



Yolo County Housing

Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DATE: January 15, 2009
TO: YCH Board of Commissioners
FROM: Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director
PREPARED BY: Judson Brown, Housing Administrator
SUBJECT: **Review and Approve Proposed Resolution to Apply for Additional Vouchers through the Family Unification Program and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Appropriate Agreements**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Review and approve resolution authorizing Yolo County Housing to submit an application to HUD for additional vouchers through the Family Unification Program; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to execute appropriate agreements to apply for vouchers under the FUP Program and administer the additional vouchers under the program if the application is approved by HUD.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Family Unification Program provides Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) to families whose lack of adequate housing is a primary cause of the separation, or imminent separation, of a child or children from their families.

Purpose

The Family Unification Program provides voucher rental assistance for eligible families so that children will not be separated from their parents because of lack of housing. The program is funded and operated under the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program.

Eligible Grantees

Beginning in 1997, all PHAs authorized under State law to develop or operate housing assistance programs may apply for funding to operate a Family Unification Program. Public Housing Authorities must rate "standard performer" or higher for its Voucher program. Although Yolo County Housing was able to self-certify a standard rating in the last Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) review, federal regulations require that we retain our troubled status until such time as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conducts an on-site confirmatory review. Because of this, the YCH is still rated a "troubled" agency. However, when staff discussed the issue with HUD representatives, they encouraged us to continue to move forward with making an application and they have taken the extra step of moving up the date of the confirmatory review. As a result, HUD is conducting its confirmatory review the week of January 12 -

Working together to provide quality affordable housing and community development services for all

15, 2009. If HUD certifies the YCH as a standard agency, then it will move forward with the FUP application. If HUD determines that the "troubled" designation must continue, then staff will not move forward with the application. In addition, staff will inform the Board of whether or not the "troubled" designation has been removed at a future meeting once the results are known.

Application

Housing authorities apply for funding by responding to Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) published in the Federal Register. Each NOFA identifies allocation areas, amounts of funds available per area and the maximum "fair share" allocation for which the jurisdiction could be eligible, the selection criteria for rating and ranking applications. PHAs are given at least 30 days to submit applications. Interested households apply for assistance through their PHA. The due date for this application is January 28, 2009. The YCH's fair share allocation is 50 vouchers. There is no guarantee that any or all of that allocation will be awarded to the YCH.

Need

In the current economic climate of the nation and our county, staff finds that need for affordable housing services continues to rise, but that funds and services have suffered reductions over the last several years, meaning that there are fewer funds to meet growing need.. New populations of residents find themselves in need of services and in danger of having their children removed from the household when they are unable to provide housing for themselves and their children.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this item could potentially provide funding for additional Vouchers and operations fees for Yolo County Housing. Failure to approve this item would not change the current program. If the YCH does not meet the "standard" performer status at time of application, no funds would be awarded to the YCH.

CONCLUSION

In its Voucher programs Yolo County Housing serves extremely low-income (30% of median, or \$21,300 for a family of 4) to very low-income (50% of median or \$35,500 for a family of 4) families in Yolo County. If approved by HUD, additional vouchers will allow YCH to serve more at-risk families in Yolo County through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and allow children to remain united with their families during these difficult times. As an example, between July 2008 and December 2008, the YCH website has received 4,508 inquiries from individuals wanting to apply for housing assistance. In this first week of January, the website is averaging almost 100 inquiries per day for housing information. Staff recommends that the Board approve the resolution to apply for Family Unification Vouchers.

Attachments: Resolution

**YOLO COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 09- ____**

**(Resolution to Authorize Application for Additional Vouchers through the
Family Unification Program and Authorize the Executive Director to
Execute Appropriate Agreements)**

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the County of Yolo ("YCH") has received a Notice of Funding Availability ("NOFA") set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") of available funding under the Family Unification Program; and

WHEREAS, the regional office of HUD has determined in electronic mail that the YCH is in conformance with federal requirements and should apply for funding under this NOFA contingent on being reclassified from a "troubled agency" to at least a "standard performer"; and

WHEREAS, the complete application from YCH must be submitted to HUD by the 28th day of January 2009 in order to be eligible for funding under this program; and

WHEREAS, approval of this resolution could potentially provide funding for additional Vouchers for families in need of affordable housing and in keeping their families intact.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the County of Yolo, as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board of Commissioners hereby approves that the Housing Authority of the County of Yolo submit an application to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department for additional funding under the Family Unification Program.
3. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Executive Director, on behalf of the Housing Authority of the County of Yolo, to execute any and all agreements necessary to carry out this transaction.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the County of Yolo, State of California, this 15th day of January 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____, Chair
Board of Commissioners of the
Housing Authority of the County of Yolo

Approved as to Form:

Agency Counsel

By _____
Sonia Cortes

Attest:
Ana Morales, Clerk
Board of Commissioners of the
Housing Authority of the County of Yolo

By _____
Deputy