

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) was notified on December 2, 2002 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which has funded the Winter Shelter Program for the past eight years at approximately \$800,000 per year, would no longer allow the Local Board, which is a governing body created by FEMA to manage FEMA non-disaster funding allocated to Counties throughout the United States, to contract with LAHSA. FEMA based its decision on regulations that require the recipient of Emergency Shelter Grant Program funds to be an agency that provides "direct client services". The decision was not related in any way to the quality of the program being provided by LAHSA or LAHSA's capabilities to administer the program. LAHSA has never been a direct client service agency, but has instead serviced homeless populations indirectly through administered contracts with local shelter service providers. All of the FEMA monies for the Winter Shelter Program were allocated to service providers located outside of the City of Los Angeles, but within the County.

M-O-R-E

MOTION

MOLINA _____

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BURKE _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

MARCH 4, 2003

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The FEMA decision was made after provider agencies had been selected and after the program had started for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. Unfortunately, the Local Board was only able to contract with agencies that were currently on their roster of funded agencies, resulting in the expenditure of only \$400,000 of their allocation to the county. LAHSA reviewed the occupancy level of the individual agencies contracted with the Winter Shelter Program and discovered an overall shortfall of approximately \$260,000 to the County program. The City of Los Angeles has since then provided \$260,000 to backfill this gap in funding for the current Fiscal Year. However, the decision made by FEMA to no longer contract with LAHSA will have significant, long-term implications on the quality of service delivery among local homeless service providers due to the complexities involved with local homeless service providers engaging in contracting and RFP processes with the Local Board, as opposed to LAHSA. LAHSA has been administering contracts to local service providers since its inception in 1993.

THEREFORE I, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, requesting their review of FEMA's actions to no longer allow the Local Board to contract with LAHSA for Winter Shelter Programs; and requesting their assistance in securing a change in FEMA's regulations as it pertains to LAHSA in an effort to maintain efficient quality of service to local homeless service providers relative to Emergency Shelter Grant Program Contracts.