

2006 – 2007 CDBG/HOME APPLICANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Name of Organization: **Davis Community Meals, Inc.**
Project Title: **Coldweather Shelter**

1. Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP differs from other CDBG RFP's.

Our RFP is the only proposal to operate a cold weather shelter for homeless adult individuals in the city of Davis. There are no other agencies in Davis currently operating shelters and transitional housing programs for homeless adults and families.

2. Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP supplements other CDBG RFP's.

The needs of our target population at the cold weather shelter are many. While the shelter is used for overnight accommodations and provides a meal for residents in the evening, all of the residents are in need of other services. Many are provided by our Resource Center at 1111 H Street, such as showers, clothing, employment assistance, substance abuse assistance, housing assistance, and other related services. Others are provided referrals to STEAC for food and other forms of monetary assistance. We assist many in completing applications for the affordable housing offered by CHOC and YMHA and help guide them through the process of obtaining housing. Many are referred to Communicare Health Centers for physical and mental health issues.

3. Describe in detail your efforts to coordinate with other CDBG agencies similar resources.

There are no other Davis CDBG agencies providing similar resources.

4. Can/will your agency continue this service if CDBG funding is not granted? How? What other funding sources have you or are you exploring?

We are currently applying for funding for the cold weather shelter through various non-profit entities, such as the Rumsey Community Fund and other private foundations and business organizations. There are little funding opportunities from state or federal funding sources as most have decreased funding during the past several years.

Staffing is the critical issue in operating the shelter. Currently, we are providing much of the staffing time through volunteers. However, recruiting volunteers to stay overnight at a shelter is very difficult and time consuming. We currently have 2 volunteers who are providing about 40% of all of the overnight staffing hours. We cannot guarantee that that they will want to have such a tremendous time commitment next year or that we will be able to recruit enough volunteers to replace their hours. Our request for funding will provide 1 paid staff person each night we are open. The other 2 staffing positions; 1 overnight and 1 from 6-11 pm, will be from volunteer recruitment. We will need to locate some funding source to pay for this position. If we do not receive any CDBG funding and no other funding sources are located, we will need to evaluate our ability to operate the program for the coming year.

5. How many individuals have been served by this year's CWS?

As of this date, we have served 23 men and 5 women at the shelter for a total of 28 unduplicated individuals.

6. Does DCM plan on providing crisis shelter to families with children? If so, when? If not, why not? If not, what does DCM do for families in crisis? If not, why does DCM choose to house single adults over families with children?

We are actively seeking a site to purchase or develop with the help of a partner to centrally locate our Family Transitional Housing Program. As part of the site, we will include a housing unit to house a homeless family on an emergency basis. The timeframe is unknown at present.

7. What percent of individuals are from out of the area?

We have had 4 persons from outside Davis use the shelter. Of the 4, 2 were Yolo County residents and 2 were from Sacramento.

8. What percent are recent prison/jail releases? Does DCM receive money for housing them?

1 individual was a recent parolee. After a short stay at the CWS, he moved into our transitional housing facility where he has been for approximately 1 month. He is currently employed. We do not receive any money from the Department of Corrections for housing.

9. Do you currently have City approval to run the Fifth Street house as a CWS during the 06-07 winter?

The current approval by the council was for our current operating year. We will need to seek approval again from the city for 06-07.

10. How do you estimate this need will decrease with the opening of Eleanor Roosevelt Project? What about with a restructuring of the Homestead Project to serve individuals with mental illnesses? And Cesar Chavez in 2007?

I do not believe Eleanor Roosevelt or Homestead will decrease the need. There are few homeless individuals over 60 years of age. Cesar Chavez may be housing some of our target population who receive a fixed income or have some employment income. This may decrease the need upon it's completion in September 2007.