

# Agenda Report

**DATE:** APRIL 26, 1999

**TO:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**FROM:** CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** SUBMISSION OF THE WELFARE TO WORK SECTION 8 TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Community Development Commission ("Commission") authorize the filing with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") of the Welfare to Work (WtW) Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance Program application for a request of two-hundred and fifty (250) rental vouchers valued at \$1.25 million (average of \$5,000 per household per annum) and authorize the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") to execute, and the City Clerk to attest, the Welfare to Work Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance Program application.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On January 28, 1999, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Welfare to Work (WtW) Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announcing \$283 million (50,000 vouchers) nationally to help eligible families transition from welfare to work. The deadline to submit the application is Wednesday, April 28, 1998.

The Pasadena Community Development Commission ("PCDC") is seeking two-hundred and fifty (250) rental vouchers valued at \$1.25 million to work in collaboration with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Foothill Private Industry Council (PIC) and Pasadena City College (PCC) to provide rental assistance to eligible families seeking to transition from welfare to work. DPSS, PCC, and the Foothill PIC will function as referral agencies to the PCDC and provide job training and placement and other essential supportive services to program participants.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Purpose**

Research indicates that families seeking to transition from welfare to work are better able to succeed in employment if they have adequate affordable housing. Ensuring that housing is within a manageable commute to employment and/or childcare and is in a safe environment for children increases the family's ability to succeed at work. The WtW program addresses this need by providing rental assistance where the family pays up to thirty percent (30%) of the adjusted total family income towards the monthly rent and the PCDC issues a payment to the property owner/landlord for the remaining rental amount. This affords families greater access to generally

better housing and access to amenities such as living closer to childcare, better schools, transportation, job training and employment.

### **Coordination**

Historically, the DPSS, Foothill PIC, PCC and the PCDC have worked independently of one another; however each shares the same client/consumer base. By working in collaboration with these entities the PCDC is able to create a "continuum of care" for families seeking to transition from welfare to work. The role of the PCDC will be to administer the housing component. The DPSS will be responsible for determining the family's Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF, formerly AFDC) eligibility, housing need, while providing childcare, transportation, and job training assistance. The Foothill PIC and PCC will be responsible for providing job training and job placement.

### **Family Eligibility**

The term "Section 8 WtW rental voucher program eligible family" means a family that, in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements for the normal tenant-based Section 8 assistance program, also must meet the following additional requirements:

- Families must be eligible to receive, be currently receiving, or shall have received within the preceding two (2) years, assistance or services funded under the TANF program (formerly AFDC);
- Tenant-Based assistance must be determined to be critical to the family's ability to successfully obtain or retain employment; and
- The family shall not already be receiving tenant-based assistance under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

### **Application Requirements**

The WtW application will be evaluated as part of a national competition based on:

- Need;
- Capacity;
- Soundness of Approach;
- Comprehensiveness and Coordination; and
- Resource Leveraging

### **HOUSING IMPACT:**

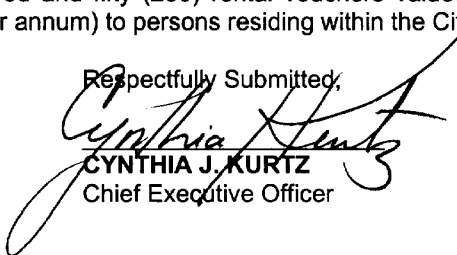
Approval of the subject recommendation would result in an application to HUD for the provision of two hundred and fifty (250) Section 8 tenant-based rental vouchers for eligible families whom rental assistance is deemed critical for obtaining or retaining employment in their transition from welfare to work.

In addition, the proposed application is consistent with the goals and objectives of the PCDC's Affordable Housing Plan (1995-2000), 1995-2000 Implementation Plan, the Consolidated Plan, the Housing Element of the General Plan, and the PCDC's Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance.


### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the WtW application and subsequent approval by HUD could financially contribute approximately two hundred and fifty (250) rental vouchers valued at \$1.25 million (average of \$5,000 per household per annum) to persons residing within the City of Pasadena.

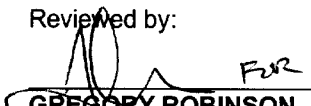
Respectfully Submitted,

  
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