

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH:  LINDA NORRIS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

FROM: BARBARA A. ROBERTS, CPRP, DIRECTOR 
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

ISSUE

The Social Service Advisory Board is seeking City Council approval of funding priorities in order to seek and review proposals for City funding of emergency social services in 2008-09.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve

1. The SSAB recommendation on emergency social service priorities for 2008-09 General Fund dollars that are outlined in Facts and Findings #3.
2. Utilize no more than twenty percent (20%) of the General Fund dollars available for social services to help support services that are proven to move individuals and/or families from crisis toward self-sufficiency.

BACKGROUND


1. The Social Service Advisory Board (SSAB) was created in 1975 to identify the social service needs of the Salem community and derives its powers and duties from Salem Revised Code Chapter 3, as follows:
 - a. Identify the social service needs of the community.
 - b. Develop recommendations and solutions to meet those identified social service needs.
 - c. Analyze fiscal and social implications of proposed and existing social service programs funded by or under the jurisdiction of, the City of Salem.
 - d. Monitor and evaluate social service programs funded by or receiving support from the City of Salem.
 - e. Advise and make recommendations to the Council and City Manager in the area of social service fiscal and program responsibilities.
 - f. Initiate efforts toward exchanging information for the purpose of coordinating social service delivery systems, public and private, and their governing and administrative bodies which affect the Salem area population.
 - g. Refer those matters or issues arising that do not fall within the powers and duties of the Board to other appropriate commissions, boards, and jurisdictions.
2. For over 30 years, the City of Salem has utilized two sources of funding to help support local social services. A portion of the City's allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds helps social service agencies meet the needs of persons who are homeless, abused, or at risk of being homeless or abused. The City also allocates General Fund dollars to help meet the needs for emergency social services in our community.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. A total of \$637,755 is included in the current fiscal year budget to help support social services: \$384,695 from the General Fund, and \$253,060 from CDBG funds. Funding levels for the 2008-09 fiscal year will be determined through the City's annual budget process.
2. The SSAB's 2007-08 work plan includes guiding the City's request for proposals (RFP) for funding to support local social services and making funding recommendations for 2008-09.
3. The SSAB has reviewed information related to the social service issues and needs in our community, including demographics, poverty, and crisis-related data, as well as the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and the City's Consolidated Plan. With the understanding that the City's General Fund dollars are intended to help the social service community maintain an adequate "safety net" for its most vulnerable populations, the SSAB recommends that City Council approve the following as the priorities for 2008-09 General Fund dollars:

Most Vulnerable Populations	Emergency Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and Youth• Elderly• Disabled• Traditionally Under-served (e.g. cultural or ethnic minority, limited language proficient)• Situationally Vulnerable (e.g. previously incarcerated returning to community life, victims leaving domestic violence or abuse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food• Shelter/Housing• Access to Emergency Social Services (e.g. crisis hotline, crisis center, transportation to services)• Crisis Response (e.g. mental health treatment, critical medical prescriptions, financial assistance)

4. In addition, Council is asked to approve utilizing no more than twenty percent (20%) of the General Fund dollars available for social services to help support services proven to move individuals and/or families from crisis toward self-sufficiency. This flexibility will allow the SSAB to consider recommendations that help alleviate the burden on emergency service providers, as well as recommendations for direct emergency service funding.



Jan Calvin, Neighborhood and Community Services Manager