



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-7000

June 26, 1995

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Leeann Inadomi
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Andrew Cuomo, Assistant Secretary for Community
Planning and Development

SUBJECT: HUD Homeless Announcement -- \$900 Million

As we discussed, HUD will be awarding \$900 million -- the largest funding level ever -- to communities across the country to address the full range of problems surrounding homelessness. This announcement includes approximately 700 grants to be made to non-profit organizations and State and local governments to solve homelessness. There will be winners in all 50 states. The First Lady's participation in this event would demonstrate the Clinton Administration's continued commitment in this area.

When President Clinton first took office, he directed an interagency task force to put forth a Federal homeless plan. **Priority Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness**, was released in May 1994 and hailed as the most honest assessment by the Federal government of the homeless problem. The plan boldly called for a doubling of the HUD homeless budget (clips attached).

These grants are the product of the President's actions. The grants will address the realm of problems often causing homelessness -- substance abuse; mental illness; job training; child care; HIV/AIDS treatment and housing. The grants will be for a range of activities including transitional and permanent housing.

The "invisible homeless" are the homeless families. At least 25 percent of the total homeless population are families with children. We could structure an event to announce the award and highlight our commitment to the plight of homeless children. The event could be held at the House of Ruth in Washington, D.C. Since 1976, House of Ruth, located on Thomas Circle, has served homeless families in crisis. The primary concentration of this widely respected organization is homeless victims of domestic violence and their children. Their activities include van

First, I understand the First Lady is considering an announcement on the 13th of violence. This could be a great setup. on the 10th
AC

outreach to persons on the streets; emergency shelter; transitional housing and job training; and a child and family development center. HUD has supported several programs sponsored by the House of Ruth.

Further, we have had great success in utilizing satellite feeds to locations throughout the country in announcing our initiatives. This announcement could be beamed to twenty sites across the country. The simulcast would have the First Lady announcing awards to recipients on hand at events in many cities.

Please let me know if you need additional information, I can be reached at 708-2690. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this proposal.



THE STAR-LEDGER, Friday, May 27, 1994



President Clinton's Homeless Plan

NEWS CLIPPINGS

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

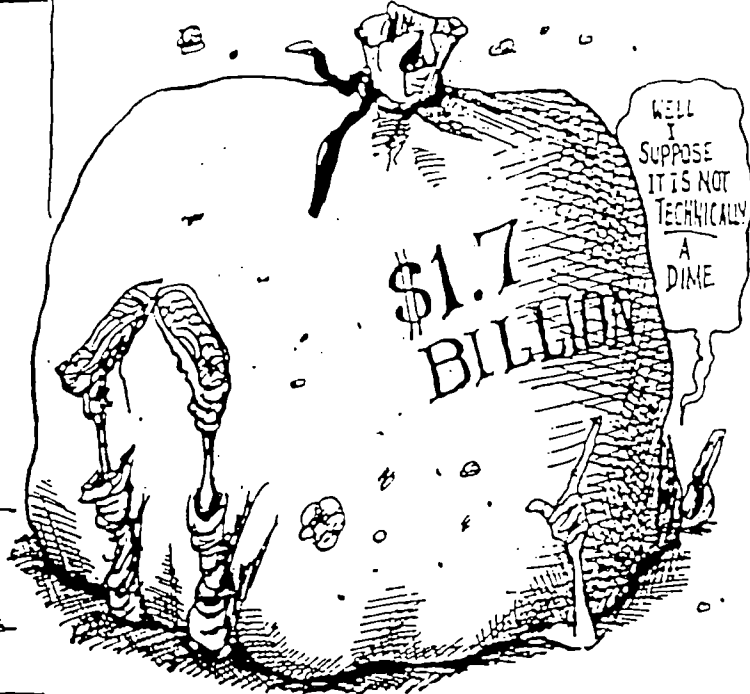
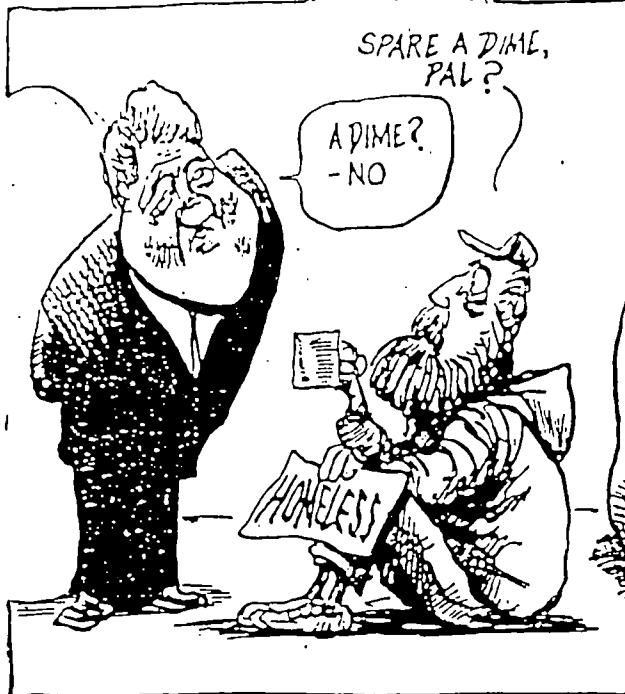
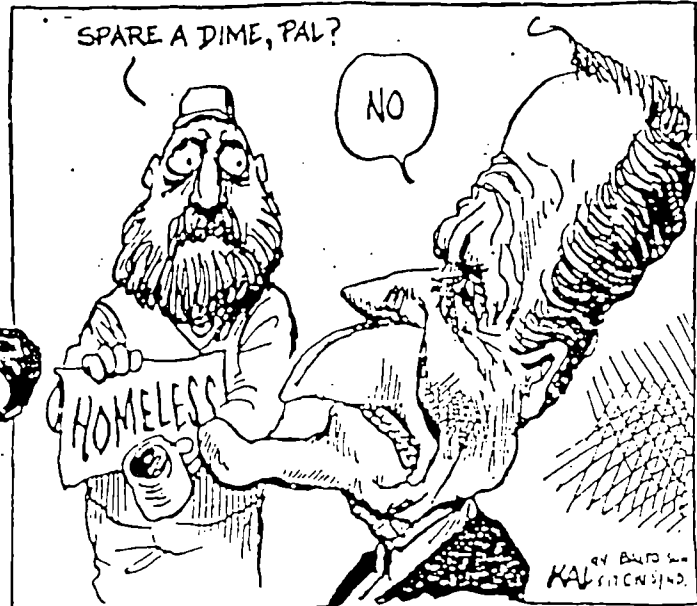
THE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994



BALTIMORE, MD

SUN



The New York Times

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS, *Publisher 1896-1935*
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, *Publisher 1935-1961*
ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, *Publisher 1961-1963*
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, *Publisher 1963-1992*

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER JR., *Publisher*

MAX FRANKEL, *Executive Editor*

JOSEPH LELYVELD, *Managing Editor*

Assistant Managing Editors

SOMA GOLDEN BEHR DAVID R. JONES

GERALD M. BOYD CAROLYN LEE

WARREN HOGE JACK ROSENTHAL

ALLAN M. SIEGAL

HOWELL RAINES, *Editorial Page Editor*

PHILIP M. BOFFEY, *Deputy Editorial Page Editor*

RUSSELL T. LEWIS, *President and General Manager*

JOHN M. O'BRIEN, *Executive V.P., Deputy Gen. Mgr.*

WILLIAM L. POLLAK, *Executive V.P., Sales*

RICHARD H. GILMAN, *Senior V.P., Operations*

PENELOPE MUSE ABERNATHY, *V.P., Planning*

RAYMOND E. DOUGLAS, *V.P., Systems and Technology*

KAREN A. MESSINEO, *V.P., Chief Financial Officer*

DONNA C. MIELE, *V.P., Human Resources*

JOSEPH M. MULLEN, *V.P., Production*

CHARLES E. SHELTON, *V.P., Circulation*

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.

New York Post
May 26, 1994

Talking sense about the homeless

The Clinton administration wants to spend some \$900 million next year to reduce homelessness in America by one-third. The federal proposal — advanced last week by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros — sets the number of homeless nationwide at 600,000.

"Priority: Home!" is meant to involve 17 separate federal agencies in an assault on homelessness — which is characterized as a "silent earthquake," a slow-motion catastrophe comparable in its effect to the tremors that devastated housing all over Los Angeles earlier this year.

The report wonders out loud how America allows homelessness "to happen in one of the wealthiest nations in the world."

Such rhetoric surely has a familiar ring to New Yorkers, who — for years — were told by activists that government neglect (in particular, Reagan-era callousness) caused homelessness. It's disappointing to see rhetorical nonsense rehearsed; but, in the end, the language here is a cover for a tough report.

Only recently have policymakers here come to understand that a variety of social pathologies — predominately men-

tal illness and substance abuse — are the "root cause" of homelessness. City Hall's determination to steer shelter residents into remediation programs as a condition of receiving benefits is the first truly hopeful development in this realm in a long time.

The new city program, it's worth noting, evolved out of an initiative undertaken several years ago by one of Cisneros' principal deputies: Andrew Cuomo, now an assistant secretary at HUD. Cuomo, as director of Project H.E.L.P., came early to the view that addressing social dysfunction among the homeless is at least as important as providing shelter. Cuomo's input is clearly discernible in the HUD plan; indeed, the proposal recognizes explicitly that "transitional support" — i.e., social remediation — is a necessary element in combating homelessness.

Whether or not Cisneros really believes in this analysis remains to be seen. The left-liberal pieties that animate the Clinton administration may prove inhospitable to Andrew Cuomo's hard-nosed realism. But we wish Cisneros — and the heads of the 16 other federal agencies involved in "Priority: Home!" — good luck. They'll need it.

Miami, FL

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.

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.

Detroit Free Press

May 26, 1994
Page 18A

HOMELESSNESS

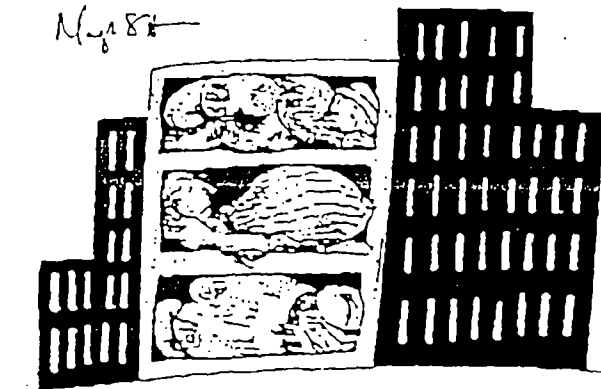
A national disgrace finally gets a higher priority

It remains to be seen whether President Bill Clinton can keep his promise to reduce homelessness in this country, but at least he has placed the issue higher on his agenda. Homelessness has been a scandal for too long.

Previous administrations ignored homeless people, as if they would be absorbed easily into the nation's mainstream. It hasn't happened. An estimated 600,000 Americans are homeless on any night, and about 7 million persons have been homeless at some time in their lives.

In Detroit, at least 4,000 people live in shelters or on city streets. Aid is available primarily through programs run by private groups. In February, the city got a \$1-million federal grant to coordinate those efforts. The \$28 million destined for Detroit under the president's new anti-homelessness initiative would allow the city to coordinate all homeless services, from emergency shelters to vouchers for permanent housing.

Nationally, the Department of Housing and Urban Development seeks to double its budget for programs to help homeless Americans, to \$1.7 billion. The proposal would place greater emphasis on improving mental and physical health among homeless



MARGARET SCOTT/Special to the Free Press

persons, and helping them combat substance abuse. HUD also plans to increase federal housing subsidies, reversing a pattern of aid cuts that began in the 1980s, and to provide tax incentives for those who build low-income housing.

As usual, funding is the key question. With welfare reform and health care already at the top of the presidential agenda, how to pay for new services for homeless Americans needs to be resolved honestly. Opinion polls show that the national desire to help homeless people — or any other disadvantaged group — is weak.

But it still is important that the request is being pursued. If the administration makes the alleviation of homelessness an essential component of both health care and welfare reform, which it surely is, there's a decent chance progress can occur.

The Detroit News

May 19, 1994

Page 10A

Good News on the Homeless . . .

Good news from the Clinton administration: The homeless in America do not number in the millions but around 600,000. A Clinton administration task force has vindicated the Reagan administration, which was harshly criticized for its accurate estimates of the number of homeless. Unfortunately, the Clinton strategy for reducing the number of people living on the streets misdiagnoses the problem and promises to reinforce it.

When Mr. Reagan's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated that the number of homeless ranged from 250,000 to 500,000, it was greeted with scorn. The media and social activists treated so-called homeless advocate projections of 2.5 million to three million street people as gospel. Yet academic studies have since confirmed that 300,000 to 500,000 homeless is an accurate estimate. If anything, the Clinton figure of 600,000 may be a little high.

Unfortunately, the task force, chaired by HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, produced a report that treats the homeless like they are all down on their luck. This approach may be appropriate for the mentally ill, who comprise a good portion of the homeless. But for others, homelessness is more a matter of behavior.

The administration report finds that the homeless are plagued by "chronic disabilities" that require treatment. The homeless, according to the report, mostly are single men with alcohol and drug abuse problems who have badly worn family relationships. In other words, they are people whose continual reckless behavior has burned their bridges with their families, society's most effective social safety net.



Henry Cisneros

Mr. Cisneros thinks street people can be helped through a "continuum of care" that would include more drug rehabilitation programs, more housing and "independent living skills" instruction. Many of these services already are available, and yet homelessness has not declined. In fact, these programs sometimes promote alcohol and drug problems.

As we recently noted, the Supplemental Security Income program rewards alcoholics and drug addicts with steady government checks. Many recipients don't even attend treatment programs. Their checks often end up in the hands of their suppliers or bartenders.

Congress is trying to remedy this fraud by passing legislation to put a three-year limit on such aid and require recipients to enroll in treatment programs — but not actually attend and kick the habit.

As Christopher Jencks, a distinguished liberal sociology professor at Northwestern University, points out in his recent book, *The Homeless*, "experience does suggest that while some services work some of the time, many are ineffective. When advocates fail to mention this risk, taxpayers should check their bank balance."

After all, alcohol and drug abuse makes marginally employable people even less marketable and devours money that could pay for rent. The idea of teaching the homeless "independent living skills" sounds like a hopeless exercise.

Providing some kind of short-term care for the mentally ill homeless makes sense. But other government programs are merely subsidizing irresponsible behavior.

The Clinton administration has now confirmed the fact that the homeless situation is not a huge crisis. More carefully targeted aid, focusing on the mentally ill, might be the best way to ameliorate it. Those with self-induced behavior problems who truly want to kick their habits could still enter programs provided by churches and non-profit groups. Giving the non-mentally-ill homeless an incentive to change their ways may be the best way to help them find homes for themselves.

SHANTYTOWN REMOVAL

Judicial delay isn't the solution

A federal judge's decision to call a temporary halt to demolition of the shantytown beneath the Interstate 45 overpass may be cause for celebration for the American Civil Liberties Union. But it is no real victory for the people who have been living in the makeshift huts under the downtown bridge.

Their plight will remain uncertain until the courts determine whether it is really better for individuals to live on the streets rather than in rent-free apartments provided by the city and county.

During a Friday hearing, U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall expressed concern that a city ordinance prohibiting people from sleeping overnight in public places is discriminatory against the homeless.

If the local governments had made no effort to provide alternative housing for street people, Judge Kendall's concerns might have some validity.

But city and county officials have offered shantytown tenants a relocation plan that would let them live in apartments for three months free of charge. In addition, counseling services have been made available to residents of the makeshift community for weeks. About 80 people who were living

below the freeway bridge already have accepted the offer to move.

ACLU representatives argue that the city wants to tear down the shantytown only to enhance Dallas' image during the World Cup soccer games — not to assist the impoverished people dwelling there.

But the issue is not one of civil rights, as the ACLU would have the federal courts believe, but one of public safety and basic community standards. As long as the city and county governments truly meet their pledge to provide alternative housing for the homeless, there are ample court cases to support laws against living in public places.

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros is pushing a \$1.7 billion federal plan to address the homelessness issue. Mr. Cisneros' program will be a far-reaching one that will have an impact on every major city.

Government officials and service agency representatives in Dallas should be working together on a long-range plan to meet Mr. Cisneros' challenge to end homelessness. Unfortunately, that will not happen as long as some cling to the notion that street people have the right to live in shantytowns, where there is no real hope for positive change.

Dallas, Texas

The Dallas Morning News
Saturday, May 28, 1994

BURL OSBORNE, *Publisher and Editor*
JEREMY L. HALBREICH, *President and General Manager*
RALPH LANGER, *Senior Vice President/Executive Editor*
ROBERT W. MONG JR., *Managing Editor*
RENA PEDERSON, *Vice President/Editorial Page Editor*
Senior Vice President
J. WILLIAM COX, *Operations and Administration*
Vice Presidents
RICHARD STARKS, *Advertising*
BARRY PECKHAM, *Circulation*
BARBARA VAN PELT, *Marketing*
REGINALD K. BROWN, *Finance*
JAMES M. CORREY, *Production*
GROWER D. LIVINGSTON, *Information Management*
ELLEN SILVA WILSON, *Human Resources*
DEAN H. BLYTHE, *Business Development*
NANCY BARRY, *Community Services*

EDITORIALS

HOMELESS FUNDING

Dallas should prepare for federal plan

The Dallas area will be eligible to receive as much as \$9 million in assistance funds if the federal government's bold new plan to eliminate homelessness is approved.

That is a threefold increase in the previous federal allocation here. And even more significant, the Housing and Urban Development Department wants local governments to develop strategies with community service organizations.

That means cities such as Dallas will have a significant say in how the \$1.7 billion homeless assistance budget will be spent. Federal officials finally realize they are not close enough to the problem to dictate answers to urban communities.

While Congress is certain to whittle down a request that doubles the current allocation for the homeless, Dallas should start planning now for increased funding support.

Cities and community service groups should come up with projects that address the root causes of homelessness, Assistant Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo says. That could translate into funds for more drug abuse clinics, additional mental health assistance and even new housing programs.

In Dallas, the homeless issue has been made more complex by efforts to clear out a

shantytown that has been built beneath the Interstate 45 bridge just east of downtown. A federal suit has been filed to block the city from tearing down the makeshift homes.

While there are valid legal issues concerning the rights of cities to prohibit people from sleeping in public places, the litigation should not deter Dallas from addressing the larger homeless questions.

The city and county governments and a broad cross section of social service organizations have done a good job of providing temporary shelter for those who live on the streets. Housing is available for those who seek it.

The federal plan to break the cycle of homelessness offers a chance for the Dallas area to offer long-term solutions rather than temporary relief for those in need.

During a nationwide tour in preparation of the homeless plan, Mr. Cuomo was shocked to meet a 4-year-old child in Dallas who had spent her whole life in the same homeless shelter.

Emergency homeless shelters were never intended to be permanent housing. With a comprehensive plan and increased federal funding support, Dallas can make certain that they never will be in the future.

Baltimore Maryland

THE SUN®

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1994

Hope for the Homeless

The Clinton administration's attack on homelessness contains a truly radical idea: Let the people closest to the problem have more flexibility to deal with it. Formulas devised in Washington don't equally suit the needs of all communities. So let local governments and private agencies that provide shelter and long-term care propose programs that are tailored to the conditions that plague their own homeless. Washington can approve or disapprove, but it wouldn't design rigid approaches.

Combined with a drastic proposed increase in federal spending and a structure to get all Washington agencies pulling together, the strategy proposed by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry G. Cisneros has a lot of promise — on paper. It will get close scrutiny when formally considered by Congress, some of it from knowledgeable social workers and some of it from bureaucrats and legislators whose turf needs protecting.

The Cisneros strategy goes beyond the traditional way of dealing with the homeless. Shelter for the night and a hot meal or two are not even a palliative. Homelessness is usually a symptom of other problems. Different factors drive men, women and

children onto the streets, and the mix is not the same for all of them. Shelter is just the first step in what should be a program of treatment for a complex of social, physical and mental disabilities.

By merging a number of federal programs — run by 17 agencies — the HUD proposal promises a broad attack on homelessness. Rather than rely on traditional grants, which local agencies could apply for, the plan requires the local groups to devise their own programs tailored to local conditions. At least half of the funds would be allocated directly to private nonprofit organizations.

The HUD proposal shows that homelessness is not exclusively a city problem, either. While Baltimore's allocation would triple to \$14.7 million, so would Baltimore County's (to \$2.5 million) and Anne Arundel's (to \$1.3 million).

For the HUD approach to work, Congress must come up with the money and agree to transfer some power to the hinterland. Federal agencies must pull together. Bureaucrats and interest groups whose clout will be diminished must be mollified. Only then will this country be able to attack homelessness as the symptom it really is.

The Evening Sun

6A 8

Baltimore, Monday, May 23, 1994

Really helping the homeless

The Clinton administration's doubling of funds to combat homelessness is an admirable example of putting its money where its mouth is. Admirable not just because the projected \$1.7 billion is twice as much as this year's appropriation or triple the amount spent by the previous administration. The program announced by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros appears not to be another instance of throwing more money at a social problem in hope it would then go away.

The program recognizes that what is termed homelessness is actually a complex of social, physical and mental disabilities, of which the lack of permanent shelter can be a symptom.

For some time, specialists working with the homeless have recognized that the old-fashioned charity approach: "three hots and a cot," or three nourishing meals and a clean place to sleep, often combined with religious proselytizing, doesn't suffice. Different factors — often in combination — drive people onto the streets. And they're not the same for men and for the growing number of women and children without a regular home. By combining the efforts of 17 federal agencies, including elements of the Health and Human Services and

Veterans Affairs departments, the new program attacks homelessness at all of its roots.

Even so, Mr. Cisneros has not been able to avoid playing the bureaucratic numbers game. He estimates that on any given night some 600,000 people are homeless in this country, and that over a five-year period perhaps 7 million went without shelter for some time. In fact, the number of nightly homeless could well be half that, or half again as many. No one really knows. Setting fixed targets may be the bureaucrat's equivalent of a security blanket, but they can also become traps, as some homeless advocates have discovered.

Just as difficult is measuring success, so necessary to justifying government programs. Given the variety and severity of ills that drive people to the streets, the batting average is never going to be very high. Nor will it be easy to calculate precisely, since the benchmark will vary from case to case. Nevertheless, it's clear a substantial number of people live on the streets. An intelligently managed, adequately financed program to help the homeless overcome their problems is welcome, as long as it is not suffocated by ham-handed bureaucracy or drowned in political blather.

7 Million Homeless

Some descriptions of displaced Americans during the 1930s bear a striking similarity to today's homeless victims. In the first instance, people were uprooted mainly by economic problems; in these times, they're being pushed into the streets by callous social policies.

Americans displaced during the '30s eventually were resettled, partly by social workers and ultimately by improved economic conditions. But today's homeless are unlikely to have such good luck. That explains why the Clinton administration is recommending a \$1.7 billion program to get homeless people off the streets and into the mainstream.

The proposal, based on a study by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, marks the first official admission that homelessness is a serious social problem. The agency puts the homeless population at 7 million. That's a lot fewer than the number counted by advocacy groups but far more than the government has ever acknowledged.

The panel urges that homeless people be placed in short-term emergency shelters, then moved to transitional housing. They also would get counseling and job training and ultimately would be placed in

permanent housing.

Implementation of these proposals certainly would be welcomed by St. Louis area officials. Under the Clinton proposal, the city would be eligible for up to \$14 million a year and the county, \$3.6 million, to fight homelessness. Up to this point, homeless people have been regarded more as nuisances than victims of insensitive government policies. Many major cities have passed laws to keep the victims out of public parks or forbid them to engage in what's known as "aggressive begging."

Overlooked until now, it seems, is that the problem need not exist. It mushroomed during the 1980s with federal cuts in human development aid and the disappearance of inexpensive residential hotels in cities. Without quarters and lacking either assistance or social services, millions were forced onto the streets or into shelters.

One member of the task force, Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, says it's time this nation used the "powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy." The Clinton administration's plans amount to compassionate responses to this ever-growing social phenomenon.

The Charlotte Observer

ROLFE NEILL, Chairman and Publisher

JENNIE BUCKNER, Editor JOHN LUBY, General Manager

GENE WILLIAMS, Executive Vice President

ED WILLIAMS, Editor of the Editorial Pages FRANK BARROWS, Managing Editor

TOM BRADBURY, JACK BETTS, Associate Editors

Editorials

Helping the homeless

■ Homelessness is more than being without a home. The Clinton administration plan recognizes that.

At last, we're recognizing that homelessness is much more than a lack of housing. The Clinton administration's new \$900 million effort unveiled Tuesday focuses on problems believed to be at the root of homelessness — joblessness, substance-abuse, mental illness. By giving local governments more responsibility to create and coordinate programs that tackle those issues, as well as provide emergency and longer-term housing, the federal government aims to reduce homelessness by a third within two years.

Washington's new focus is welcome and overdue. Local officials have long talked about the need for a comprehensive plan. Martha Brown, executive director of the Travelers Aid Society, says Charlotte-Mecklenburg is ahead of many cities in that respect. "We're in a real good spot. We've been talking about a continuum of services, identifying the gaps and barriers for a while and working toward coordinating services. We recognize that homelessness is just part of a larger community problem."

That's not to say homelessness has been eliminated here. Officials estimate about 3,000 people are homeless in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, but there are only 1,000 bed spaces for them. And there is little emergency housing for families, officials say.

The federal government's move was prompted by studies indicating the number of

homeless is rising. On any given night in the United States 600,000 people are homeless, says a report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and 7 million had no permanent residence at some point between 1985 and 1990. In 1980, the number of homeless was about 125,000, most studies indicate.

Evidence shows that substance abuse and mental illness remain the major factors in long-term homelessness. More than a third of the homeless are said to have mental problems. And substance abuse has been noted in 30% to 40% of those in shelters. But a significant portion of the homeless are also people who have been hit by severe poverty, people who have lost jobs and have few skills for the job market today.

In Charlotte, some 50 agencies provide various services for the homeless, with a core of 10 that work exclusively with homeless problems. Recognizing the need for coordination, they formed a homeless services network a year ago to address such needs as domestic violence counseling, job training and substance abuse treatment, and to remove such barriers as transportation and bureaucracy.

That's a good move. So is the Clinton plan. A country as affluent as ours should cringe at the depth and breadth of homelessness here. Tackling homelessness effectively will require addressing the myriad of problems associated with it.

Finally, concern for the homeless

THE JUST RELEASED federal plan on homelessness illustrates what a difference a president can make. The Clinton administration's gutsy willingness to tackle the issue contrasts with the do-nothingness of the Reagan-Bush years.

The number of homeless Americans mushroomed during the 1980s, yet the apparent White House strategy in those years was to downplay the problem. The Reagan and Bush administrations spent much time quibbling over how many people were shelterless, what share were families and what share were mentally ill. The Reagan-Bush people seemed intent on coming up with excuses for doing nothing.

At the same time, the Treasury became depleted, in the Reagan years particularly. Thus, an '80s legacy to Clinton was both a festering social problem and a lack of funds to solve it.

Still, a year ago an undaunted President Clinton put together an interagency task force that has now recommended a strategy for easing homelessness. The group managed to scrounge up an additional \$900 million for that chore. That's not enough to solve all of the problem at once, but the task force goal is to reduce homelessness by one-third during this presidential term.

This administration wisely recognizes that home-

lessness is bad not only for the unfortunate souls who find themselves without shelter, but also for America. Hurting US prestige and testifying vividly to the downside of capitalism is the sad sight of Americans huddling with cardboard on sidewalks or rummaging through garbage cans for food. Such

a sight also hurts tourism and reduces the quality of life for everybody in downtown areas where the homeless are the most visible.

The task force correctly identifies two broad groups: (1) the chronic homeless, often seen on downtown streets and often suffering disabilities such as mental illness and drug addiction, and (2) the temporary homeless, a larger but less visible group, which includes families

pushed outside by poverty.

Clinton's overall domestic policy — health-care reform, welfare reform, tax rebates to low-income workers and so forth — should help the latter group of homeless especially. The former group would particularly benefit from medical treatment, which would be enhanced with the money earmarked by the task force. The new funds would also go toward shoring up the continuum of housing assistance between the streets and a permanent home.

At last an administration is set to tackle a problem that's a national disgrace.

This administration recognizes that homelessness is bad not only for those without shelter, but also for America.

VIEWPOINT

Facing homelessness

The problem of homelessness has been a nagging one that has been plaguing the nation for several years now. The troubling images of people sleeping on grates, huddled in doorways or sprawled out on benches seem to embody the failure of the American dream for an ever-increasing number of people.

It is heartening, therefore, to see a straightforward and aggressive plan coming from the White House. The Clinton administration has 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.

If approved by President Clinton and submitted to Congress, a 100-page plan would represent the first time the government has identified homelessness as a major social problem demanding large-scale federal action. It is a responsible position that should have been taken long ago.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggests that homeless people be put in short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling and job training, then placed in affordable, permanent homes. It also recommends a dramatic overhaul of current programs and calls for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

The Clinton administration categorizes two classes of homeless Americans: 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, unable to adequately care for themselves.

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said the dynamics of homelessness have been misunderstood in the past, and the plan attempts to comprehend and respond to those variables. He added that for people who live in poverty, "homelessness is an ever-present threat."

For advocates of the homeless, this is a welcome response by the federal government, whose past approach, they feel, has been too fragmented and lacking in focus. "For the first time, the federal government has understood and stated the connection between homelessness and the larger issues of poverty," one advocate said.

The plan is no panacea but certainly is a milestone in the nation's approach to a nagging problem. The proposal still lacks detail about how it would work at the community level but is very specific about how much money is needed and would be spent. The administration's goal is to cut the homeless population by one-third by the end of Mr. Clinton's term.

Some aspects of the plan will require legislation, but the issue should not become politicized if members of Congress are prepared to begin dealing with the homeless issue in a responsible, comprehensive way.

New York Newsday
May 26, 1994

New York Newsday

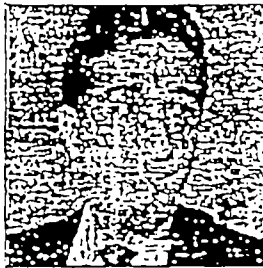
EDITORIALS

ANTHONY MARRO, Editor
DONALD FORST, New York Editor

JAMES S. TOEDTMAN, New York Managing Editor
ROBERT F. BRANDT, Managing Editor
HOWARD SCHNEIDER, Managing Editor

Uncle Sam Finds His Head, Heart

HUD's report on homelessness
acknowledges feds' proper role



Cisneros



Cuomo

Remember when President Ronald Reagan said people slept on heating grates by their own choice? New Yorkers should rejoice that the federal government has, at long last, acknowledged the seriousness and scope of homelessness in America. Last week, the Clinton administration released a sensible and wide-ranging plan to get people off the streets. It's a refreshing change from 12 years of head-in-the-sand homeless policy from the Reagan and Bush administrations.

For the first time, the federal government has said that it must take some responsibility for the mentally ill and drug addicts on our streets — and not merely dump the problem on state and local governments. If Congress approves the plan, and that's a big if, New York State could get \$183 million in federal money for the homeless next year — double what it got this past year.

In their report — "Priority: Home!" — Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros and aide Andrew Cuomo (who built shelters in New York before going to Washington) acknowledge that building more shelters won't solve anything. Instead, they propose permanent, sup-

ported housing for the mentally ill combined with tax credits for the poor. That's a big shift in policy from the last decade, when the bulk of federal money set aside for the homeless went into building shelters — not helping the poor stay out of shelters in the first place.

The report accepts a growing body of research that shows many more people suffer from homelessness than previously believed. Although only 600,000 people nationwide are homeless at any one time, 7 million suffered bouts of homelessness in the second half of the '80s. And, although drug addicts and the mentally ill are often homeless for years, millions of people with no chronic problems except poverty spend brief times in shelters.

The plan has some obvious flaws. It suggests cutting public housing money to pay for the new programs for the homeless. That's a rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul scheme that's bound to fail. But if money can be found elsewhere in the budget, the plan promises to make a dent, at least, in the shameful spectacle of men and women huddled on the heating grates of our nation's cities.

New York Newsday
May 31, 1994

Bigger U.S. Role in Aiding NY's Homeless

At Ronald Reagan
ing grates by their
ould rejoice that
; at long last, ac-
ss and scope of
ed States. Last
ration released a
lan to get people
ig change from 12
meless policies.
eral government
ne responsibility
; addicts on our
problem to state
ngress approves
k could get \$183

million in federal money for the homeless next year, double what it got this past year.

In their report, "Priority: Home!," Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros and Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo (who built shelters in New York before going to Washington) acknowledge that building more shelters won't solve anything. Instead, they propose permanent, supported housing for the mentally ill combined with tax credits for the poor. That's a big shift in policy from the last decade, when the bulk of federal money went into building shelters — not helping the poor stay out of shelters in the first place.

The report accepts a growing body of research that shows many more people exper-

ience homelessness than previously believed. Although only 600,000 nationwide are homeless at any one time, 7 million suffered bouts of homelessness in the second half of the '80s. And, although drug addicts and the mentally ill are often homeless for years, millions of people with no chronic problems except poverty spend brief times in shelters.

The plan has some flaws. It suggests cutting public-housing money to pay for new programs for the homeless. That rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul scheme is bound to fail. But if money can be found elsewhere in the budget, the plan promises to lessen the shameful spectacle of men and women huddled on the heating grates of our nation's cities.

HELP FOR HOMELESS

A comprehensive plan

The most noteworthy thing about the Clinton administration's new national plan to combat homelessness is that it takes a comprehensive approach toward a problem that too often is dealt with in a stopgap fashion. While it recognizes the crucial importance of local efforts to give immediate help to people who are on the streets, it also addresses the importance of helping people move past the need for emergency shelters.

The plan, which calls for \$900 million in new money, was unveiled after a year of work by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless. It marks the first official acknowledgment that homelessness is a national problem.

As the problem has grown and spread from the big cities into smaller towns, local governments and concerned civic groups and individuals have responded as best they could. In Winston-Salem, homeless people seek help most often in winter, when they turn to shelters operated by such agencies as the Bethesda Center, the Samaritan and Light-House Ministries, the Salvation Army and the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission. Here and elsewhere, the piecemeal system of helping the homeless often finds its resources strained.

The Clinton plan wisely proposes to build on such local efforts, although there is sure to be some argument about how best to do that. In the past, nonprofit agencies have sometimes found themselves competing with one another for limited federal funds. The plan recommends a change so that federal money will be given to localities in lump sums based on need, with more responsibility given to local governments to create comprehensive pro-

grams appropriate for the problems specific to their areas. Nationwide, advocates for the homeless and mayors of cities have backed such an approach, although some critics say that continuing to give money directly to nonprofit agencies might get help where it is needed sooner. Surely any community-based approach should continue to work through the agencies that are in place. But the plan seems reasonable in its call for a broader view, so that funds will be used to move homeless people from temporary aid to permanent, affordable housing. The important transitional step would involve job training, instruction in "living skills" and, when appropriate, substance abuse and mental health treatment.

The report said there are 600,000 homeless people in America now and 7 million have been homeless at one time or another between 1985 and 1990. It counted 1.5 million homeless children, many of whom attend school irregularly if at all. Here in North Carolina, the Department of Public Instruction estimates that there are about 5,900 homeless children, and it has federal money to help school systems help them.

Critics are already disputing some of the numbers. It's easy to argue, because one of the side effects of homelessness is being out of the mainstream of society and too easily invisible. The point isn't to come up with an exact figure, but to do something about the problem. The new plan may not be perfect. By stating a goal of reducing homelessness by a third in the next two years, it probably is doomed to be a disappointment. But with its recognition of the need and its comprehensive approach, it may at least be a good start.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

ROBERT J. HALL, Publisher and Chairman
MAXWELL E.P. KING, Editor and Executive Vice President
GENE FOREMAN, Deputy Editor and Vice President

JAMES M. NAUGHTON, Executive Editor
STEVEN M. LOVELADY, Managing Editor
RONALD PATEL, Associate Managing Editor
SANDRA L. WOOD, Associate Managing Editor
DAVID R. BOLOT, Editor of the Editorial Page
JANE R. EISNER, Deputy Editorial Page Editor
ACEL MOORE, Associate Editor

A26

Friday, June 3, 1994

EDITORIALS

Learning from Philly

*If the new federal homeless program
sounds familiar, that's because it is*

When it comes to sizing up the federal government's efforts to move people off the streets and under a roof, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry G. Cisneros is willing to admit past failings. He says Washington's two-dozen programs designed to combat homelessness comprise a fragmented, scattershot approach that's hardly made a dent.

Needless to say, he has a plan in mind to turn things around. And the strategy he announced recently is a promising one. It envisions a federal program that, essentially, would take cues from — what better place? — Philadelphia, among other cities.

Under the new program, there will be less emphasis on warehousing people; more on offering them a step-by-step hand up in changing their lives. And to a far greater extent, it will be local (rather than federal) officials who determine the tactics. The HUD secretary wants to nearly double to \$900 million the amount of federal funds available for homeless programs (something that he still has to get Congress to go along with), and to send the money out as block grants to fund a mix of shelter services, medical treatment, education and training.

If that sounds familiar, it's no wonder. Much the same strategy was adopted last fall by Mayor Rendell. It stresses shelter programs that help the homeless kick drug and alcohol habits, as well as creating more transitional and permanent housing. Offering these pro-

grams has given the city moral leverage to get tough with the hardcore homeless — removing them from subway concourses, discouraging panhandling and seeking to end on-the-street feeding programs that do nothing but spread trash — and allow the homeless to perpetuate self-destructive lifestyles.

In the short term, the city still has to work out a way to get a proposed 48-bed residence for the chronically homeless established at 15th and Fairmount, a project that's been delayed in the courts by community opposition. HUD officials are properly reluctant to commit more resources until that happens.

Once that issue is resolved, though, Philadelphia should be ideally positioned to take advantage of HUD's strategy. The proposed federal program would double the federal aid the city gets for homeless services. It would allow the city to give the rent subsidies needed to provide affordable housing for the homeless, which is an unfulfilled promise under the city's current initiative.

There's an appropriate sense of realism in the fact that, even with the additional funding, HUD expects to reduce homelessness only by a third. That's an indication of the problem's size and complexity. For many of those living on the streets — young, addicted people who are virtually unemployable — the route to productive lives will be long and hard. Some may not make it.

Nashville Tennessean

May 31, 1994

EDITORIALS

THE TENNESSEAN

Craig Moon
Publisher and President

Frank Sutherland
Vice President/News and Editor
C.W. Johnson Jr., Managing Editor
Sandra Roberts, Managing Editor/Opinion
David Green, Managing Editor/News
Ted Power, Managing Editor/Sports
Catherine Mayhew, Managing Editor/Features
D'Anna Sharon, Art Director
Ray Wong, Systems Editor
Frank Rüter, Reader Advocate

John Seigenthaler
Chairman Emeritus

Mike Christopher
Assistant to the President
Donald M. Stinson, Vice President/Advertising
Mike Clartimbell, Special Projects/Planning Director
Marian Eichelman, Marketing Director
Patti Cressell Gibbons, Customer Info./Program Director
Guy Gilmore, Circulation Director
Rick Koels, Systems Director
Ron Kregel, Production Director
Simon Lewis, Human Resources Director
Lawrence M. St Cyr, Finance Director

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

Homeless plan lays base

AT first glance, the Clinton administration's recent report, *Priority: Home*, seems to take the federal government's concern over homelessness to an entirely new and more realistic plane.

Where previous administrations have done precious little about homelessness, President Clinton signed an executive order last year directing 17 federal agencies to develop a blueprint for breaking the cycle of homelessness. That effort, directed by assistant HUD secretary Andrew Cuomo, involved a sweeping national effort to identify the scope of the problem and formulate appropriate responses.

Where previous administrations downplayed the number of homeless, this report estimates that 7 million people were homeless during the second half of the 1980. Previous government estimates of about 600,000 homeless people were based on the number of individuals who could be counted on the streets on a given night.

Where previous administrations tended to treat homelessness as a problem brought on primarily by lack of will, this

report assesses the way in which poverty, drug addiction, changes in the family structure and the lack of affordable housing have worsened the problem.

As an analytical tool, the report is superb, and that in itself provides a huge benefit. Where it falls short is in its recommendations.

The report calls for doubling the McKinney Act budget, which was established to help the homeless, to \$1.7 billion. But those funds, though they are certainly needed, would be funneled through local governments, many of which have not been responsive or sensitive to the homeless problem.

The report advocates a "seamless" approach to providing for the immediate needs of the homeless, but it is still lacking in concrete recommendations to help homeless people build their own independence.

Priority: Home demonstrates a real commitment to help the problem of homelessness. But it is best viewed, not as a blueprint to solve the problem, but as the foundation. Even at that, it's the government's best work ever on homelessness.

More than housing

Addiction, mental illness plague the homeless

The Clinton administration's new plan to reduce homelessness offers some good ideas. They include encouraging different programs to work together and funneling resources to local nonprofit groups instead of to a giant bureaucratic operation run out of Washington.

But the plan, announced this week, has a major flaw — one that will limit its chances for success.

The proposal, entitled "Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness," was authored primarily by Andrew Cuomo, an assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Not surprisingly, Cuomo focuses on housing as the solution to homelessness.

While there is a critical need for more low-income housing, homelessness is not just a housing problem. It is largely a problem of alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness — diseases that can leave their victims disabled and alienated from society.

The Cuomo report separates the homeless into two general categories, those suffering from "crisis poverty" and those suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness. Cuomo claims the latter comprise a minority of the homeless.

The report recommends solutions, including enacting low-income housing tax incentives, increasing job training and expanding mental health and substance abuse treatment. Expanding treatment is the only proposal that addresses the prime cause of most homelessness.

The Cuomo report states that the homeless who suffer from chemical dependency and mental disorders are in the minority. But it later contradicts that claim by stating that about half the home-

less have alcohol problems; 15 to 20 percent have drug problems; and one-third suffer severe mental illness.

And those are conservative figures. Most homeless experts agree that 65 to 85 percent of the homeless suffer from one or a combination of these disorders. Even by Cuomo's statistics, chemical dependency and other mental disorders are clearly the biggest contributors to homelessness.

Cuomo's lack of understanding of how chemical dependency can lead to homelessness is revealed when he states: "... the experience of homelessness itself may trigger heavy drinking and drug use by people who have not had such problems in the past ..."

That's a naive view, one that would be discounted by most substance abuse experts. Alcoholism and drug addiction land people on the streets; it's not the other way around.

Perhaps Cuomo should have talked to the Salvation Army, the largest agency helping the homeless. The Salvation Army realized in the 1950s that meals and housing weren't enough. That's when it began its alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers, 200 of which are now scattered across the nation.

While acknowledging that some homeless persons are victims of economic circumstances, Major Robert Bodine, a 30-year veteran of the Salvation Army and the administrator of the Adult Rehabilitation Center in San Diego, says that 75 to 85 percent of the homeless have drug, alcohol or mental illness problems.

That's got to be the focus of the federal government's homeless program. By playing down the real underlying causes of homelessness, the Cuomo plan risks becoming just another failed government program.

Comment

The Arizona Daily Star
Founded 1877

Stephen E. Auslander, Editor

Michael E. Pulitzer, Publisher

James M. Kiser, Editorial Page Editor

EDITORIALS

'Seeing' the homeless

For almost 15 years, the federal government did its best to ignore the shivering ranks of the unhoused.

Now, finally, it has ended that long aversion with a report on the terrible "cycles" of homelessness.

That report — while unfortunately short on plans for redemption — marks a key act of recognition by the American government of the existence, size, complexity and sadness of this nation's homeless problem. As such, the study furnishes the truths necessary to begin at last addressing a tragedy.

Above all, the report is honest.

Here for the first time the federal government admits that perhaps 7 million Americans experienced homelessness during the late 1980s.

Such candor is unprecedented. Just by acknowledging that 600,000 people may go homeless on a given night the interagency report makes unavoidable far more concerted action by the likes of its creators: the secretaries of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs.

Moreover, additional weight comes from the plan's refusal to simplify causes. The plan ascribes to mental illness and addictions about half the homeless cases in this regard. But it also notices how much homelessness has resulted from the wrenching economic changes of the last decade. This is crucial.

After all, the poverty in which 37 million Americans now live pushes some into homelessness. Others land there because fewer jobs now exist for unskilled workers. And trouble arises because of a huge drop in the buying power of welfare benefits, from \$799 for a family of four in 1979 to \$435 a month today, all in 1992 dollars.

Beyond that, the new report suggests how such benefit declines have exacerbated the social cost of the disappearance of

"huge numbers" of old rooming houses, cheap apartments and single room occupancy hotels. And so the document adds new dimensions to a complex picture that sets a standard of honesty about who the homeless are and why they are homeless. For this achievement especially, the plan should be welcomed as a clear-eyed and compassionate act of seeing what has remained often unseen.

"Seeing," though, only prepares the way to action, and it's in that department where HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros' clear-eyed report lapses into furriveness, cloudy bureaucratese and vagueness.

Yes, the plan mentions increasing housing subsidies and creating tax breaks to ease rent burdens.

But a lot of slick social-service language about "reinventing" the approach, creating a "continuum of care," and "streamlined application processes" obscures clarity more than sharpens it. Mostly the plan envisions reshaping the "make-shift half-measures" of current federal policy. But even so the language of "coordinating" and "prioritizing" leaves little impression of significant new commitments or approaches.

Moreover, even the plan's major recommendation confirms the impression of budget-lite incrementalism. Thus, the announcement of a doubling of the HUD homeless budget to \$1.7 billion with additional increases in federal assistance to \$2.1 billion pales badly. After all, this very doubling infuriated homeless advocates just months ago when President Clinton announced it in his 1993 budget proposal, since Clinton funded it by slashing several other poverty programs.

But then, such Clintonite slipperiness in the follow-up to a necessary bit of acknowledgment seems — for now at least — vastly preferable to the near complete inattention of recent administrations.

Perhaps now this nation will begin to act on what it now must admit.

'The myth of 'the homeless'

Oakland Tribune
May 20, 1994

THE Clinton administration unveiled its homeless plan this week, the product of a year's research into why this country failed to resolve the problem despite a decade of effort.

It was the decade in which America began to see the poor at its doorstep as a new category of people, cast onto the streets by misfortune and kept there by neglect.

We came to call those people The Homeless and anguished over them as we hadn't anguished since The Great Depression threw all classes into economic ruin.

But after four months of investigation, the Alameda Newspaper Group has concluded that this is no new social phenomenon; it is caused by a host of factors, some of them as old as poverty and mental illness, as tragic as the Vietnam War, as contemporary as the breakup of families and the loss of social mores, as transitory as economic ups and downs, as simple as failure to work.

We found that, far from neglecting the homeless, we have been helping them in myriad, growing ways for years — ways that haven't "cured" the homeless problem because homelessness isn't a disease. For most people, it is a symptom of other problems. For others — that small but obnoxious minority known as panhandlers — it is a profession.

By far, the leading cause of homelessness is poverty — the plague of all societies, especially those which give people the opportunity to succeed or fail. But poverty is not the only cause, and in most cases is a consequence of their own behavior that plunges people into homelessness.

Homeless make poor choices

Many people fall for reasons beyond their control; yet many more fall, and become homeless, as a direct result of their own poor choices. For all of them, our society must offer shelter from the night — without having to turn parks and streets and whole city centers into vagrancy camps. We must provide opportunities for shelter but also be willing, as Mayor Frank Jordan has in San Francisco, to take back the streets from those who reject opportunity and exploit charity.

But let us not be so foolish as to think lack of shelter is the reason so many people are homeless.

To eliminate homelessness we would have to end poverty and all its attendant causes. Not even Clinton, in his call for a crusade against homelessness, is naive enough to take on that ancient foe.

Clinton, however, is recommending a heavy federal expenditure to augment an already huge array of federal, state and local programs that directly or indirectly help people who are homeless. There already are scores of such programs in the Bay Area

page.

Clinton's plan, reflective of the shift from a Republican to a Democratic administration, recommends immediately doubling the HUD homeless budget to \$1.7 billion and increasing overall federal homeless assistance to \$2.1 billion.

Activists have applauded the proposed increases and the plan's goal of reducing the homeless population by a third by the end of Clinton's first term. They had it as a long-overdue recognition of homelessness as a "major problem" requiring a "large-scale federal action." Never mind the \$1.3 billion already authorized for federal homeless programs this fiscal year alone.

How many are homeless?

Indeed, there is plenty to argue about in the plan. Its estimate of the homeless population — roughly 7 million — includes anyone who had a single episode of homelessness any time between 1985 and 1990. The report does state that 600,000 people are homeless on any given night, but the

federal definitions of homelessness are so fluid that the figure could include temporarily displaced people who spent that given night with relatives.

The report's fundamental approach

There are scores of programs to help the homeless. A partial list appears on the Op-Edit page.

is for homeless people to be taken in through emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo job training and/or drug, alcohol or mental health treatments before being placed in permanent housing. It outlines comprehensive programs to treat substance abuse, mental illness and other personal problems common to the homeless, and gives local governments more money for creating programs tailored to local needs.

Eating the bootstrap

What Congress must do, as it assesses the Clinton approach, is refuse to endorse any grandiose spending solutions that mimic the 1960's "Great Society" of President Lyndon B. Johnson, which, except for Operation Head Start, was a great failure. We must not repeat the fundamental mistake of that era: to hand out money as the bootstrap by which people would pull themselves into self-sufficiency. Witness our corrupt welfare system — people eat the bootstrap.

Instead, Congress must focus on giving support where it is most likely to help — at the street level of the cities of America, where already exist a remarkable number of programs and help groups, both private and public, for attacking the roots of homelessness.

As for us, the angst-ridden people whose taxes fund this unprecedented attempt to eliminate misfortune, keep that in mind the next time you're accosted by an aggressive panhandler. Just say no, and for once feel

Helping the homeless

Although the Clinton administration has come up with a \$1.7 billion plan to help the homeless. It may be hard for a lot of people to have much confidence in a program based on an estimate of homeless that is more than 10 times larger than the last homeless estimate made by federal experts.

Certainly most Americans who have homes and pay taxes also have the compassion to be in favor of having the federal government help build and finance shelters where homeless people can be fed, clothed, given beds, medical care and counseling, and protected from harm.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development spent \$555 million on the problem during President George Bush's last term in office. That expenditure was based on the 1990 U.S. census count of 600,000.

The new estimate is based on the idea that millions of people move in and out of homelessness but might not be homeless when a formal count is taken.

An estimate based on a concept instead of a count is subject to skepticism.

As much if not more than an estimate, which could be grossly inflated, made by professional homeless advocates, the public needs an honest analysis of who the homeless are and why they are homeless.

Most such studies made in recent years say that 75 to 85 percent of homelessness is due to substance abuse or mental illness. This means that these homeless need medical care. In many cases long-term medical care. For a great many this requires some regularity of lifestyle which they choose not to follow, preferring to come and go as they please.

Thousands of people devote time and effort to helping the homeless, and in many instances their task can be made easier by government help.

But the problems of the homeless are not likely be brought closer to solution by haphazard estimates of millions of uncounted homeless.

LA DAILY NEWS
MAY 19, 1994
HOMELESS

Plan offers treatment for area homeless

By Rick Orlov
Daily News Staff Writer

Los Angeles officials on Wednesday backed a proposed federal program that could result in more than \$46 million for city and county programs for the treatment of the homeless.

"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," Mayor Rich-

ard Riordan said following a briefing by federal officials.

Henry Cisneros, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, announced the \$7.1 billion program known as "Priority: Home" on Tuesday.

Under details released Wednesday, the city of Los Angeles would be eligible for \$39 million, with the county of Los Angeles receiving \$17 million. The program still is subject to congressional approval.

Cisneros' proposal calls for a re-

vamping of homeless programs to include outreach to the homeless population with a goal of providing permanent housing with local government in charge of the program.

"This new approach will mean streamlined resources to agencies that provide essential services to homeless families and individuals," Riordan said.

Included in the briefing with Riordan were a number of homeless activists, who also endorsed the proposal.

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 1995

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.

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 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.

Tampa, Florida ■ Thursday, May 19, 1994

HUD's boss bears heaviest agenda of all

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 homeless, President Clinton's team finally came up with a program to ignite the progressive movement that remains the heart of the party of Franklin D. 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. It isn't even new: The money was part of Clinton's budget submitted three months ago.

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 his day — not just the homeless, but the festering poverty of the inner city.

Scope of problem

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 drug addicts and mentally ill that are permanently without shelter.

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

Clinton ordered up this report a year ago, but was not on hand to receive and endorse it when it was launched by three Cabinet secretaries led by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 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. Cisneros says Clinton has personally reassured him he is fully behind the all-fronts assault he is starting to make on homelessness and inner-city housing.

"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."

Housing plan

The most controversial of the ideas is to tear down heavy concentrations of inner-city public housing and redistribute 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 got hardly any notice. But Cisneros says he is taking heavy fire from both ends of the spectrum — not only from big-city race-baiters riling up the white populations but from minority politicians who fear seeing their bases of support thinned out.

The former San Antonio mayor, nonetheless, says he is 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.

Cisneros decried housing projects that are enclaves of despair "where gangs and drug dealers control the stairwells, 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 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.

Administration unveils \$1.7 billion proposal for homeless programs

By Sonya Ross
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.

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

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."

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 4.96 million and 9.53 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

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.

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, 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 shouldn't 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."

Wednesday, May 18, 1994

Marietta Daily Journal



Tipper Gore, right, wife of Vice President Al Gore, holds a copy of the homeless report issued by the Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless in Washington on Tuesday. Georgia Ferguson, left, resident of Trinity House in Washington, looks at the report's cover on which she and her family are pictured.

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 Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimates 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-

sues 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 1990s, 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 recreation programs for homeless children.

Friday, May 20, 1994

Daily Herald

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.

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."

State homeless may get more U.S. aid

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.

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. M517

INDIANAPOLIS STAR NEWS May 18, 1994

Local advocates of homeless laud the president's new plan

■ 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

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," 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."

Proposed HUD funding would give Minnesota \$24 million for homeless

By Jean Hopfensperger
Staff Writer

Federal money for homeless shelters and services in Minnesota would reach an all-time high under a sweeping plan to revamp federal homeless programs that was submitted to President Clinton last week.

If approved by Congress, Minnesota would receive \$24 million for emergency shelters, transitional housing, rural homeless assistance and other programs now part of the McKinney Act. The state received \$3.5 million for those programs in 1993 and 1992 and \$7.1 million in 1991, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which administers the programs.

The budget increase could mean a boost to the state's nonprofit housing industry and the construction of much-needed housing for the homeless, the poor and others who are particularly vulnerable to homelessness such as those with developmental disabilities or mental retardation,

said housing officials.

Likewise, the proposed funding formula puts the state in a better position to capture federal money and use it in a more flexible way, said Patricia Mack, the assistant manager of the state HUD office.

"This money isn't all that's needed to solve the homeless problem," said Shawn Huckleby, director of community planning and development in the state office. "But if passed by Congress, this would provide a level of funding to combat homelessness that is unprecedented. It would provide our communities with a stream of income that would be available to them over years that would allow them to engage in long-term problem-solving."

About 3,700 people in Minnesota stay in homeless shelters on a given night. That doesn't include those living in cars, on the streets or with family and friends. The number of

Homeless continued on page 3B

Continued from page 1B

homeless has climbed steadily the past decade.

A system of shelters has been developed, as well as some transitional living programs and other housing that also provide such services as drug treatment or job-hunting skills.

But the current network of housing and services is inadequate and poorly coordinated, and it has gaping holes, housing officials said. The state needs housing for homeless youth, for people with developmental disabilities or mental retardation, they said. It also needs permanent housing for them.

"The cost of rental housing has increased a lot faster than [people's] incomes and public assistance benefit," said Tom Fulton, president of the Housing Fund of Minneapolis and St. Paul. "That has led to a real shortage of decent housing that poor people can afford. And homelessness is the most obvious symptom of this deeper problem."

Although demand for services has soared, federal funds have not. And the money that was available was

Jerseyans praise plan to increase homeless aid

By CARYL R. LUCAS

A comprehensive strategy by President Clinton to alleviate homelessness could provide New Jersey substantial funding increases to provide services, state officials said. Eight towns and nine counties, 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 \$2.8 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 \$8.4 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 or 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 the problem and the conditions that often lead to homelessness and hopelessness, we also must come together to combat this problem as 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 the Department of Health 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 on the streets. The commission at Bloomfield College are planning to conduct a new count next month.

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.

4 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.

Wednesday, May 18, 1994

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.

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 \$1.25 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 re-

bates 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 Foscarnas, 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.

Proposal may boost funds for homeless

Lubbock could receive \$1.7 million in federal funds during fiscal year 1995 if Congress passes legislation being proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to Gene Whitney, HUD's acting area coordinator.

For the past seven years, Lubbock's annual allotment has averaged \$230,608, Whitney said.

The proposal for increased funding is tied to a Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless report released this week, he said.

The 100-page plan includes an analysis of the causes of homelessness and an overview of relief efforts.

The document says the homeless population consists mainly of people younger than 40 with no close family, no steady work and a higher-than-average prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness.

Veterans and minorities are disproportionately represented, the report says.

The plan includes consolidating many McKinney Homeless Assistance Act programs and doubling HUD's homeless funding.

It also provides mental health and substance abuse services for the poor and increasing the use of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

NN may get money to fight homelessness

Clinton's budget doubles funding

By Fettes Dolman
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.

Help homeless, U.S. plan urges

■ Clinton's proposal
is praised by a local
homeless advocate

Associated Press
and Press-Gazette

The Clinton administration today announced 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, urged that the homeless be:

- Taken in through short-term emergency shelters.
- Given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training.
- Placed in 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."

Rolfe White, chairman of the Brown County Task Force for the Homeless, today said the report appears to be on target.

He lauded the plan for addressing the non-housing needs of homeless people, such as support services "to help them get connected with and stay in" counseling and job training programs.

"How that ultimately filters down to the local level is one of the key issues," White said.

Homeless advocates will have to be vigilant to ensure Brown County receives its share of any new federal housing money, he added.

\$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.

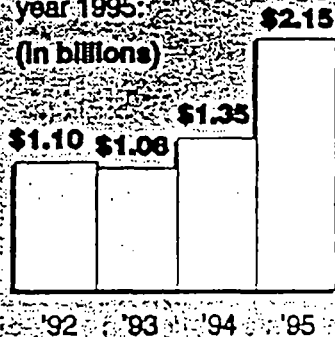
Among the plan's details:

- ▶ 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.

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 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 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

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

Both 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 nonprofit organizations and in some cases to 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.

"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 George 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 area nonprofit organizations, she argued, the services would already be available to homeless people.

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.

Kondratas, who now works for the Hudson Institute, a conservative think-tank, also took exception to the Administration's estimates of the magnitude of homelessness, calling the 7 a million figure "irresponsible." She said that it confuses the problem of chronic homelessness with those who are very poor and might be without a home for a brief period of time.

The Administration contends in its report, however, that the two issues are inseparable.

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 be-

Please see HUD, A11

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—to award 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 \$2 million it is scheduled to receive. Other cities qualifying for pilot programs have yet to be announced.

Homeless programs may get \$1.7 billion

By Sonya Ross

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.

The higher figure was part of a new strategy unveiled yesterday 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 plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, suggested a "continuum of care," recommended a dramatic overhaul of current programs, and called for "emergency measures" to move homeless people back into society.

Los Angeles County officials estimate that there are between 70,000 and 80,000 homeless people countywide. The 1990 census counted 1,500 homeless in the San Gabriel Valley, a figure that has been disputed. It was not immediately known how the San Gabriel

Valley area would be affected by the proposal.

Lutheran Social Services estimates that there are as many as 7,500 homeless in the San Gabriel Valley, based on an independent 1992 survey. If the new federal report is correct, the number could jump to 18,000, said Joe Colletti, the Pasadena-based group's San Gabriel Valley director.

"It's surprising (the federal government) came back and validated the increase," Colletti said. "We were saying to the U.S. government that the amount was at least five times (more than the federal count), and now they are

coming back saying it is nearly 12 times the amount.

The nonprofit agency operates a cold-weather shelter at various local churches for up to 100 homeless people on any given night in the East Valley, he said.

In Whittier, the 1990 census count showed 61 people living in emergency shelters. However, city officials and local homeless activists still dispute that. The actual homeless population is more like 70 to 100, according to the city's 1993 General Plan Update.

Dea Comini, coordinator of a church-based shelter program in Whittier, said she helped organize

the local census count and she is not surprised some were missed.

"We didn't get as many as we thought we would," Comini said. "A lot of them don't want to be registered in any way, the more anonymous the better."

Comini reacted to the potential \$1.7 billion for homeless programs with some hesitation.

"If they are going to do something about mental health and job training, then I think that's critical," she said.

— Staff writers Vicki Smith, Roberto Cisneros and Michael Utley contributed to this Associated Press story.

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 600,000 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

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

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

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.

"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.

■ 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.

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:

New Federal Funding for Homeless Programs Gets Mixed Response

By Joe Strupp

A new federal plan that would double spending for programs for the homeless and cut the number of street people by one-third drew mixed reaction from city officials and homeless-rights advocates last week.

Advocates for the homeless criticized the program's emphasis

on emergency shelters over permanent housing. Local homeless-advocacy groups expressed fear that the mayor's Matrix program would hurt the city's chances for the federal funds.

Matrix, which began in August, combines mental-health and social outreach programs for the homeless with a police crackdown

on "quality of life" crimes such as loitering, sleeping in parks, and urinating outdoors. More than 8,000 arrests or citations have been made since the program began.

City officials said they had been assured that Matrix would not hurt San Francisco's chances for more funds for the homeless and

See HUD, page 3

HUD: New Federal Homeless Program Gets Mixed Reaction

from page 1

that they welcomed the federal effort announced last week by Henry Cisneros, secretary of housing and urban development (HUD).

"It will be a positive addition to the city," said Eleanor Jacobs, Mayor Frank Jordan's homeless coordinator, regarding the federal program. "We are working with different advisory and homeless groups on how to incorporate the federal plan into our efforts; we are all working at the same table."

Homeless-rights advocates disagreed, saying the federal plan would take money from permanent housing and apply it to emergency shelters, without increasing overall funding.

"It will take money from where we need it, for low-income housing, and put it somewhere else. That will not work," said Malika Saada-Saar, family rights coordinator for the Coalition on Homelessness. "We need money for both."

Public-private programs

According to a HUD report released last week, the program will double federal funds for the homeless to \$1.7 billion by 1995. The funds will benefit three general areas: emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing.

Instead of funding separate, private programs in each city, HUD will require joint programs created between city and county governments and nonprofit groups.

Some critics of the plan said the requirement for public-private partnerships would be difficult to meet

agree on one plan, which is difficult," said Saada-Saar. "In order for the city to receive money, it will have to show community unity, which is not there."

Randy Shaw of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, also balked at the federal government's promise.

"It's essentially a repackaging of money for emergency shelters, but they don't end homelessness," said Shaw. "Money for permanent housing does more. That is what this should include."

Shaw also expressed little hope that city officials would put the money to good use.

"We have not had great solutions to homelessness in this administration," said Shaw. "I don't think it will make any difference at all in San Francisco, but at least we will still have access to some funds."

Tom Osher of Food Not Bombs, which feeds the homeless on a regular basis, also doubted that HUD would follow through on its promise.

"I think HUD has kind of a bad reputation for corruption and the way

they abuse their position," said Osher. "This will just be more money that we will have to go through the mayor to get."

Concern about Matrix

Homeless-rights advocates said Matrix could derail the city's share of funding by showing an anti-homeless

It's essentially a repackaging of money for emergency shelters, but they don't end homelessness. Money for permanent housing does more.

— Randy Shaw,
Tenderloin Housing Clinic

position.

City leaders, who have spent weeks meeting with Cisneros and other federal officials, said Matrix had not been an issue.

"Other mayors are calling us to find out about Matrix. It has become

a model for the country," said Jacobs. "I don't think it's going to hurt anything. It is a help, because it shows we are reaching out to help the homeless."

Noah Griffin, Jordan's press secretary, said homeless-rights groups were opposing the plan without knowing all the facts.

"None of these groups or organizations have been going to Washington, D.C., but we have. And we have seen that the mayor and Secretary Cisneros are on the same page," said Griffin. "There is nothing that will block monies to San Francisco, and we are going to get those monies."

Brian Cahill, city social services director, said the exact distribution had not been worked out but that the city would see a good portion of new funding.

"They have said that they definitely want to fund San Francisco, but there are some questions of priority for Los Angeles because of the earthquake down there," said Cahill. "We expect to get something out of it."

Homeless plan calls for \$1.7 billion in aid

Study says people living on the street should be out 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 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



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 bucket 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 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.

Clinton's initiative for homeless threatens funding for space station

By Thomas Hargrove
BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

The space station's many congressional enemies have got a new ideological weapon they hope to use to shoot down the troubled project next month.

They argue that the increasingly limited federal budget can not fund both the \$17.9 billion space platform and President Clinton's new initiative to help the nation's estimated 600,000 homeless people.

Such a tactic represents a nightmare scenario for the station's increasingly besieged defenders on

Capitol Hill. The station survived a House floor fight last year by a single vote.

"It is unfortunate that this is being considered as an either-or proposition, that we either feed the homeless or build the space station," said Tom Tripp, spokesman for Boeing Co., the station contractor.

The White House announced last week a new initiative to help the homeless that will require an additional \$900 million over current funding levels. Rep. Barney Frank, Massachusetts Democrat, said that kind of money can only come by terminating a "big-ticket"

program like the space station.

"I thought after NASA was able to fix the Hubble Telescope that they would be home free," Mr. Frank said Monday. "But now I think it will be close. The budget crunch clearly has got people thinking."

Stan Collender is a federal budget expert for the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse. He noted that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is allocated money by the same House Appropriations subcommittee that covers the Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs departments. HUD will

oversee the new homelessness program.

Sen. Howell Heflin, Alabama Democrat, said the new attacks on the station "must be taken seriously." Alabama has a big stake in the project since the station is being designed at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville and partly constructed at a Boeing plant in the state.

"No budget is free from the threat of being reduced or eliminated. The situation is especially difficult for NASA because it must compete with several other worthwhile programs for its funding," Heflin said Monday night.

"No doubt, this is going to be a tough year for NASA and the space station."

The Clinton administration still strongly supports the station and has asked Congress for \$2.1 billion next year. "There is a wonderful advocate out there for us — Vice President Al Gore has been a tremendous boost to it," Tripp said.

But the administration also insists that something must be done to help the homeless.

Mr. Clinton's plan for funding the initiative is not entirely clear.

"They have said there is money in the pipeline, that it basically would come out of public housing,"

Mr. Frank said.

But lawmakers from areas with high poverty rates are likely to become increasingly irritated with the space station, a much-delayed program that already is billions of dollars over budget.

"I think there is a fairly typical view up there [on Capitol Hill] that since the space station is in the \$2 billion range, it is a potential bill-payer for other programs," Mr. Tripp said.

"The space station has always been a target, and probably always will be."

• Distributed by Scripps Howard

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.

Administration unveils \$1.7 billion proposal for homeless programs

By Sonya Ross
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.

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 \$695 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."

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."

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 4.96 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 homelessness over an extended period of time.

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 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

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.

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

Fred Kamas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system is a good idea, but shouldn't 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," Kamas 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."

Wednesday, May 18, 1994

Marietta Daily Journal



Tipper Gore, right, wife of Vice President Al Gore, holds a copy of the homeless report issued by the Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless in Washington on Tuesday. Georgia Ferguson, left, a resident of Trinity House in Washington, looks at the report's cover, on which she and her family are pictured.

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 1990s, 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 9.62 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 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 1,000.

That's far above the official U.S. Census estimate of 450 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."

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

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.

\$900 Million Plan to Help Homeless

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."

Funds for homeless to increase seven-fold

by Ethan Michael

Marsha Martin, the author of the Clinton administration's new program for combating homelessness, said funds for Illinois could increase from \$13 million in 1994 to \$90 million in Fiscal Year 1995.

Of that sum, Martin said during a Wednesday press conference at the Christian Industrial League, 123 S. Green St., that \$5.9 million has been earmarked for the city of Chicago, but there's a catch.

To get that money, Martin explained that government officials, homeless individuals, advocates for the homeless and service providers will have to work together and come up with a comprehensive plan that meets the needs and fills the gaps of helping the homeless.

Known as "Priority: Home," the new federal program seeks to reduce the number of homeless on the street by providing homeless individuals with comprehensive care from shelters to supportive housing to job training.

Noting that cities have been coping with the problems of homelessness for decades, Martin said "Priority: Home" aims to grant municipalities the flexibility to tailor their solutions.

"Most cities grapple with this

problem without the government. What they want is a government that will give them the money," Martin said.

"Well, we're giving them the

"What (cities) want is a government that will give them the money," Martin said. "Well, we're giving them the money and there are no strings attached."

money and there are no strings attached.

"We're only going to be watching if something goes wrong," she added.

Martin, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Interagency Council on the Homeless, envisions a process that would place homeless individuals, advocates and government officials on a seven-person board that would write the plan and submit it to HUD.

Rather than individual homeless service providers submitting grants directly to the federal government, all the grant money would be administered by the planning boards.

With opportunity for public comment all along the way, Martin said HUD will look for "red flags" that could signal a break in the continuum of assistance.

And if a cohesive plan doesn't materialize or if significant community opposition arises to a plan, Martin warned the Department of Housing and Urban Development will step in and take over the process.

"The money won't come to the communities if the city doesn't sign on to the plan," Martin explained.

"People will have to work together if they want those entitlements."

Edwin Eisendrath, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros' representative in the Midwest, emphasized that "Priority: Home" will aim to address the problems of the homeless even as it works to help those low-income Americans at jeopardy for homelessness.

Even after it makes its way through the U.S. Congress, Eisendrath said the philosophy behind the program will stay in place.

Portland, Maine
May 18, 1994

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

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.

"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."

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 162,309 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 Foccarinas, 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," Foccarinas 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 Hazle and family, homeless in Detroit for two months, hailed the news.

City may get \$28 million from homeless aid plan

By Heidi Mae Bratt
and Kim Trent

THE DETROIT NEWS

Detroit could get \$28 million in a single year under President Clinton's plan to fight homelessness across the nation, according to figures released by the White House.

That would be nearly double the amount Detroit has received since 1987 to help homeless people, and an amount Mayor Dennis Archer said would have real impact on the city and its residents.

"It would be outstanding," Archer said Thursday. "If President Clinton is able to make this happen, we'll have a comprehensive proposal before the federal government" to qualify for the money.

First, however, Clinton has to persuade Congress to authorize \$900 million in new funding for homelessness programs, bringing

the total funding to \$1.7 billion. Cities, which would have to submit plans for the grants, would have wide discretion on how they spend the money.

The president's bid for the ambitious new program follows a report by federal task force that found some 600,000 Americans are homeless. The report recommended more money for local nonprofits that help homeless people get their lives on track, and funding for mental health and drug abuse treatment.

The amount of money Detroit could receive under the proposed homeless initiative is in accordance with a national formula that is based on community block grant funding. Of the proposed \$1.7 billion, Michigan would get 4 percent, which would include the funds for Detroit.

Joanne Klocke, who heads Archer's newly formed Task Force on Homelessness, said Detroit would use the new money to provide long-range solutions to homelessness in part by teaching self-reliance to those in trouble.

Officials estimate that the number of homeless people on Detroit streets and in shelters has soared from 2,000 to 6,000 in the last three years since the state ended its general assistance welfare in 1991.

In the past, the cash-strapped city has been unable to seriously attack the problem. Homeless shelter beds have increased, but homeless aid programs remain a patchwork of efforts run by private charities that don't always work with the city.

"It's been quite disjointed," Klocke said. "We know we have to have a coordinated system in Detroit."

From 1987 to 1993, Detroit got a total of \$15.3 million in federal money to fight homelessness — far less than the \$28 million Detroit could get under the proposal in 1995. The potential windfall is almost half the size of Detroit's current overall budget deficit of \$63.5 million.

Rick Wears, a program manager at Detroit's office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said the funds would allow Detroit to do some long-range planning and allow the city to set its own priorities.

"It gives the local level the flexibility to say what their priorities are instead of funding being based on some category that Congress decides they want to put money into," Wears said.

Homeless advocates were pleased by the news, but tempered their enthusiasm.

"I'm glad the city could be getting more money," said Ted Phillips, executive director of the United Community Housing Coalition, a nonprofit group that helps low-income Detroit residents with housing problems.

"But there need to be more controls on how it's spent."

City Councilman Mel Ravitz agreed.

"The infusion of \$28 million would be a great spur forward if it's used well. The trick will be to make people self-sufficient."

7 Million Homeless, Administration Says

Task Force Wants \$1.7 Billion To Fight Problem

Compiled From News Services

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

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

The Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, which compiled the report, put the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s. The most recent draft of Tuesday's report gave a range between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

The task force brought together staff from 17 federal agencies. Its plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

The group suggested that homeless people be taken in through short-term emergency shelters, given transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training and 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 are ready to mobilize the
See HOMELESS, Page 12

Homeless

From page one

powerful resources of the federal government to bring an end to this tragedy," said Veteran Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown. He estimated that 500,000 U.S. veterans were homeless at some time in any given year.

Previous administrations had put the total number of homeless at only 600,000, mainly because the population was counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies that did not consider those who fall in and out of homelessness over an extended period of time.

The task force suggested that nonprofit groups be allowed to help homeless people get federal aid, such as food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the application process directly to the streets.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 would be \$2.1 billion.

But Clinton administration officials said that even with the extra money, only one-third of homeless people were 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 G. 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."

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 num-

bers 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.

Karen Sprague, director of the Housing Resource Center in St. Louis, called the federal report a "starting point for getting adequate funds." Sprague said about 10,000 homeless people, including 3,200 children 5 or younger, seek shelter in St. Louis city each year.

The federal government considers the Housing Resource Center a model program for helping the homeless, Sprague said. The center works to keep families in their homes and offers the families help with employment, budgeting and home maintenance. Last year, the center spent \$100,375 to help 383 families in the city.

Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, said the task force's plan was 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 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."

Theresa Tighe of the Post-Dispatch staff

Plan would add \$900 million to cut homeless by a third

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Tuesday unveiled a new federal effort to combat homelessness and pledged to reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term. The plan would add \$900 million in new money to the effort.

In a Housing and Urban Development report, the administration contended that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are homeless, and that 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 Tuesday coincided with the administration's attempt 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.

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

questioned that even the resources being contemplated by the administration would be sufficient to meet the need. "It's doomed to disappoint because for the first time the federal government understands the problem and because of political reality it cannot respond adequately," said Fred Karnas, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

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

More money available is always nice, but it depends on how it's going to be allocated, said Jennifer Woodford, volunteer coordinator of the Uptown Shelter/George Shinn Center in Charlotte. "If it's going to create a whole other layer of agencies, then I don't know that it will help, but if it will support the agencies that are already doing what the plan calls for with additional funds, then I'm all for it."

Woodford estimates that there are 3,000 homeless people in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, but only 1,000 bed spaces. Martha Brown, executive director of the Travelers Aid Society, said, "I do think this is an incredibly exciting opportunity for us as a community to build on what we have. If we could get some of this money in Charlotte based on what we already got, I think we could do some marvelous things."

While responses will 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 and short-term health services.
- Affordable housing.

This comprehensive approach to homelessness should be instituted and coordinated by localities, the report said. "Unlike the federal government, the locality is ultimately familiar with the needs in its neighborhoods."

Advocates for the homeless 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 that must compete for it. The money tends to be awarded to the organizations that are best at

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 St. 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.

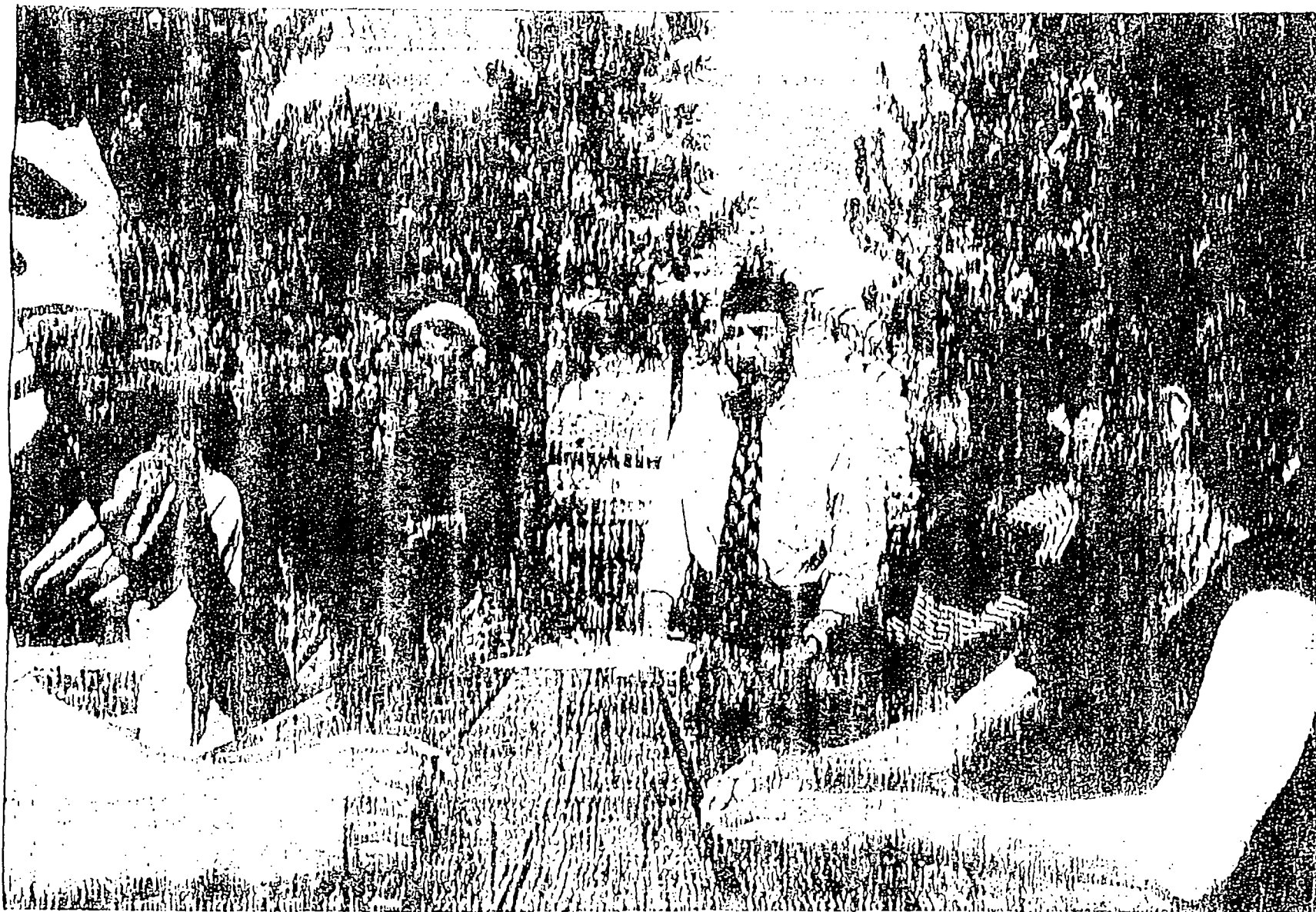
The task force report estimated the nation's homeless population at 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 600,000 on the street on any given night.

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.



PLANNING AHEAD: Commissioner Danman Hordley, standing at left, joined Jose Martinez, left at rear, a coordinator with the Nebraska Association of Farm Workers, at the Day House homeless shelter to discuss plans for the homeless. Seated from left are Tim Smith, Jay Little Walker, Lucille Fields and Gloria Rosenblatt. Standing at left rear is Gandy Lopez.

Manchester, New Hampshire
Union Leader
May 20, 1994

State To Lose Federal Money For Homeless

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Hampshire will lose money under President Clinton's plan to increase federal funding for the homeless.

New Hampshire would receive about \$400,000 less next fiscal year than it receives this year — from about \$3 million to about \$2.6 million.

Clinton's program is aimed at cities and will be directed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It calls for spending more than \$1.5 billion on homeless programs nationwide.

Clinton changing strategy toward homeless

By SONYA ROSS
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 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."

NATION AND WORLD JOURNAL

\$1.7 billion plan for homeless offered

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that seven million Americans are homeless, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and

FOCUS

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 104-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

Officials say 7 million homeless

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. "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 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.

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, 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.

Clinton homeless plan given mixed reception

Debates rages over its impact on jobs, current social services

By Amy Wu
Journal staff writer

President Clinton's new 126-page plan to break the cycle of homelessness begins with a quote from a single mother of two in Washington, Iowa: "I never knew anyone being homeless around here, now I am."

The plan is the administration's response to a problem that has haunted the nation for years. It calls for doubling the budget of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless programs from \$850 million to \$1.7 billion.

The extra funds will be taken from basic public housing operations and modernization. A continuum-of-care package will provide emergency housing and support services for individuals and families.

In Jersey City, the plan has drawn a mixed response. Some say it is a dead end because cutting funds from capital improvement and preservation may jeopardize jobs.

Others praise the plan because it would allow more Section 8 housing certificates and vouchers for housing subsidies.

Few question the good intentions of the Clinton administration, but there are questions about where the funding will

come from, and how big a difference it will make in Jersey City where 11,330 people are currently receiving welfare.

Robert Rigby, executive director of the Jersey City Housing Authority, opposes the plan.

"It's a noble intent, but to cut the staff and undermine existing programs doesn't make any sense," Rigby said.

If Clinton's plan is adopted, the federal government will not pay New Jersey public housing programs \$6 million in basic operating funds due this year and \$5 million from last year, Rigby said. It will also cause a \$20 million loss in capital improvement and preservation funds.

Modernization funds will be cut to the tune of \$1,319,677 from Jersey City, \$491,241 from Bayonne and \$381,454 in Hoboken. The reductions will also eliminate 95 new construction jobs and 75 jobs in related industries, critics say.

Other areas that may be jeopardized are 200 construction jobs, anti-crime and narcotics abuse programs, requirements for lead-based paint, handicapped accessibility, converting on-site locations into early childhood education centers and expanding resident management opportunities, according to the critics.

HUD should be capitalizing

on existing service in places like the York Street homeless shelter, the YMCA and St. Lucy's homeless shelter, Rigby said. "Those are agencies doing the real nuts and bolts work," he added.

"You don't put money in a lot of brand new sound-bite programs that won't work effectively because they started from federal level. Start with the local level," Rigby said.

Councilman Jaime Vasquez is a strong supporter of the plan. "Anything that can be done to create affordable housing should be supported," Vasquez said. One of the major causes of homelessness is lack of affordable housing, according to the Clinton plan.

Vasquez says support from the federal government is necessary to help cities respond to the homeless issue.

The Rev. Marvin Krieger, co-director of Hoboken Clergy Coalition Shelter, says he is pleased that the plan will acknowledge that homelessness is caused by various factors and

not just one.

Sister Kristin Funari the St. Joseph's Home says the extra funding will allow more Section 8 housing certificates to be distributed.

"Our program wouldn't be successful without the Section 8 certificates," Funari said.

Housing Authority statistics show that the success rate for the Section 8 certificates is 54 percent. The success rate for the voucher program is 53 percent.

The Housing Authority's current draft concerning the plan says the proposed '95 HUD budget is not only an insult to a lot of good people in public housing, "but also very dumb!" Rigby cited permanent affordable housing as a possible solution.

Sister Funari questions the workings of the plan. "who's going to fund it?" She also wonders if the plan is purely for political reasons. "Are we responding because we're tired of seeing panhandlers?," she said.

Seven million Americans seen homeless amid unveiling of new strategy

Star-Ledger Staff 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 \$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. "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 street on any given night. The most recent draft of today's report gave a range between 4.6 million and 9.52 million.

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

ness over an extended period of time.

Not included in the report's tally were 1.3 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 Foscarnas, exec-

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

Shalala reviewed "overall policy," suggesting how health reform, welfare reform, tax reform, the working poor and other related or already-enacted laws could help "prevent large homelessness."

The report divides the population into two large groups: those living in "crisis poverty" and those with "chronic homelessness." The latter is a "transitional disruption in lives that is often marked by hardship," with "chronic disabilities." "Homelessness can appear to be a part of life."

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

NATIONAL ISSUE

\$2.1 billion plan offers help for homeless

From staff and wire reports

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

The report marks the first time a U.S. president has ordered a cross-agency examination of homelessness and a comprehensive strategy to alleviate it. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros said the plan "is destined for action" because President Clinton "put federal resources where his intentions are," adding that some provisions in the plan could take effect immediately while other provisions require legislation.

The 100-page "Priority Home!" plan blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract."

Clinton said the plan would coordinate welfare and health care reform to "give every American the opportunity to break the cycle of dependence."

Stressing the need for the coordinated effort, government officials estimated that seven million Americans were homeless over the last half of the 1980s, far more than Census calculations of 600,000 people and far too many for current federal programs to help. Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would total \$2.1 billion—or three times the \$555 million spent on homeless aid in the last year of the Bush administration.

The plan recommends a "continuum of care," taking homeless people in through short-term emergency shelters, providing transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then placing

them in affordable, permanent homes. The task force 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.

The biggest challenge to the plan, said Major Ruth Bartholomew, co-commander of the Binghamton Salvation Army Corps, is that the homeless "don't have the skills for today's job market." She said the Salvation Army and other regional agencies do a "fairly good" job providing emergency services, but lack the money and personnel for long-range programs. "That's a big frustration for all of us." She estimated there might be "hundreds" of homeless people in Broome.

■ Staff Writer Mark Winkeld contributed to this report.

More money for homeless is requested

By DOUGLAS TURNER
News Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — The White House has asked Congress to approve massive increases in grants to city programs for the homeless, including \$10 million more for Buffalo, for the coming year.

Nationally, President Clinton would raise homeless aid from the current \$800 million a year to \$1.7 billion beginning Oct. 1, the start of the new federal fiscal year.

The largest proportional increases are slated to go to medium-sized cities such as Buffalo, which would rise from \$609,000 a year to \$10.7 million, and small localities such as the Town of Tonawanda, which would increase from \$28,500 a year to \$1.1 million, and Niagara Falls, which would jump from \$45,500 to \$1.7 million.

Erie County's share would grow from \$40,000 to \$1.5 million.

In addition, seven existing programs, including rental assistance vouchers, would be folded into a block grant to be administered by the states and localities.

However, a source on the minority staff of the Senate Banking Committee said, "It will be nearly impossible to get this up and running by next year."

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."

U.S. Proposes Spending \$2.1 Billion on Homeless

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials estimate that 7 million U.S. residents are homeless. The total is far more than the calculations of 600,000 people 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.

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, or the same as 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," Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said. "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 country's homeless population was 7 million at the close of the 1980s, with 100,000 on the street on any night. The most recent draft of the report said the current tally was 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 a period of time.

The report didn't count 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 in 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" that 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.

Red Karhas, the executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the system was 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," he said. "Homelessness is complex and homeless people come in with a lot of needs."

The task force recommended an 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, apply for food stamps or rent vouchers, sometimes by taking the process directly to the streets.

THE OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

NATIONAL

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



SHATNA BRECHMAN/Associated Press

Tipper Gore, Vice President Al Gore's wife, introduces the report on the homeless. Georgia 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 9.52 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 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 1.5 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 supplies or a place to study.

The plan, compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Homeless, estimated a "million" of people

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.

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 Ore-

gon's congressional delegation to support the plan.

Federal official says cooperation the key to homeless funds

John P. Lines
Intelligencer Journal Staff

If Lancaster City and County want to tap into a proposed \$2.8 million in aid to the homeless, both sides will have to work together and build a comprehensive process that breaks the cycle of poverty.

That was the word from Karen Miller, regional administrator for the federal Housing and Urban Development's Mid-Atlantic region, in a meeting Monday with Mayor Janice C. Stork.

Miller, who visited with Harrisburg City officials Monday morning, is touring Pennsylvania cities eligible for massive increases in federal funding to homeless programs proposed by President Clinton.

More than \$1.8 million could be coming to Lancaster County, with just over \$1 million slated for Lancaster City. From 1987 to 1993, the city received only \$118,000 in funding while the county got \$357,000.

If approved by Congress, the Clinton plan in 1995 would provide more than \$1 billion nationwide in flexible funding, in addition to \$514 million in rental assistance vouchers.

Joining Stork at the City Hall meeting was Heidi Weber, associate executive director of the YWCA, and Tom Hyson, executive director of the Crispus Attucks Center, agencies that provide housing for the homeless.

Miller spent nearly an hour selling the plan's benefits to Stork. And although regulations prohibited Miller from asking directly, Stork said she'd lobby local congressmen for passage of the Clinton plan.

Miller, a former director of the state Department of Community Affairs, was previously mayor of Reading. Because of that, Miller said she's aware of what smaller cities with increasing homeless populations are experiencing.

Nationwide, on any given night, there are up to 600,000 people who are without a home, Miller said. And in the last five years of the 1980s, seven million people were homeless at one time or another.

A process to break the cycle of homelessness must be developed at the local level, Miller said. And what is needed is a process that identifies the homeless, and takes them through transitional housing to permanent housing.

"One of the problems that the federal government has gotten itself into over time, is it has micro-managed and played father-knows-best funder," Miller said. "And it has set up gobs of little programs so

that people can compete for these monies which just adds to the problem."

For example, HUD distributes homeless funds through six programs, five of which are competitive. At last count, there were 1,400 applications nationwide and only 40 got funded, she said.

As a result, Miller said, cities waste millions of manhours writing funding applications which stand little to no chance of being approved.

Under the Clinton plan, local govern-

More FUNDS on B-2

Funds

Continued from B-1

ments would not have to compete — they would simply be entitled to a certain amount of funding, as long as a comprehensive plan to help the homeless has been developed on the local level.

"We expect the communities will develop a plan a strategy that meets the needs of what's here, not what the federals think is here; but what you know is here," Miller said.

A community's plan to combat homelessness would have to include input from business owners, because unemployment is a factor in poverty. And education advocates would have a say, be-

cause illiteracy is another factor, Miller said.

The Clinton plan, which has received a great deal of support from homeless advocates and the nation's mayors, is currently in committee in Congress. Miller said a package could be approved as early as September.

LOCAL/BUSINESS



Karen Miller, regional administrator for the federal Housing and Urban Development department, speaks with Mayor's homeless aid for Lancaster City and County.

Thursday, May 19, 1994

Grant tied to homeless facility

Sources said the city's request for \$15 million hinges on the 1515 Fairmount project. Rendell angrily denied it.

By Amy S. Rosenberg
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The Rendell administration's dispute with Project HOME over the creation of permanent housing for 48 homeless men could prevent the city from obtaining \$15 million in federal funds for the homeless, sources said.

Federal housing officials have told city officials to resolve the long-running conflict over the project for the homeless at 1515 Fairmount Ave. before they will consider the city's request for the money, the sources said.

A federal judge has already found the city in violation of the U.S. Fair Housing Act in a ruling that stemmed from a lawsuit filed against the city by the U.S. Department of Justice.

In November, U.S. District Judge Louis H. Pollak ordered the city to grant a revised zoning permit that would allow Project HOME to go forward.

The city refused, and appealed the ruling. Another court battle, begun by neighbors opposed to the facility, is before the state Supreme Court.

Yesterday, Mayor Rendell angrily denied that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had placed pressure on the city to resolve the matter, or that federal funds were in any way going to de-

pend on 1515 Fairmount.

"They're wrong," a seething Rendell said through clenched teeth, when asked about reports that HUD had asked that the matter be resolved. "You're listening to bullsh—"

He said he still hoped the matter could be resolved to satisfy both Project HOME and the neighbors who have objected.

"I'm trying my best to work this out," Rendell said. "I think we're making some real progress. I agree that 1515 should be in place. I think it will be done in the next week or so."

But sources both in and out of city government said HUD had given the city until Tuesday to resolve the conflict with Project HOME and its neighbors.

HUD has also asked the city and the homeless service providers to come up with a proposal that addresses gaps in what HUD calls "a continuum of care" for the homeless. An initial request for the \$15 million was turned down by HUD so that this plan could be developed.

The conflict over 1515 Fairmount has gone on for 3½ years, much to the frustration of homeless advocates and some city officials, who view Project HOME and its founder, Sister Mary Scullion, as model developers of homes and social services for formerly homeless men and women.

Yesterday, in fact, another Project HOME facility was used as the setting for an announcement by HUD officials of a comprehensive national plan to combat homelessness that could bring as much as \$36 million more to the city for the homeless.

The \$36 million is part of a national proposal called "Priority: Home," which still requires approval by Congress. The \$15 million the city has applied for is part of another program.

The building, known as Kairos House, is at Broad and Jefferson; when renovations are complete, it will house 36 mentally disabled people who formerly lived on the streets.

On Page 86 of the 100-page Priority: Home plan, the Clinton administration singles out its lawsuit against the city regarding 1515 Fairmount as an example of its fight against housing discrimination.

The federal court order was cited as a successful outcome of a federal policy to "vigorously enforce the housing rights of all persons, including the homeless."

Rendell said yesterday that he did not believe the city was in violation of the Fair Housing Act. And, despite the judge's ruling, Rendell said he thought Pollak did not believe the city was in violation either.

"It's not a violation of the Fair Housing Act," Rendell said. "Judge Pollak knew it wasn't. Why do you think he tried to get us to do a consent decree? Because he knew there was no law to sustain his position."

The \$15 million application is part of a Homeless Initiatives Demonstration Project for cities. Washington, Miami and Los Angeles have all received money from the fund.

The initial request was turned down because HUD had decided it now wanted Philadelphia and other cities to sit down with their homeless-service providers and draft such a "continuum of care" proposal.

Karen A. Miller, the regional representative for HUD Secretary Henry G. Cisneros, refused to comment about 1515 Fairmount. Sister Scullion also refused to answer any questions about 1515 Fairmount.

But others familiar with the situation, both in and out of city government, said HUD had made it clear to some in the Rendell administration that it wants the matter resolved before any dollars come to the city under the Homeless Initiative Act. "It has become a threshold question — you can't get through the door to even ask for this money until the mayor says 1515 Fairmount can go forward," said a homeless advocate who asked not to be identified.

The first floor of 1515 Fairmount has already been renovated by Project HOME into a bustling community center for the formerly homeless and for neighborhood children.

The center houses office space, an after-school program, a cottage industry of gift wrapping and greeting cards, a coffee shop, a thrift clothing store, literacy programs, tutoring and an art program.

Next door, at 1523 Fairmount, formerly homeless men and women have already moved into newly renovated apartments in another Project HOME building.

But the upper floors of 1515 remain empty.

While immediate neighbors have been supportive, residents of the surrounding neighborhoods of Spring Garden and Francisville have insisted that there are already too many nearby facilities for the homeless.

Taking ed tape out of HUD aid

The federal agency acts to localize decision-making in helping the homeless.

By THOMAS FRANK
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — When Henry G. Cisneros, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, visited McAuley Village last summer, he held up the housing and job training program for single mothers as a national model.

Three years earlier, HUD had denied it a grant to get started — a decision the village's executive director attributes in part to Washington politics.

Yesterday, HUD announced a proposal that would move the politics of such decisions from the federal government to local officials. HUD would no longer award grants to help the homeless to agencies that submit the best applications but would instead give money to each community for its distribution.

HUD also said it is proposing



Journal-Bulletin/TIMOTHY C. BARMANN

HUD'S Mary Lou K. Crane at a Providence news conference yesterday.

to double the amount of money it allocates to programs for the homeless, from \$823 million to \$1.7 billion.

The proposal was submitted to President Clinton, who will decide whether to send it to Congress.

Local advocates for the homeless cheered the proposal for extra money and local control, saying the latter will liberate them from the time and anxiety of filling out applications and dealing with the federal bureaucracy.

"Anything that brings decision-making to a local level is bound to be more responsive to the needs of the community,"

Turn to HOMELESS, Page A-6

of money more political.

"The minute it's a regional committee, politics have more of an opportunity to be involved," said Tanja Kubas-Meyer, executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless.

The proposals mark a new approach and commitment in the federal government's battle against homelessness that is aimed at encouraging agencies to provide not just a bed but a broad array of services to alleviate conditions that force people into shelters.

"Homelessness is not just a housing problem," Cisneros said yesterday in a statement, "but a condition that can result from poverty, sub-

with mental and physical disabilities."

Mary Lou K. Crane, Cisneros' representative for HUD in New England, said at a Providence press conference yesterday that providing money to communities each year will enable agencies to "count on it every year so they can begin to do long-range planning."

Money for services to the homeless would be distributed to municipalities with more than 50,000 people according to a formula based on demographic characteristics. Smaller communities would receive money through the state.

Municipalities would create an advisory board composed of mayoral appointees, neighborhood organizations and agencies that help the homeless. The boards would distribute the local allocation — it is hoped, HUD officials said, in a coordinated fashion that addresses all conditions of homelessness.

Rhode Island has 22 emergency shelters, intended to house people on a short-term basis often in a barracks-style setting, and about 10 agencies that provide longer-term housing in apartments or dormitory-type settings called single-room occupancies, said Kubas-Meyer.

The homeless suffer a variety of conditions, which the federal Interagency Council on the Homeless has broken into two broad classes: crisis poverty and chronic disability.

Jobs and affordable housing are needed to keep those in crisis poverty in their own homes. The disabled need counseling on anything from substance abuse to being a responsible tenant, and they need health care, the Interagency Council said in a report released yesterday.

Casimir Kolaski, an official in HUD's Boston office, pointed to McKinney House in Newport as an example of the broad-based services HUD wants agencies to provide.

McKinney House has an emergency shelter and so-called "transitional housing" for those who need a temporary home during a financial emergency. It also addresses other needs of clients.

"Typically they will have health needs, vocational needs, some personal issues with respect to substance abuse or other problems with adjustment," said J. Clement Cicilline, president of the Newport County Community Mental Health Center, which runs McKinney Shelter. "We try to pinpoint the issues and the services available to them."

Homeless

Continued from Page One

said Barbara Sokoloff, a community planning consultant in Providence who has written grant applications for local shelters.

Sister Dolores Crowley, executive director of the corporation that runs McAuley Village, said, "When you apply to HUD on the national level, there's no site visit, so they're not as familiar with your facility. If there was more familiarity, there would be a better chance of getting money."

But some cautioned that putting federal grants in the hands of local

Government vows to cut homelessness by one-third

By Elizabeth Shogren
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — Vowing to deal with the root causes of homelessness, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros pledged Tuesday that the Clinton administration would reduce the number of homeless Americans by one-third before the end of its first term.

In a report that took the Department of Housing and Urban Development a year to put together, the administration said that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are homeless and 7 million people were without a permanent residence at some point between 1985 and 1990.

"This is not a report destined to take a new approach to the problem," said Cisneros.



Tipper Gore, right, wife of Vice President Al Gore, shows a copy of the report released Tuesday on homelessness in the United States to George Fergusson, who, along with her family, are pictured on the cover.

stand on some shelf," said Cisneros, a former mayor of San Antonio. "It is destined for action."

President Clinton, he added, "has put federal resources where his intentions are."

The administration vowed to take a new approach to the problem.

Usually, 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 homeless people. But the administration argues that the problem is too complex to be alleviated in piecemeal fashion and must be addressed through policies directed by local government with guidance from federal officials.

Depending on the extent of the problem, each city 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.

Mayors and advocates for the homeless support the report's recommendation that funding be provided to localities in lump sums based on a formula that reflects need.

Critics of the administration's effort, however, pointed to the slow start of its first 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 — which was awarded a special \$20 million grant to create a model approach to homelessness — since soon after President 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.

Kondratas, who now works for the conservative Hudson Institute, also took exception to the administration's estimates of the magnitude of homelessness, calling HUD's use of the 7 million figure "irresponsible."

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 homelessness.

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 others 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.

This article includes material from The Washington Post and The Associated Press.

Report details homeless problem

■ On any night, 600,000 people are without a home, government says

Continued from A1
homelessness.

The report's release Tuesday coincided with the administration's attempts to push legislation for several HUD programs through Congress. Cisneros expressed confidence that the department would be able to more than double homeless assistance to \$1.7 billion for fiscal 1995. 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.

The report blends shelter, medical treatment, education and training in a "new social contract" to "help individuals and families help themselves."

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 insufficient.

"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.

Jerry Abramson of Louisville, Ky., 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 homeless people.

"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."

Plan to aid homeless would send \$1.3 million to Knox

News-Sentinel Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Clinton Administration's plan to increase spending on the homeless by \$900 million would send \$1.3 million to Knoxville to help a share of its estimated 1,200 homeless people get housing.

However, the plan requires congressional approval and a way to finance it in a year when budget caps are forcing spending cuts.

Laurens Tullock, the city of Knoxville's director of community development, said the city now gets an average of \$180,000 a year in

federal funds that mostly is used to provide counseling to the homeless for alcohol and drug abuse. He said there are about 1,200 homeless in the city, and perhaps 200 of those are "hard core" and won't go to available temporary shelters.

If the city got the \$1.3 million in the Clinton plan, the city might be able to buy a building of efficiency apartments to allow permanent housing for a portion of the 1,200 homeless, Tullock said.

Chattanooga would get \$1.2 million under Clinton's plan; Nashville, \$3.2 million; and

Memphis, \$6.3 million.

"We're always willing to use the federal money wisely," Tullock said. But he added that he doesn't know how many homeless could be helped with that amount of money.

The national goal of Clinton's legislation is to take a big step and cut the 600,000 or so homeless by about a third.

Temporary housing for the homeless in Knoxville and many other cities now is provided by church or nonprofit agencies like the Salvation Army. Poor, rootless persons can get meals and a night's lodging at a mission.

Wednesday, May 18, 1994

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 100-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 Dalley, 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. Dalley. "It's great to hear, but let's wait and see where it goes."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Homeless plan could net \$25 million for Texas

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-half before the end of its first term.

In a HUD report a year in the making, the administration concluded that on any night in the United States, 600,000 people are in the ranks of the homeless. In 1985 and 1990, 1 million people were without a permanent residence at some point.

The administration vowed in its report 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.

light (C) 15
ights Reser

istration 1
NYA ROSS
iated Pres
WASHINGTON
billion st
e street a

The 100-pa
tted to Co
labeled hor
al action

The plan,
ess, sugg
-term eme
go counse
nent home

It also r
d for "e
ty.

"We must
elves,"
country w
ordinated
des for

The admi
with lo
ty," wh
r a hou

"Homel
can res
ng or t
Cisner

The tas
million
given n
most re
on and

The po
are on
al ren
riends.

But it
third c
Those
out ad

The d
rams f
educ

It al
al hea
the

AP-I

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

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 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 Kamas, 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 the White House.

Traditionally, the federal government has granted money on a competitive basis to cities with the expectation that the money will provide emergency services to the homeless.

But the administration said that the problem that the homeless face is not to be alleviated by emergency services, but by long-term solutions through coordinated public policy and federal government support.

Although responses vary from city to city, the extent of the problem would be expected to be met by federal funds to provide:

- Emergency services
- Transitional services, including substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and job training
- Permanent housing

Homeless advocates support the report, but question the formula that requires cities to provide separate programs for homeless organizations, and cities, which must explain how the money is being used.

Critics of the effort, however, point out that the report is a start of its maiden voyage as evidence of the wisdom of giving local government the money.

The administration is working with the White House — the first time — to create a model for homelessness — President Clinton

Staff writer Bill
to this report.

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 "snapshots" 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.

Homeless strategy unveiled

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, took at the report's cover, which shows her family.

Boulder, Colorado
Daily Camera
May 18, 1994

\$1.7 billion proposed for homeless

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.

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

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.

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 home-

less 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 street on any given night. The most recent draft of the report gave a range of 4.95 million to 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.

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 as many as 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, gives them transitional housing while they undergo counseling or job training, then places them in affordable, permanent homes.

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.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

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 1995, its highest level ever.

The policy would 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 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."

The report says that "the crisis of homelessness is greater than commonly 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 measures and hesitancy—it is both possible and necessary."

The Washington Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

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.

Jacksonville, Florida
Florida Times-Union
May 18, 1994

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.

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.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would be \$2.1 billion — nearly 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 a 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, with 600,000 on the street on any given night. The most recent draft of yesterday's report ranged between 4.95 million and 9.52 million.

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.

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

\$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.

\$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.

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.

Bangor, Maine
May 18, 1994

\$1.7 billion plan to aid homeless

By Sonya Ross
5/18/94

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.

7 million Americans are homeless, U.S. report says; \$1.7 billion in aid sought

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government officials estimate that 7 million Americans are homeless, far more than the Census calculation 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.

Under the plan, overall federal homeless aid for 1995 would total \$2.1 billion — or substantially more than the \$555 million spent on homeless aid during 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 G. Cisneros. "We are doing everything we know how to do. The president is very serious about this."

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."

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. The most recent draft of today's report had given 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.

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.

The report does 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, suggests a "continuum of care," which would take 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 also suggests 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.

Jackson, Mississippi
Clarion Ledger
May 18, 1994

\$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.

"That would be a very substantial cut at the problem of homeless-

ness," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homelessness that would work 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. 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, counted in one-night "snapshot" tallies. That missed those who fall in and out over an extended period of time.

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.

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.

Manchester, New Hampshire
The Union Leader
May 18, 1994

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.

\$1.7 billion in aid for homeless proposed

THE 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.

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.

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

Under the program, New Jersey is

likely to receive twice as much as it did last year, said HUD spokesman Jack Flynn.

"While most of the homeless programs are competitive, cities with those programs now can look for a significant increase in funding, perhaps as much as doubled what they have now," Flynn said.

In fiscal 1993, New Jersey's homeless programs received \$11.5 million from HUD. That money went to nearly two dozen emergency shelters in the state, including Epiphany House in Asbury Park, said Robert Kaplan, a HUD spokesman in the Newark office.

Clinton called the plan "a thorough and honest examination" of homeless-

ness 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. The most recent draft of yesterday's report gave a range of 4.95 million to 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.

Homeless Tally Hiked To 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

Agencies join forces to aid homeless

U.S. aims to trim number by a third

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration announced a comprehensive national plan Tuesday to combat homelessness, pledging \$900 million 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 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," said Henry Cisneros, secretary of Housing and Urban Development. "It is destined for action."

'A new social contract'

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 that 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," 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.

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

Aid for treatment, housing

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.

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

But much that is in the report has been previously announced in a piecemeal fashion. On Tuesday, 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 President Clinton at the beginning of the year.

The report says "the crisis of homelessness is greater than commonly known or previously acknowledged." But Cisneros' estimate of 600,000 homeless comes from a 7-year-old Urban Institute study, while the 7 million figure is based on Columbia University research conducted in 1990.

EL NUEVO DIA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1994

The Clinton Administration revealed yesterday a comprehensive plan at a national level to combat homelessness, when it assigned \$900 million for a new strategy aimed to reduce by a third part the number of homeless persons.

The report, compiled as a reply to an executive order of May 1993 signed by President Clinton, points out the first time in which a First Executive orders an examination of the problem of homelessness among government agencies and a general strategy to alleviate this situation.

"It is not a report to be put away in a drawer", expressed Henry Cisneros, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. "It is destined to be complied with", declared Cisneros, even though he added: "It has placed federal resources where their intentions are".

The 100-page plan, entitled "Home: a Priority!" was developed last year at the Homeless Interagency Council, where personnel from seventeen federal agencies meet. The plan merges shelter, medical treatment, education, and training in a "new social contract" to "help persons and families help themselves".

Cisneros cited "reasonable calculations" indicative that at any given time there are 600,000 homeless persons in the United States and as many as 7 million who have been homeless at some point in any 5-year period. "We want to reduce the number by a third; it is important that we commit ourselves with the numbers and the plans", he pointed out.

Instead of working with the homeless in an emergency basis the report suggests a joint focus in which local governments together with shelters, churches, and non-profit organizations can move the homeless person through a "continuous care" to a position of self-dependency or of outside help.

The plan proposes a two way strategy that will depend on the \$900 million of new HUD money, placing the general federal assistance to the needy in \$2,500 million for fiscal year 1994.

The policy will emphasize medical treatment and housing opportunities for persons that are at present without a home.

5/18/94

ESTADOS UNIDOS primer plano.

Al rescate del desamparado

Por GUY GUGLIOTTA
DE THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON - La Administración Clinton reveló ayer un abarcador plan a escala nacional para combatir el desamparo, al dedicar \$900 millones a una novel estrategia destinada a reducir en una tercera parte el número de personas deambulantes.

El informe, compilado como respuesta a una orden ejecutiva de mayo de 1993, firmada por el presidente Clinton, señala la primera ocasión en que un Primer Ejecutivo ordena un examen entre las agencias del gobierno sobre el problema de los desamparados, igual que una estrategia general para aliviar esta situación.

"No se trata de un informe destinado a engavetarse", expresó Henry Cisneros, secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano. "Está destinado a cumplirse", declaró Cisneros, aunque añadió: "Ha colocado los recursos federales donde están sus intenciones".

El plan de 100 páginas, titulado "Prioridad: Hogar!" se desarrolló durante el pasado año en el Consejo Interagencial para el Desamparado, donde se reúne personal de 17 agencias federales. El plan fusiona el refugio, el tratamiento médico, la educación y el adiestramiento en un "nuevo contrato social" para "ayudar a las personas y a las familias a ayudarse a sí mismas".

CISNEROS CITO "cálculos razonables" indicativos de que en Estados Unidos hay 600,000 personas sin hogar en un momento dado y tantas como 7 millones que han estado desamparadas en algún momento en cualquier período de cinco años. "Desearíamos reducir el número en un tercio; es importante que nos comprometamos con los números y los planes", señaló.

En vez de bregar con el desamparado a base de "emergencia", el informe sugiere un enfoque sin trabas en el cual los gobiernos locales, junto con los refugios, con las iglesias y con las entidades sin fines lucrativos, pueda mover al desamparado a través de "una continuidad de cuidado" hacia una posición de autodependencia o de ayuda extramuros.

El plan propone una estrategia en dos piezas que dependerá de \$900 millones de dinero nuevo de HUD, colocando la asistencia federal general a los necesitados en \$2,500 millones para el año fiscal 1994.

La política subrayará el tratamiento médico y las oportunidades de vivienda para las personas actualmente sin hogar.

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.

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.

\$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.