

TO: Mayor and City Council
Robert G. Wells
THROUGH: Robert G. Wells, City Manager
Barbara Roberts
FROM: Barbara A. Roberts, CPRP, Interim Director
Department of Community Services

FOR MEETING: 02/05/07

AGENDA ITEM NO: 1.1 (a)

SUBJECT: Social Service Contractor Presentation
YWCA Emergency Resource Assistance Program

ISSUE

Monthly, the Social Service Advisory Board highlights one of the City's social service contractors, who provides a short presentation to the City Council on the scope of the service.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

BACKGROUND

The Social Service Advisory Board, as a part of its work plan, highlights the work of the contractors receiving funding from the City of Salem.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The February highlight will be the City's contract for Resource Assistance as provided by the YWCA. The YWCA receives \$63,690 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation to help fund the Emergency Resource Assistance Program, which is approximately thirty-eight percent of the program's budget.
2. The Resource Assistance Program is in its eighteenth year of multi-lingual services to homeless and low-income families. The program provides case management services such as advocacy, problem-solving, interpreting, referrals, and assistance in overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency. Spanish- and Russian-speaking case managers are currently on staff and assist non-English-speaking residents who need assistance due to language and cultural barriers in accessing services. Assistance in locating permanent housing is a priority.
3. Case management staff work closely with other social service agencies in the community, such as Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Northwest Human Services, State Department of Human Services, Shangri-La, The Arches Project, St. Vincent de Paul, United Way, and the Salem and Marion County Housing Authorities.
4. In the first six months of this year (July 1 - December 31, 2006), the program served 758 individuals in 333 households. About 40% of those are Russian speaking and 25% are Spanish speaking.
5. Janeen Baker from the YWCA Emergency Resource Assistance Program will make a short presentation to the City Council during the time allotted for Boards and Commissions.

Jan Calvin

Jan Calvin, Acting Community Resources Manager