

FY 2006 Report to the Hawaii State Legislature Status Report on Act 100, Section 2

Homeless Programs Branch
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Department of Human Services

Section 2 of Act 100, SLH 2006 requires an annual report to the legislature detailing the activities and outcomes under the above identified section.

The State has a long history of actively working with each County Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County housing/community service offices to plan and coordinate services for the homeless. The County Continuums of Care are community-based planning groups with diverse members from the community who meet regularly to address the needs of the homeless in the various jurisdictions. The State and Counties are in active partnership to mitigate homelessness throughout the State. They are also members of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness which has adopted a strategic plan to end homelessness in Hawaii.

Additionally, both the Counties and the State collaborate with the nonprofits on an ongoing basis to take whatever measures are available to ease the plight of the homeless and to prevent homelessness. The partnership between government and nonprofit organizations is nowhere more vibrant than that which exists in the homeless arena. The following report summarizes the activity and outcomes which have occurred during the past fiscal year over and above the continuing collaboration described above.

County of Kauai

Through a partnership between government and private nonprofit, the County's first emergency-transitional shelter is being completed in Lihue. County-owned portables were moved to land transferred from the State to the County. Federal dollars are being used to renovate the buildings for shelter accommodations and State stipend program dollars will provide the operational funds to a private nonprofit agency. The shelter will be open in Spring 2007.

The highly successful housing placement program was expanded to Kauai County in 2006. Kauai Economic Opportunity is contracted with TANF dollars to solicit landlords to rent to credit risky, formerly homeless families; provide tenant counseling; and help with rental security deposit/ first month's rent.

The County has identified a State building which will be renovated with the \$400,000 in GIA provided to the County of Kauai in Act 100, SLH 2006. The building will be transferred to the County and operated by a private nonprofit as a shelter for the homeless.

County of Maui

Maui County had allocated county funds for the first phase of renovations to the Family Life Center building, which is the property of a private nonprofit, to provide emergency housing to the chronically homeless. The \$400,000 allocated to Maui County in Act 100, SLH 2006, will provide for the second phase of renovations to the Family Life Center building, thereby increasing their capacity to shelter the homeless.

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County of Hawaii

In 2006, the Office of Social Ministry opened a homeless drop-in center in Kona. The drop-in center was constructed as a public service by a private developer on County land which was set aside for homeless services. The State provides homeless outreach funds for operations of the drop in center.

The Office of Social Ministry also obtained a lease for a 20-unit apartment building to begin a community reintegration program for exiting prisoners who have no where to go and who are headed for homelessness. This homeless prevention effort is a key piece to ending homelessness in Hawaii.

The County of Hawaii will be using the \$400,000 allocation from Act 100, SLH 2006 to purchase two houses in Hilo which will be operated as a homeless shelter for families by a private nonprofit agency. The County hopes to complete the purchase by Spring 2007.

City and County of Honolulu

In 2006, three new shelters were opened to respond to the increased number of homeless needing shelter and more sites at Kalaeloa and on the Leeward Coast are being sought.

- May 2006 – Next Step Emergency-Transitional Shelter opened in Kakaako
Serves 312 persons
State owned warehouse renovated to shelter the homeless
- Oct. 2006 – Onelau'ena opened at Kalaeloa
Serves 200 + persons
State owned building renovated to shelter the homeless
- Oct. 2006 – Lighthouse Outreach opened in Waipahu
Serves 86 persons
Church-owned gymnasium opened as shelter to the homeless

The Governor issued an emergency proclamation after assessing the health and safety issues with regard to the critical mass of unsheltered homeless living on the beaches of the Leeward Coast. A task force was initiated as a result of the proclamation to pave the way for shelter development to meet the needs of the unsheltered homeless. The task force, known as the HEART Team, has fast tracked the process of identifying potential shelter sites, gaining access to the sites, developing or renovating structures that can shelter the homeless, and maintaining ongoing communication with the Leeward communities.

In 2006, Family Promise began sheltering homeless families in Honolulu. Family Promise is a model for housing the homeless that has been in place in the continental U.S. for a couple of years. Churches agree to house a homeless family on a rotation basis, so no single church will find itself caring for a family for longer than one week out of several months. The mentoring and intervention produces a very high rate of success in stabilizing families for independent living.

The City's plan to utilize the \$2 million appropriated in Act 100, SLH 2006 is currently under review.

Summary

As evidenced by the activity in 2006, the partnerships and collaborations are inclusive of State, County and Federal government; private sector agencies; and concerned private citizens and businesses. Actions and strategies are built on community-based planning with all sector representatives actively participating.