



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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November 4, 2014

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long to allocate \$75,000 from the Homeless Programs fund to the implementation of a Family Shelter Diversion Program for the upcoming Winter Warming Shelter Operated by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that this Board direct the CEO to allocate \$75,000 from the Homeless Programs fund to implement a Family Shelter Diversion Program for the upcoming Winter Warming Shelter Operated by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

**DISCUSSION:**

Earlier this year we approached the Board with a request to have Human Services Agency (HSA) staff study the issue of children in homeless shelters and to identify steps that The County could take to achieve the goal of having no child in Ventura County spend a night in a homeless shelter. HSA returned to our Board in September with a report detailing the initial steps that can be implemented to prioritize homelessness prevention services for children and their families, as well as exploring alternatives to families spending the night in a homeless shelter.

Common sense tells us of the scarring experience of spending a night in a homeless shelter. In an effort to avoid long term affects and impact on a child's present and future well-being, families with children, and unaccompanied children, should be prioritized when addressing homeless arriving at the Winter Warming Shelter. We are proposing that \$75,000 from the Homeless Programs fund be allocated to implement a Family Shelter Diversion Program during the operation of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul's Winter Warming Shelter opening this December.

When families with children do arrive at the Winter Warming Shelter, with appropriate resources, these families can be re-directed to motels the same evening for a short term basis. We believe the ability to offer more private temporary accommodations, coupled with the development of a case plan and wrap-around supportive services through a Social Worker, will provide an appropriate and safe alternative to having children and families stay in a traditional shelter environment.

Cordially,



Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, First District



Kathy I. Long  
Supervisor, Third District