

RESOLUTION

R-09-915
11-10-09

WHEREAS a minimum of 750 people in Passaic County were homeless in last year's Point in Time Count, nearly half in families with children; and

WHEREAS homelessness worsens the mental and physical health of these children and adults, and it will undermine their treatment, education and employment prospects; and

WHEREAS homelessness will place additional strain on the schools that struggle to keep homeless children enrolled and learning, and the hospitals and emergency rooms that must care for homeless people whose illness would never have occurred if they had permanent housing; and

WHEREAS the path out of homelessness relies to a significant degree on programs funded by HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants and state funds; and

WHEREAS the Passaic County has developed a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS the Passaic County Homeless Trust Fund, if enacted, would leverage this scarce funding and assist in implementing Passaic County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS the Passaic County Homeless Trust Fund supplemented by dedicated staff, volunteers, and resources from the private sector and local, state and federal governments, would help thousands of families and individuals in Passaic County

move into permanent housing and thus provide a healthier, more stable living environment; and

WHEREAS programs focused on ending homelessness can reduce public costs to hospitals, emergency rooms, law enforcement and foster care systems;

WHEREAS recently enacted P.L. 2009, Chapter 123 permits counties to establish County Homeless Trust Funds; and

WHEREAS said law authorizes the collection by participating Counties of a surcharge of \$3 dollars for each document recorded by the County Clerk's Office, to be used exclusively for the Trust Fund, which surcharge will be in addition to any other charge allowed by law; and

WHEREAS P.L. 2009, c. 123 requires a participating county to establish "County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force" which is defined as the voluntary local committee created to advise the County on the creation of a local homeless housing plan and participate in a local homeless housing program; and

WHEREAS this matter was reviewed and approved by the Health, Human Services and Community Affairs Committee on October 29, 2009;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic does hereby establish the Passaic County Homeless Trust Fund pursuant to P.L. 2009 Chapter 123; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that commencing on January 1, 2010, the County Clerk shall collect a surcharge of \$3 dollars

for each document recorded, as covered by the provisions of the statute, which will be in addition to any other charge allowed by law, and that the County Clerk shall issue the appropriate notice of the changes in relevant fees accordingly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds generated by such surcharge so collected shall be deposited in said "Trust Fund" and used exclusively for the following purposes:

1. The Passaic County Homeless Trust Fund is established for the operation of a homeless housing grant program. This program is established in order to provide:
 - a. For the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing projects or units within housing projects that supply permanent affordable housing for homeless persons for families, including those at risk of homelessness;
 - b. Rental assistance vouchers, including tenant and project based subsidies, for affordable housing projects or units within housing projects that provide permanent affordable housing for homeless families, including those at risk of homelessness;
 - c. Supportive services as may be required by homeless individuals or families in order to

obtain or maintain, or both, permanent affordable housing; and

- d. Prevention services for at risk homeless individuals or families so that they can obtain permanent affordable housing.
2. No more than five percent of the fund may be used annually by the County for administrative costs related to administration of the fund and the grant program established herein, and the remainder only for homeless housing programs as described in this chapter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is hereby established the "Passaic County Homeless Trust Fund Task Force" a Sub-committee of the Passaic County Interagency Council to End Homeless (**PCICH**) will advise the Passaic County government on the creation of a local homeless housing plan and participate in a local homeless housing program.

1. The membership of the "County Homeless Trust Fund Task Force shall consist of:
 - a. a representative of the county,
 - b. representative from each of the three municipalities in the county with the largest population of homeless people,
 - c. a representative(s) of the organization responsible for developing and/or

implementing the local ten year plan to end homelessness,

- d. at least three homeless or formerly homeless persons, and
- e. three representatives of local private nonprofit organizations with experience in assisting the homeless or providing low-income housing.

The Freeholders will select the three non-profit members of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force from among the following organizations. Such as:

NJCDC
Eva's Village
United Way
Urban League
Catholic Charities
ECT

Each organization selected will annually select an individual to represent it on the Task Force.

The Freeholders will select the homeless and formerly homeless members of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force from recommendations made by the non-profit members of the task force.

2. The County Homeless Trust Fund Task Force is hereby authorized to:

- a. formally organize itself and adopt appropriate bylaws and other procedures intended to facilitate its operations;

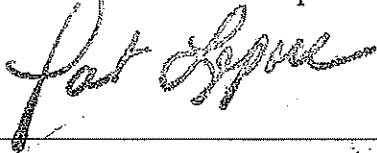
- b. establish an annual competitive grant process in order to solicit proposals from non-profit organizations seeking funding designed to accomplish one or more of the purpose described above;
- c. evaluate the proposals received and make recommendations to the Freeholders regarding the specific proposals that's should be funded and in what amount;
- d. hold at least one meeting every 3 month(s), which meeting shall be open to the public;
- e. hold at least two public hearings each year:
 - (1) one shall precede the annual request for proposals, and be for the purpose of receiving oral and written testimony and data regarding the current nature and extent of homelessness, the available supply of housing potentially affordable to homeless individuals and families at various income levels, and others;
 - (2) the other shall precede by at least one month the regular Task Force meeting at which the annual funding recommendations will be decided, and be for the purpose of receiving comments from the public and interested organizations

- f. prepare an annual report and an annual measurement of the progress of the trust fund; and
- g. undertake any and all additional tasks mandated by the governing statute and regulations.

3. The Passaic County Department of Human Services shall provide staff and other operational assistance to the Task Force as required to enable it to accomplish the goals and purpose for which the Trust Fund and Task are established.

JDP:lc

This resolution was requested by:



Reviewed by:



ANTHONY J. DE NOVA *T.J. CONNOR*
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
 DEPUTY

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



WILLIAM J. PASCRELL, III
 COUNTY COUNSEL

RECORD OF VOTE

Freeholder	Y	N	NV	ABS	RES	SEC
Duffy						
Gallagher						
Hannigan						
James						
Lepore						
Rosado						
Dir. Way						

Y=yes N=no NV=not voting
 ABS=abstain RES=moved
 SEC=seconded

Dated: November 10, 2009