although that represents a substantial increase over current funding, the size of the increase could not be determined.

Administration officials released figures showing current levels of spending in the Southland to be \$11 million a year, but admitted that the total did not include all funds. They said they were unable to provide a better estimate.

Despite the uncertainty, local officials and homeless advocates say they are pleased and optimistic about the Administration's approach.

"It appears to mean at least a doubling—if not more—of the money that is directly targeted for homelessness by HUD to [L.A.] city and county," said Gene Boutillier, director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a new government agency that will coordinate city and county homeless services.

Local governments in Los Angeles County would receive more than three-fourths of the funds targeted for the Southland, then hand them out to service providers in what federal officials hope will be a discerning, strategic manner.

"Our great strength [in Los Angeles] has been having lots of diverse organizations to address the problem," Boutillier said. "The natural weakness that goes with that has been chaos."

On any given night, advocates say, there are 43,000 to 77,000 homeless people in the county, said Ruth Schwartz, director of the nonprofit Shelter Partnership.

Considering the size of its homeless population, she said, "This region has really been short-changed for years."

The new funds would be in addition to \$20 million to \$25 million that HUD has committed to Los Angeles over the next three years for a pilot project aimed at achieving Secretary Henry Cisneros' stated goal of reducing visible homelessness by one-third.

Plans for the pilot program are still being drafted by advocates and officials, and the proposal is not expected to be complete until mid-summer.

But some of those engaged in the work said this week that they hope to create a 60-square-mile target area, extending from the Eastside to Downtown and south to Willowbrook.

Key components of the development plan are:

- More counseling of homeless people in encampments and on the street.

- Referral centers Downtown, along with satellite facilities in Pacoima, Glendale and the Westside, to steer the homeless to the most suitable services.

- Expansion of the current few dozen shelter beds for substance abusers who want to kick their habits.

- "Prevention funding" in the form of cash for families struggling to avoid evictions.

- Expansion of programs that offer a "continuum of care" from Downtown to the Eastside and South-Central Los Angeles.

One program that is viewed as a model worth replicating by many homeless advocates is the Los Angeles Men's Place, which helps mentally ill homeless with a low-key, no-pressure, drop-in center, and short- and long-term housing.

Pittsburgh
Post-Gazette
5-18-94

Clinton plan cuts homeless by third

White House unveils
\$2.1 billion proposal
for fiscal '95 programs

By Guy Gugliotta

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration yesterday announced a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness, bringing \$900 million in new money to a new strategy designed to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

The report, compiled in response to a May 1993 executive order signed by Clinton, marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period: "On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables."

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from HUD, raising federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995, up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for currently homeless people.

Speakers yesterday belittled previous Republican administrations accused of underestimating homelessness or ignoring it altogether. "The report should be received as a reality check that is long overdue," Brown said.

\$900 Million Plan to Help Homeless

Chicago

By Guy Gugliotta
Washington Post

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration Tuesday announced a national plan to combat homelessness that calls for \$900 million in new money to cut the number of homeless Americans by one-third.

"This is not a report destined to stand on some shelf," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "It is destined for action." President Clinton, he said, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The plan was developed during the last year by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, which combines staff from 17 federal agencies. The plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

The report was compiled in response to an executive order by Clinton last May.

Cisneros cited "reasonable estimates" showing there are 600,000 homeless in America at any given moment and as many as 7 million people who may have been homeless at some time in any five-year period.

"On our watch we'd like to reduce the number of homeless by a third; it is important to commit ourselves to numbers and timetables," Cisneros said.

Instead of dealing with the homeless on an "emergency" basis, the report suggests that local governments, shelters, churches and nonprofit organizations move the homeless through a "continuum of care" to a position of self-reliance or outpatient medical assistance.

The plan proposes a two-pronged strategy that will rely on \$900 million in new money from the Housing and Urban Development Department, raising overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.15 billion for fiscal 1995 up from \$1.35 billion for fiscal 1994.

The policy will enhance medical treatment and housing opportunities for homeless people. To eradicate the long-term causes of homelessness, the plan appears to rely on Clinton administration anti-poverty initiatives.

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Cisneros released the report in a ceremony at Franklin Park, a frequent gathering place for the homeless.

Shalala reviewed "overall domestic policy," suggesting how health care reform, welfare reform, tax rebates for the working poor and similar types of legislation could help "prevent tragedies like homelessness."

Homeless advocates gave the plan a qualified endorsement. "It's a good list of the issues," said Maria Foscarinas, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "It identifies the needs for housing, health care and mental health and substance-abuse treatment."

HUD plans new attack on woes of homeless

FROM TRIMINE WIRE

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration Tuesday laid out a blueprint for dealing with the nation's homeless, who number some 600,000 on any given night.

In a 126-page report entitled "Priority: Home!" an administration task force said that as many as 7 million Americans experienced homelessness at least once in the latter half of the 1980s.

It recommended doubling to \$1.7 billion the Housing and Urban Development's budget for homeless assistance programs, broad reforms of the nation's welfare and health-care systems and providing the poor with greater access to government aid programs.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," which takes homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, gives them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then places them in affordable, permanent homes.

The report said the homeless population was mainly made up of people under age 40, with badly worn family ties, no steady employment and a higher than average amount of drug and alcohol problems as well as mental illnesses.

The report traced the problem to two main causes: poverty and chronic disability (including mental illness, substance abuse, AIDS and tuberculosis).

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem," said HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force, "but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions that once cared for persons with mental and physical disabilities."

The report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

Not included in the report's tally of homeless were 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, 1 million seeking federal rent assistance, and untold numbers who move in with families or friends or pay more than half their monthly income in rent.

The report also discounted nearly 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

\$1.7 billion aid plan for homeless unveiled

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration today unveiled a \$1.7 billion strategy for getting government aid to homeless people on the street and then helping them into homes of their own.

The 100-page report, if approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, would represent the first time the government has labeled homelessness as a major problem demanding large-scale federal action.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes.

It also recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs and called for emergency measures to move homeless people back into society.

"We must remember that government's role is to help people help themselves," the report said. "The current homeless system across the country was not planned, but rather evolved as a result of uncoordinated efforts. . . . The result is a disjointed approach which provides for some needs while ignoring others."

The administration described two classes of homeless people: those with long-term, disabling conditions; and those in "crisis poverty," who

are so poor that sudden tragedy, such as the loss of a job or a house fire, pushes them onto the streets.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem but a condition that can result from poverty, substance abuse, a lack of affordable housing or the collapse of institutions," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, chairman of the task force.

The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. Previous administrations put the figure at 600,000.

The population estimate did not include 1.2 million families who are on waiting lists for public housing, the 1 million seeking federal rent assistance or untold numbers who move in with families or friends.

But it did tally up to 1.5 million homeless children, as many as one-third of whom were not attending school regularly as recently as 1992. Those who did attend often drifted from school to school, without adequate supplies or a place to study.

The draft plan suggested creating special school and recreation programs for homeless children, to remove "significant barriers" to equal education.

It also recommended spending large amounts of money on housing, mental-health care and making sure that homeless people who qualify claim the earned-income tax credit for low-income workers.

NEWARK



OFFICE

NEWS REPORT

THE SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER, May 22, 1994

Section One: Page 40

Jerseyans praise plan to increase homeless aid

By CARYL R. LUCAS

A comprehensive strategy by President Clinton to alleviate homelessness could provide New Jersey with substantial funding increases to improve services, state officials said.

Eight towns and nine counties, as the state Department of Community Affairs, could receive federal homeless aid ranging from \$1.1 million to \$7.5 million next year from the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Several state and municipal officials, along with homeless advocates,

Funds should help thousands find temporary or permanent housing

lauded Clinton's plan, which would devote \$1.7 billion to homeless programs nationwide. The plan, officials said, offers homeless advocates a ray of hope.

Government officials estimate 7 million Americans are homeless, as opposed to official Census calculations of 600,000. In New Jersey, state

officials estimate there are 25,000 people who are homeless and believe the proposed funding, if approved by Congress, would help agencies get more homeless people into temporary and permanent housing.

"We are thrilled that there will be more money to help us fulfill our commitment to dealing with this problem," said Community Affairs Commissioner Harriet Derman.

"It means we can use it for several programs we have," said Derman. "The need is great."

Previously, New Jersey had to compete with other states for the \$3.8 million in federal homeless aid it received last year, she said. The new funding would be formula-driven, which means the department could qualify for millions of dollars.

If the plan is approved, Derman said, the state will receive \$7.5 million, or double its federal homeless aid. Programs include emergency shelter grants, rental assistance and transitional housing.

In addition, community-based agencies and shelters would be able to apply to the Department of Community Affairs for funding, said Derman, explaining the state plans to act as an agent for HUD.

The President's strategy calls for a "continuum of care," which would take homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters and give them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training.

HUD has conducted an examination of homelessness to come up with solutions to break the cycle of dependence.

Derman welcomed Clinton's plan, which she feels will address a critical area in solving the homeless issue.

"Unless you try to help people with the most immediate need,

which is housing, you will never solve long-term problems unless you have money for programs such as transitional housing," she said.

Under the proposed funding, HUD would distribute \$6.6 million to Newark, \$4.4 million to Jersey City, \$2 million to Paterson and \$1.4 million to Elizabeth.

Counties receiving the highest funding include Bergen, which is targeted for \$6.4 million, and Essex which could get \$3.5 million. Hudson County could receive nearly \$3 million, officials said.

In most cases, the proposed funding would increase homeless aid substantially in 1995.

Newark Mayor Sharpe James applauded the President for taking a "bold stand" to fight homelessness which affects every major city and town across America.

"This is a tragedy in an affluent society, and we must all recognize that being homeless is not a character flaw, but something that could happen to each and every one of us," said James.

"So, while we condemn this problem and the conditions that often lead to homelessness and hopelessness, we also must come together to combat this problem and we must do so by accepting and helping those who are homeless in our city."

James said Newark would benefit considerably under Clinton's plan. The funding would provide for construction of shelters, educational opportunities, job training, day care and other social services.

"Through the Mayor's Commission on the Homeless and Human Services, we will be able to take a total approach to the problem," said James.

HUD recognizes Newark's homeless population based on the 1990 Census count at 2,816, which included those in shelters and non-shelters. The commission and Bloomfield College are planning to conduct a new count next month.

Homeless Plan Could Mean Southland Windfall

■ **Housing:** HUD seeks to raise program funding to \$1.7 billion and change the allocation criteria.

By TED ROHRlich
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Clinton Administration's plan of attack on homelessness, unveiled earlier this week, holds the promise of vastly increased federal funding to fight the problem in Southern California.

The projected windfall for Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside counties would come because the Administration is seeking to double overall funds to combat homelessness to \$1.7 billion, as well as to change the way such funds are distributed.

The Administration says it wants to assign money to areas in proportion to how many poor and unemployed people live there, rather than award them to the providers of services for the homeless who write the most persuasive grant proposals—regardless of their areas' needs.

"It's a whole different theory," said Phillip Johnson, a spokesman for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to figures released this week by the White House, local governments here could expect to receive \$88 million next year to fight homelessness. Although that represents a substantial increase over current funding, the size of the increase could not be determined.

Administration officials released figures showing current levels of spending in the Southland to be \$11 million a year, but admitted that the total did not include all funds. They said they were unable to provide a better estimate.

Despite the uncertainty, local officials and homeless advocates say they are pleased and optimistic about the Administration's approach.

"It appears to mean at least a doubling—if not more—of the money that is directly targeted for homelessness by HUD to [L.A.] city and county," said Gene Boutillier, director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a new government agency that will coordinate city and county homeless services.

Local governments in Los Angeles County would receive more than three-fourths of the funds targeted for the Southland, then hand them out to service providers in what federal officials hope will be a discerning, strategic manner.

"Our great strength [in Los Angeles] has been having lots of diverse organizations to address the problem," Boutillier said. "The natural weakness that goes with that has been chaos."

On any given night, advocates say, there are 43,000 to 77,000 homeless people in the county, said Ruth Schwartz, director of the nonprofit Shelter Partnership.

Considering the size of its homeless population, she said, "This region has really been short-changed for years."

The new funds would be in addition to \$20 million to \$25 million that HUD has committed to Los Angeles over the next three years for a pilot project aimed at achieving Secretary Henry Cisneros' stated goal of reducing visible homelessness by one-third.

Plans for the pilot program are still being drafted by advocates and officials, and the proposal is not expected to be complete until mid-summer.

But some of those engaged in the work said this week that they hope to create a 60-square-mile target area, extending from the Eastside to Downtown and south to Willowbrook.

Key components of the developing plan are:

- More counseling of homeless people in encampments and on the street.

- Referral centers Downtown, along with satellite facilities in Pacoima, Glendale and the Westside, to steer the homeless to the most suitable services.

- Expansion of the current few dozen shelter beds for substance abusers who want to kick their habits.

- "Prevention funding" in the form of cash for families struggling to avoid evictions.

- Expansion of programs that offer a "continuum of care" from Downtown to the Eastside and South-Central Los Angeles.

One program that is viewed as a model worth replicating by many homeless advocates is the Los Angeles Men's Place, which helps mentally ill homeless with a low-key, no-pressure, drop-in center, and short- and long-term housing.

FLOORING



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

MAYOR RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PRESS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 20, 1994

Release #202-94

Contact: Cristyne Lategano
(212) 788-2958

MAYOR GIULIANI LAUDS PHILOSOPHY OF NEW FEDERAL HOMELESS PLAN

Joined by advocates for the homeless and Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani today said the recently-announced Federal plan to combat homelessness "reflects the philosophy and many of the same principles found in the City's new plan to combat this national problem."

The Federal plan, entitled, *Priority: Home! The Federal Plan To Break The Cycle of Homelessness*, was released Tuesday, May 17. Mayor Giuliani's plan was announced on May 6.

The Federal plan is similar to New York City's in that it calls for the following:

- o a continuum of care and assessment for the underlying reasons for homelessness (such as poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, unemployment)
- o public/private partnerships with community-based providers
- o a system of mutual responsibility through "social contracts," with independent living the ultimate goal for clients

The plan also calls for doubling the amount of homeless assistance funds available to cities, from \$823 million to \$1.7 billion. Over the past seven years, New York City received \$146 million in funding through the HUD McKinney Program, an average of \$20 million per year. If the Federal plan is approved by Congress, New York City stands to receive \$114 million in Fiscal Year 1995 through a combination of McKinney funds and permanent housing Section 8 vouchers.

-- more --

"Secretary Henry Cisneros is to be commended for providing the nation with an honest assessment of the magnitude of homelessness in our nation. Andrew Cuomo has written a plan that recognizes that for far too long, our society has failed the homeless by ignoring the root problems that lead to homelessness," Mayor Giuliani said. "Now, the Federal Government acknowledges that the only way to reduce homelessness is for all levels of government and for the not-for-profit community to work closely together."

Assistant Secretary Cuomo said, "I am gratified by the support of both Mayor Giuliani and New York's homeless advocacy community for the Federal Plan. The HUD homeless proposal will help create partnerships among all levels of government and the advocacy community to forge coordinated services and housing for homeless families and individuals in New York. I am pleased that under the plan, New York City will be eligible to receive \$114 million in funding next year. This will be more than five times its allocation in previous years."

Joining Mayor Giuliani and Assistant Secretary Cuomo at this City Hall press conference were representatives from a number of homeless advocacy groups, including Women In Need, the American Red Cross, The Doe Fund, the Association to Benefit Children, and the Partnership for the Homeless.

NEWS

From the Office of the Mayor
RICHARD J. RIORDAN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 1994

Contact: NOELIA RODRIGUEZ
(213) 847-3556

MAYOR RICHARD J. RIORDAN HAILS FEDERAL PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS Federal Funding Could Mean Substantial Resources for L.A.

LOS ANGELES -- Mayor Richard J. Riordan today hailed the plan unveiled yesterday by HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros to revamp the treatment of homelessness. The plan, known as Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness, calls for significant funding and an innovative approach known as continuum of care, as well as the reorganization of HUD McKinney Act programs to address the homeless issue.

The recommendation, which requires Congressional approval, could result in an additional \$39 million each year for Los Angeles. "I applaud this federal initiative," said Mayor Riordan. "The additional funding would double the dollars we could use to break the cycle of homelessness and despair -- and use these resources efficiently and sensibly."

The Mayor said that Priority: Home! calls for a seamless system of services, including outreach and assessment, transitional shelter and permanent housing. "This new approach will mean streamlined resources to agencies that provide essential services to homeless families and individuals," the Mayor added.

-more-

Page 2

The Mayor's Office hosted a briefing for Los Angeles area homeless advocates and service providers this morning. The group unanimously endorsed the plan.

-###-

Bruce F. Vento

CONGRESSMAN - 4th DISTRICT MINNESOTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 1994

Contact: Kerri McClimen
202-225-6631

SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS ENDORSES FEDERAL PLAN Congressional support strengthens outlook for Homeless Plan

Washington, D.C. -- Andrew Cuomo, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, today briefed Members of the Speaker's Task Force on Homelessness, on the Federal plan, "Priority Home!". The Task Force expressed overwhelming support for the "Priority Home!" plan and highlighted many specific proposals that coincided with the formal Task Force Report which was released in early February.

"The federal plan, which seeks to end homelessness as we know it, is a strong initiative which articulates pro-active policies and ideas put forth by the Clinton Administration," said Congressman Bruce Vento (D-MN), Chairman of the Speaker's Task Force on Homelessness. "Governmental cooperation embodied in the Interagency Council on the Homeless, led by Andrew Cuomo and Secretary Cisneros, has been successful in putting forth an important future policy path to address the problems of homeless persons in our nation."

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), said, "The combination of this plan put forward by the Clinton Administration and the Congressional Task Force report published in February gives us a number of useful suggestions as we begin the process of drafting a major housing bill at the House Banking Committee. I anticipate that the forthcoming housing bill will include several of the suggestions from these reports and I look forward to continuing the cooperation between HUD and Congress on the homelessness issue."

Members of the Task Force include: Reps. Vento, Henry Gonzalez, Lucien Blackwell, Cardiss Collins, Lane Evans, Frank, Joe Kennedy, Dale Kildee, Mel Reynolds and Speaker Tom Foley. Not all Members were in attendance.

"This plan recognizes a sad simple truth - homelessness is a national problem that requires a local solution," said Kennedy. "I know that cities and towns across America need both the funds and the freedom to tailor plans for dealing with homelessness based on the specific needs and resources of their particular community. Clearly the Administration has heard the voices from the streets."

"There is no shame in being homeless...there is shame in tolerating the existence of homelessness in America. The spending priorities of this Nation indicate where we stand on the critical issues of the day. The 'Priority Home!' Plan demonstrates that President Clinton is serious about effectively dealing with the problem of homelessness in America," said Blackwell.

"'Priority Home!' tackles the tough issues and offers constructive proposals and I appreciate the cooperation and courage involved in this effort," said Vento. "The homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, will surely benefit in the future from the progressive work put forth by the Administration."

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MAYORS OFFICE - 42027083326

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U.S. CONF. MAYORS-

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VIA SLURFAX = 1:10

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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Mayor of Austin

Executive Director:

May 17, 1994

To:

The Mayor

From:

J. Thomas Cochran, Executive Director

Re:

Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness

The Clinton Administration released its plan to end homelessness at a park in downtown Washington today. The plan provides an honest assessment of both the causes and the magnitude of the problem and lays out a strategy for a comprehensive response. A copy of the executive summary is attached, as is a statement on the plan released today by Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, President of the Conference of Mayors.

You may wish to hold a press conference in your city or release a statement on the plan. It represents a dramatic departure from the policies and programs of previous administrations and, we feel, deserves attention. Please send a copy of any comments you make or statement you issue to Laura DeKoven Waxman at the Conference of Mayors, and call Laura if you need any further information.

A copy of the entire plan will be mailed to you shortly.

for Cochran



NEWS

United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

May 17, 1994

ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

Statement by Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson
President, The U.S. Conference of Mayors

For more than a decade the Conference of Mayors has tracked the growth of homelessness and published yearly reports documenting the steadily increasing demand for emergency shelter. Each year we appealed to the federal government to intervene, to help cities and service providers keep pace with the alarming growth of the problem. The response during those years came largely from Capitol Hill, not the White House.

Today, the White House takes the initiative. Today, the Clinton Administration acknowledges the tragedy of homelessness in this nation. Today we are given an honest assessment of both the causes and the magnitude of the problem, and today we begin to move toward an adequate response.

Mayors across this nation welcome this new approach to ending homelessness in their cities. Indeed, the Administration's plan has a familiar ring, and it should, since so much of what it proposes is responsive to what the Conference of Mayors has been calling for over the years.

We thank all the leaders of the Administration for listening, and we welcome our new allies in the battle with homelessness.

CONTACT: Mike Brown, Laura DeKoven Waxman, (202) 293-7330



National Coalition for the Homeless

Comments of
Fred Karnas, Jr.
Executive Director
National Coalition for the Homeless

May 18, 1994

On behalf of the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness, I want to thank you for joining us here today.

Yesterday, as you all know, the Clinton Administration released "*Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness*." It is our fond hope that the release of the plan marked a new beginning in our nation's efforts to end the tragedy of homelessness. For those of us who have been part of the struggle for many years, yesterday marked the end of over a decade of distortion, efforts to minimize the problem, and outright neglect. For too many of us who worked on the front lines with homeless men, women and children those years are littered with sad memories of lost friends and lost opportunities.

In the next few minutes you will be hearing from of our nation's and city's leading advocates on behalf of homeless people as we share our thoughts, on how move forward to ensure that providing "home" to millions of Americans does in fact become a priority.

First, on behalf of the National Coalition for the Homeless, I want to thank Andrew Cuomo and his staff at HUD, Marsha Martin of the Interagency Council, and all the people in the federal departments and across the nation who helped put this plan together.

As the plan itself says, "It is impossible to address a problem that we do not admit exists." This plan, for the first time, provides and insightful and honest evaluation of the problem of homelessness in our nation. It bucks the trend of moralizing on the dependent poor and forthrightly admits both the economic underpinnings of homelessness and the need to address personal issues such as substance abuse and mental illness.

It links homelessness to the larger issues of poverty, unemployment, racial discrimination and changes in U.S. and world economies, changes in household make-up and in our urban neighborhoods.

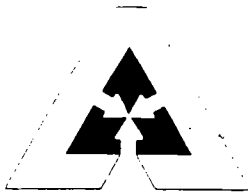
It honestly states that we have a big job ahead of us, but now that we know what it is, we can move forward. There are those who will attack the document and its analysis. They

will try to minimize the magnitude of the problem, they will try to isolate "the homeless" as a unique and troubled population, and they will say that little can or should be done by government to end this tragedy.

They are simply wrong! And to press their agenda will mean more cruelty to poor and homeless men, women, and children.

As you will hear this afternoon, we do not all agree with every recommendation included in this document. But we at the National Coalition believe it provides an important foundation for the work that needs to be done to end homelessness.

We call on Congress to move forward to boldly support efforts to address homelessness. We challenge the Administration to quickly move to implement the proposals in this document, And we commit our nationwide network of advocates, homeless people, service providers, and other concerned citizens to work with Congress and the Administration to expand the clarify the technical details toward that day when the soup kitchens burners are turned off, the shelters are closed, and homelessness fades from our vocabularies.... because everybody has gone home.



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, INC.

PRESS RELEASE

May 18, 1994

Contacts: Thomas L. Kenyon/Nan Roman
(202) 638-1526

Federal Plan On Homelessness A Good Beginning

On Tuesday May 17th, the Clinton Administration released "Priority Home: The Federal Plan to End the Cycle of Homelessness." This federal plan for ending homelessness is based on new research that re-enforces points first raised by the National Alliance to End Homelessness in 1987 about the size of the homeless population. Many people cycle in and out of homelessness so that at any point in time, we can not see the full breadth of the problem.

Thomas L. Kenyon, President of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, states, "It is a pleasure to be in concurrence with the federal government as to the systemic nature of the problem of homeless. Now that we have some agreement on the magnitude of the problem, we can concentrate on the long-term solutions: 1) additional affordable housing; 2) accessible and coordinated services; and 3) adequate income and benefits."

This plan raises many issues which this country needs to address. The Administration has been bold in proposing health care reform, welfare reform, and deficit reduction measures. It now needs to insure that affordable housing, mental health services, alcohol and other drug abuse treatment, and employment programs are included in these initiatives. This federal plan helps them to see that this is done.

It is imperative that every American citizen rally behind the bold initiatives called for in this plan if we are to see an end to homelessness in our lifetime.

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NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

For Immediate Release
May 17, 1994

Contact: Maria Foscarinis
or Laurel Weir
(202) 638-2535

NEWS ADVISORY

Federal Plan Good First Start, Needs More Specifics

The federal plan to address homelessness, released today, provides a good analysis of the problem and the needs of homeless persons, but is light on specifics, according to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

"The plan provides an accurate description of the nature and the extent of the problem of homelessness in America," said Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director of the National Law Center. "It also outlines some of the problems that must be addressed to end homelessness. The plan is an important first step, but it needs more specifics on how the Administration intends to accomplish its goals."

The plan accurately identifies many of the areas that need to be addressed and possible steps that could be taken to address them, such as using tax credits to create more affordable housing, but provides few details or specific actions.

Specific proposals the Administration could have added that would have strengthened the plan include: converting vacant federally owned homes into housing for homeless people, outreach to inform homeless persons of their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit, implementing existing laws to enroll persons about to be released from institutions in benefit programs for which they are eligible, enforce existing laws to ensure homeless children have access to public school, and increased outreach to all homeless persons regarding disability benefits.



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

918 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E. ■ Washington, D.C. 20003 ■ 202/546-1969 ■ Fax: 202/546-2063 ■ Toll-Free: 800/VET-HELP
RESPONSE TO FEDERAL PLAN ON HOMELESSNESS

5/18/94

Good afternoon. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and our community-based, veteran-helping-veteran programs around the country, are pleased to have the opportunity to express our strong support for the **Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homeless.**

It is encouraging for us to read that our nation's policy makers agree that the *"current approach is plainly not working and must be changed."* We particularly appreciate the **Plan's** recognition of the fact that one-third of the homeless are veterans and support its specific steps to resolve this crisis.

The **Plan** calls for *"a full-scale attack on homelessness."* We're here to enlist.

From our military past, we recognize that it is essential that the strategy for any attack be well thought-out, and we want to congratulate the Interagency Council on its battle plan. We are convinced that the concepts embodied in this report will work.

Integral to any good strategy is ~~the~~ choice of the appropriate weapon for the specific mission. This plan attacks homelessness with the mighty power of the private sector, and we couldn't agree more.

When we read *"Government at all levels should move towards an approach whereby not-for-profit organizations actually deliver the services"*, we were genuinely encouraged and excited. Rather than attacking a social problem with layers of paperwork and an army of bureaucrats, the **Federal Plan** calls for unleashing the legions of hundreds of community-based programs to fight the problem on the front lines.

(OVER)

How remarkable it was yesterday to hear three Cabinet Secretaries call for less federal intervention -- not more -- and, at the same time, talk about doubling the resources necessary for the effort.

It is through our network of 160 or so community-based, veteran-helping-fellow-veteran programs and the more than 50 StandDowns planned across the country in 1994, that America can resolve the plight of homeless veterans. We are stepping forward to take care of our own. Overseas, we tried to never leave our wounded on the battle field. We can do no less at home. These CBO's are the right weapon to fight this problem in the most efficient, cost-effective and compassionate manner.

But a good plan, a good team and adequate resources alone are not enough. We, who are veterans of the war in SouthEast Asia, certainly know that without the will to win, all can be lost. Our hearts swelled when we heard Secretary Cisneros call for a victory over homelessness. We don't seek containment; we want to win. We want to break the cycle of homelessness among veterans and their families. We want to work our way out of this business.

So we will follow General Cisneros and General Cuomo. We'll support the Commander and Chief, when he calls for doubling the financial commitment to this effort. When Marsha Martin orders for a full frontal assault on homelessness, we'll back her up. We'll do our part in fighting this battle -- and expect that the implementation of the **Federal Plan** will result in resources coming to veteran-helping-veteran service providers in proportion to the percentage of the homeless who are veterans.

For more information contact: Richard Fitzpatrick, Executive Director
(202) 546-1969