



FOR COUNCIL MEETING: May 5, 2008  
AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.3 (g)

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
THROUGH:  LINDA NORRIS, CITY MANAGER PRO TEM  
FROM:  JAN CALVIN, ACTING DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SUBJECT: SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE:  
SALEM-KEIZER PUBLIC SCHOOLS HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**ISSUE:**

Monthly, the Social Service Advisory Board highlights one of the social services supported by City funding through General Fund dollars and/or federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Information only.

**BACKGROUND:**

Among the duties of the Social Service Advisory Board is the responsibility to monitor and report on the social services supported by City funds. The Salem-Keizer School District Homeless Education Program (HEP) provides transportation services for homeless families and youth, unaccompanied youth to the age of 21, and children and youth in temporary foster care who would not otherwise be able to make it to school. The 2007-08 CDBG allocation to help support this program is \$4,027.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. HEP serves the educational needs of homeless children and youth by addressing barriers that affect the enrollment, attendance, and school success of homeless students. They provide transportation using Salem/Keizer Transit bus passes for attendance at school, academic support sessions, and other educational opportunities.
2. The HEP focus is to keep students in the same "school of origin" for the remainder of the school year to maintain educational stability, or to find an appropriate alternative educational placement to encourage high school completion and school success. HEP staff monitor attendance levels and grades of youth served, arrange academic support, and provide school supplies and materials for specialty classes such as art and music that the families could not otherwise afford.
3. As of April 18, 2008, 1,215 individuals have been identified as homeless in the Salem-Keizer School District. This includes 493 families, 145 of which have spent time in local shelters. Of those 1,215 individuals, 807 (66%) are students. Of those 807 student, 142 (18%) are unaccompanied youth (youth not living with a custodial parent/guardian), and 106 (13%) are in foster care. The HEP is particularly attentive to children lacking stability in their lives; attending school offers this as well as an education with the hope of breaking the cycle of poverty.

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