

2008 – 2009 CDBG/HOME APPLICANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Name of Organization: S.T.E.A.C.

Project Title:

1. Part of your other services include STEAC's eviction prevention that includes motel vouchers. Who uses these vouchers typically (individuals, couples, families)?

First, to clarify, our motel vouchers fall under our Emergency Shelter program and are separate from our Eviction Prevention program. Last year, we provided emergency shelter (motel vouchers) to 28 families (cases) comprised of 74 individuals. Of these individuals, 14 were men, 25 were women, and 35 were children. In terms of family type, 22% were adults only, 37% were female-headed households, 4% were single female adults, 15% were single male adults, and 2% were two or more adults with children.

Are they available to families in need of emergency shelter?

Yes (see above)

2. How many families in need of emergency shelter have been assisted for the past year?

If you define family to mean an individual, or adult(s) either with or without children, the answer is 28 duplicated families (25 unduplicated). If you define family to mean an adult with children the answer would be 16 families. See answer to question #1 above for further breakdown.

Do these vouchers get exhausted often?

No. Contrary to our other programs, our demand for motel vouchers has been declining. One reason is that, unfortunately due to some clients leaving motel rooms in a state of disrepair, only one motel in West Sacramento is now willing to accept client referrals.

3. How are the vouchers obtained (purchased, donated)?

STEAC receives public grant funding for motel vouchers.

What is the per voucher cost?

On average, STEAC pays for a three-day stay in the motel, although residence times are sometimes longer depending on circumstances and the cost varies depending on the size of the family. The average payment for emergency shelter in 2006/07 was \$139. Payment for one to two people to stay one night is roughly \$50.

4. Would STEAC support development of a voucher system for hotels in Davis that is modeled after Section Vouchers? *For this to work, the Homeless Coalition, backed by the City would enter into an agreement with the hotels and motels in Davis whereby the voucher would cover a room and a reasonable amount (TBD) of money to cover destruction or theft of property, squatting etc... The idea is to give the hotels and motels an incentive that we believe would be needed rarely.*

We did have a voucher system for motels in Davis but unfortunately due to some clients leaving motel rooms in a state of disrepair, the arrangement with the hotel in Davis ended and now we only one motel in West Sacramento that is willing to accept client referrals. We would be open to discussing reestablishing this arrangement.

5. Please provide describe how many unduplicated people/households served during the current funding cycle.

We served 25 families (unduplicated) and 66 individuals (unduplicated)

6. Please explain how STEAC differs from the Food Bank.

STEAC has an entire menu of programs that are designed to provide assistance to low-income families and individuals in Yolo County who are going through a temporary emergency. STEAC has cash assistance programs ranging from rental and utility assistance, emergency shelter, educational assistance, miscellaneous (CA ID, gasoline, etc.) and Suit Up for Success (interview outfits). STEAC also has material assistance such as the clothing and food closets.

The Food Bank only provides assistance with food.

Are community members able to procure food from both organizations? Is so, how often?

Community members can procure food from both organizations. Low-income families and individuals can receive the equivalent of 3 meals a day for five days for every member of a family, and they can receive this service once a month. STEAC distributes about 100,000 pounds of food a year. STEAC only serves Davis residents because there are other food closets and resources in the neighboring cities such as Woodland and West Sacramento.

The Yolo County Food Bank serves all of Yolo County. They have a number of programs and services that are listed on their website. To name a few services, they sell discounted food items to public service agencies such as STEAC. The Food Bank also distributes groceries to members of the community on Friday mornings from 7am – 8am. They also distribute USDA commodities for free to low-income individuals at various sites throughout Yolo County. The Food Bank distributes about two million pounds of food a year.

7. Please describe your intake process.

STEAC only accepts clients that have been referred by a social service agency that has been trained by STEAC regarding our guidelines and qualifying criteria. Clients are first screened by the referral agency. The referral agency then calls STEAC's telephone access line where trained volunteers also screen the client. The referral agency fills out an intake form and STEAC fills out a contact sheet. Both forms require information such as contact information, ethnicity, type of service requested, and background on the emergency that warrants the service request. Each case also includes all the supporting documents such as a PG&E 48-hour notice, eviction notice from a landlord, proof of income, etc. For rental assistance, STEAC has a landlord verification form that is used to insure that the landlord will allow the client to remain in their residence for a specified period of time if they receive payment from STEAC. STEAC also directly works with PG&E to verify client account information and to verify the amount necessary to keep or restore power. STEAC has a detailed training manual that outlines the screening process for each of STEAC's services.

8. Please describe your policy regarding accessing STEAC's various services.

STEAC's mission is to provide immediate short-term assistance with basic necessities to low-income Yolo County families and individuals. Assistance may include help with rent, utilities, clothing, food and other basic necessities. Clients must be low-income Yolo County residents with incomes at or below the federal poverty

level to receive assistance. In order to receive assistance, clients must also be experiencing a short-term emergency such as the temporary loss of a job, a person who has missed work due to illness and expenses have been temporarily unpaid, or a woman escaping a violent home life.

9. Please describe how STEAC partners with other food dispensing charities and social service organizations.

Outreach to inform those in the community of the food closet service is performed in these ways.

For outreach to clients, the STEAC services access line number is listed in the telephone book and in directories of social service agencies and organizations in the area. Information about the food closet, printed in English and Spanish, is distributed to agencies, such as the Food Bank of Yolo County, Davis Resource Center, Yolo County Department of Social Services, Migrant Education, libraries, in Davis schools and via many other nonprofit social service groups. Prospective clients are also made aware of the food closet services at the holiday program. STEAC food closet information is included on the web site <http://www.steac.org>. STEAC sends informational mailings to schools, churches, community groups and public agencies. The food closet coordinator hosts fieldtrips to the food closet for brownie troops to teach them about public service and STEAC's role in the community. STEAC volunteers regularly conduct training sessions to inform staff at public and nonprofit agencies about services.

For outreach for food drives, STEAC volunteers regularly reach out to those who have sponsored food drives in the past, in particular the public schools providing an opportunity for students to become involved in public service. In addition, information for those wanting to sponsor a food drive is available on the STEAC web page, in regular newspaper articles and in brochures that are regularly mailed to civic groups, nonprofits, churches and to individuals. In 2005-06, STEAC began coordinating the food drives in Davis via a calendar that is made available via a web page on the Internet.

STEAC works with roughly 30 social service agencies in Yolo County that it trains on a regular basis regarding STEAC services so they know criteria for making a referral for services. STEAC is also a member of the Yolo County Homeless Poverty and Action Coalition which is a 17-member organization that meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues surrounding homelessness and poverty in Yolo County.