

2002-2003 CDBG APPLICANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Name of Organization: Woodland Youth Services

Project Title: Security Camera System

- 1) If the cameras and security are standard equipment at shelters, why doesn't emergency shelter services already have them? Shouldn't this be part of your basic budget?**

Some shelters are County supplemented but Yolo County's only way of getting a shelter is to contract for an extremely reasonable price. Therefore making cost cutting necessary. Without the emergency shelter services there probably would not be a place for children to go as foster care is severely limited. There is not budget for cameras and such at foster care rates. It is however, an extremely important matter as we have been faced with prowlers and have had to call for police assistance several times. Because of regulations we cannot legally lock the window because of fire safety issues.

- 2) If this project is not funded by CDBG what will be the result?**

We have already been subject to the changing times of our community. Crime has risen, but our ability to protect ourselves has not. The fencing, and security system that we currently have in place consist of minimal lighting, a portable phone, and flashlight. Our staff and clients have come face to face with intimidating males that have taken to peering in our client's windows. A lack of funding would mean a security level well below what is preferable for the protection of our children and our staff. There doesn't seem to be anything worse to an already frightened child than to wonder if someone is watching through a window.

- 3) Please explain how the installation of security cameras constitutes "Homeless Prevention Services."**

The installation of the security cameras would diminish the possibility that any incident of compromised security shutting down our facility. If our facility were to shut down the Emergency Homeless Children's Shelter would no longer be an option for our county's children. Currently there are very few, if any, foster families that would take these problem children and teens. There are no other resources in the county that would feed, clothe and shelter them. All the children meet the very-low income level as they are considered a family of one (1) and many of their parents are homeless, mentally ill, perpetrators, or incarcerated. We give children on the streets a place to call home.