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Council Communiqué

The Interagency Council on the Homeless

January/February 1993

Nonprofits as Social Entrepreneurs: Creating Revenues and Jobs

Some exciting initiatives are underway that make dollars and sense. Throughout the country experienced social service organizations are creating businesses that produce revenue to support their programs and jobs for homeless people. Managing a non-profit as a business for public benefit has recently been referred to as "social entrepreneurship."

Last October more than 20 representatives of organizations serving the homeless population met in Chicago to discuss strategies to help nonprofit

agencies generate further income and employment for homeless people. The meeting was sponsored by the Interagency Council on the Homeless and the Roberts Foundation.

All of the meeting participants were involved in enterprise activities such as towing services, pest control, greeting cards, recycling, screen printing, building and grounds maintenance, bulk mail, employment assistance, employment training, thrift stores, street vendors, sheet metal fabrication, construction, catering, food banks,

hotel services, telecommunication manufacturing, packaging, and printing.

Some of the participants employed homeless people; others helped homeless people get jobs. All of the nonprofits were interested in getting away from traditional funding sources by creating businesses that would generate additional income for their organizations and their employees.

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Over \$1.1 Billion Appropriated for Programs to Help Homeless People

More than \$1.1 billion was appropriated for Federal homeless assistance programs in FY 1993, an increase of \$136 million, or 13 percent, over 1992 funding. Highlights include:

- ◆ An increase of \$156 million (for a total of \$267 million) for HUD's Shelter Plus Care Program, which provides flexible long-term rental assistance for a range of housing in combination with support services for homeless people with disabilities. Shelter Plus Care is now the largest targeted Federal homeless assistance program.

- ◆ The Department of Labor's Job Training for the Homeless Demonstration Program received \$12.5 million, an increase of \$3.2 million.

- ◆ The Health Care for the Homeless Program in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) received \$58 million, an increase of \$2 million.

- ◆ An appropriation of \$21.4 million for ACCESS (Access to Community Care and Effective Services and Supports) cooperative agreements with States for service integration programs for people who are homeless and have

a severe mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and alcohol and/or drug disorders.

- ◆ Family support centers received \$6.9 million to help low-income families, especially previously homeless or at-risk families in assisted housing, avoid homelessness.

- ◆ An increase of \$12 million for various programs for homeless veterans administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA is currently

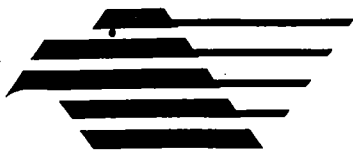
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Program Alert

Interagency Council on the Homeless

December 1992

Important Notice — Blankets Received from the Defense Department

Over the past six years, the Defense Department has been donating wool disaster blankets to State and local homeless support organizations. Some of these blankets contain small amounts of DDT because the blankets were made from the same fabric used to manufacture wool items for the military services. It was common military practice until 1972 to treat wool cloth in long-term storage with DDT to protect it from insects.

A study completed by the Army in November concluded there would be a small risk to health from using the blankets. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the Army study and found it was based on very conservative assumptions that were not realistic. EPA concluded that since little actual exposure to DDT would occur from using the blankets, there would be "little or no" health risk resulting.

Despite this reassuring assessment, the Defense Department has decided that the best course of action is to advise shelters to dispose of blankets made from DDT-treated cloth. Because the blankets donated were made from a variety of different colors and kinds of cloth, there is not one way to describe them. The following descriptions are provided to help shelter personnel determine which blankets are affected:

Blue and cream blankets contain NO DDT. If you have these blankets, you should continue to use them. **All olive green wool blankets need to be examined carefully to determine which ones do and do not contain DDT.** The following information should be helpful:

WITH DDT: The olive green blankets made from cloth treated WITH DDT are made from a finished, worsted fabric with a smooth surface. There is a pronounced twill line on the face of the fabric. The color is a uniform (even) shade. The material is thinner than typical blanket material. It is much like the fabric used in a man's suit. These blankets ARE made from DDT-treated cloth and should be disposed of as soon as practical.

NO DDT: The olive green wool blankets that are DDT-FREE (contain NO DDT) are made from a spun fabric that has a slightly fuzzy appearance and no evidence of a weave. The color is uneven with individual fibers evident on the fabric's surface. The fabric is noticeably thicker than material which would be used in a man's suit. This blanket may have a label with a reference number OG-118 on it. If you have this particular kind of olive green wool blanket it contains NO DDT and you can continue to use it.

If the blankets are needed for survival and cannot be disposed of now, you can reduce further exposure by minimizing direct contact between the blanket and the skin. For example, users can wear a layer of clothing between the blanket and the skin and/or use a sheet between the blanket and the user.

EPA has determined that blankets which contain DDT can be thrown away through regular trash pickup or disposal. However, because State and local environmental laws may be more restrictive, DOD advises shelter personnel to check with their state or local environmental office for further guidance. *State and local government officials who need additional clarification can call Mr. David Topping of the EPA at (202) 260-7737.*

Service providers who previously received DOD blankets are being provided with more detailed information. *Anyone needing additional information can call toll free 1-800-888-3338, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.*

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Office of Community Services of HHS has announced that competing applications are being accepted for new grants under the Community Food and Nutrition Program. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for local and state-wide programs to (1) coordinate existing private and public food assistance resources to better serve low-income communities; (2) assist low-income communities to identify potential sponsors of child nutrition programs and to initiate new programs in underserved or unserved areas; and (3) develop innovative approaches at the State and local levels to meet the nutrition needs of low-income people.

Intern Project

FEDERAL PUBLICATIONS ON HOMELESSNESS
1993-1996

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Education

Meeting the Educational Needs of Homeless Children and youth: A Resource for Schools and Communities. U. S. Department of Education, scheduled for release in August 1996. Available from the U. S. Department of Education Compensatory Education Programs, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Portals Building, room 4400, Washington, D. C. 20202-6132, (202) 260-0826.

Preliminary Guidance for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. U. S. Department of Education, June 1995. Available from the U. S. Department of Education Compensatory Education Programs, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Portals Building, room 4400, Washington, D. C. 20202-6132, (202) 260-0826.

Learning to Hope: A Study of the Adult Education for the Homeless Program. U. S. Department of Education, 1995. Available from the Adult Education Clearinghouse at the U. S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D. C. 20202-7240, (fax) 202-205-8973 or (internet) Tammy_Fortune@ed.gov.

An Evaluation of State and Local Efforts to Serve the Educational Needs of Homeless Children and Youth. U. S. Department of Education, 1995. Available from the U. S. Department of Education Compensatory Education Programs, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Portals Building, room 4400, Washington, D. C. 20202-6132, (202) 260-0826.

Adults in Transition: A Report of the Fourth Year of the Adult Education for the Homeless Program. U. S. Department of Education, May 1993. Available from the U. S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Switzer Building 4th floor, Washington, D. C. 20202, (202) 205-8270.

Emergency Shelters

Evaluation of the Emergency Shelter Grants Program. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, September 1994. Available from HUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20850, (800) 245-2691.

Employment and Job Training

Employment and Training For America's Homeless: Report on the Job Training for the Homeless Demonstration Program (Report to Congress). U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, 1994. Available from the Office of Policy Dissemination Unit, Room 5637, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20013, (202) 219-7674.

Federal Policy -- General

Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness. Interagency Council on the Homeless, May 1994. Available from the Interagency Council on the Homeless, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7274, Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-1480.

Health Care

Health Care for the Homeless Directory: A Project of the Bureau of Primary Health Care. U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996. Available from the National Clearinghouse for Primary Care Information, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102, (703) 821-8955, ext. 248.

A Study of the Health Care for the Homeless Program Executive Summary. U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, September 1995. Available from the National Clearinghouse for Primary Care Information, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102, (703) 821-8955, ext. 248.

McKinney Act Programs

Review of Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Programs Administered by HUD: Report to Congress. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, January 1995. Available from HUD USER, P. O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20850, (800) 251-5154.

Military Base Reuse

Guidebook on Military Base Reuse and Homeless Assistance. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 1996. Available from the Base Redevelopment Team, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7220, HUD Building, 451 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-2186, ext. 4396.

Community Guide to Base Reuse. U. S. Department of Defense, May 1995. Available from the Office of Economic Adjustment, 400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200, Arlington VA, 22202 (703) 604-5844.

Programs for the Homeless Mentally Ill

Outcasts on Main Street: Implementation Report. U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, December 1995. Available from the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, Policy Research Associates, Inc., 262 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054, (800) 444-7415.

Making a Difference -- Interim Status Report of the McKinney Research Demonstration Program for Homeless Adults With Serious Mental Illness. U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1994. Available from the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, Policy Research Associates, Inc., 262 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054, (800) 444-7415.

Rural Homelessness

Focusing on the Needs of the Rural Homeless. U. S. Department of Agriculture, January 1996. Available from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, (MFHPD), Room 5345, 1400 Independence Ave., S. W. Washington, D. C. 20250, (202) 720-1606.

Supportive Housing

National Evaluation of the Supportive Housing Demonstration Program. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, January 1995. Available from HUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20850, (800) 251-5154.

Veterans Programs

Fiscal Year 1995 End-of-Year Survey of Homeless Veterans in VA Inpatient and Domiciliary Care Programs. U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, February 1996. Available from

Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs: The Fifth Annual Progress Report. U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, April 1993. Available from

Miscellaneous Technical Assistance Publications

Federal Programs to Help Homeless People. Interagency Council on the Homeless, March 1993. Available from the Interagency Council on the Homeless, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7274, Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-1480.

Evaluation of the Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless Program. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, May . Available from HUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20850, (800) 251-5154.

Use of Federally Owned Real Property to Assist the Homeless: The Priority Under Title V of the McKinney Act. Interagency Council on the Homeless, May 1996. Available from the Interagency Council on the Homeless, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7274, Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-1480.

Use of Personal Property for Providers of Assistance to the Homeless Under Title V of the McKinney Act. Interagency Council

on the Homeless, February 1996. Available from the Interagency Council on the Homeless, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7274, Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-1480.

Purchase or Lease of Federally Acquired Foreclosed Properties by Homeless Service Providers. Interagency Council on the Homeless, April 1996. Available from the Interagency Council on the Homeless, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7274, Washington, D. C. 20410, (202) 708-1480.

What Makes Sense: What Works -- Imaginative Community Programs. Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program -- Federal Emergency Management Agency, October 1993. Available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, room 625, Washington, D. C. 20472, (202) 646-3107.

GAO Reports

McKinney Act Programs and Funding Through Fiscal Year 1993. U. S. General Accounting Office, June 1994. Available from the U. S. General Accounting Office, P. O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015, (202) 512-6000.

McKinney Act Programs Provide Assistance but Are Not Designed to Be the Solution. U. S. General Accounting Office, May 1994. Available from the U. S. General Accounting Office, P. O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015, (202) 512-6000.

Information on and Barriers to Assistance Programs Providing Foreclosed Property. U. S. General Accounting Office, September 1993. Available from the U. S. General Accounting Office, P. O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015, (202) 512-6000.