

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Human Services Division

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Cheryl S. Davis, Director, Human Services Division

DATE: November 2, 2010

SUBJECT: The Salvation Army 2010-2011 Winter Emergency Voucher Program

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract with The Salvation Army to operate a Winter Emergency Voucher Program for homeless and low income families with children, and adults, from October 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 in the amount of \$40,000, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement and subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the total contract amount.

The contract is fully funded with County General Funds. This cost is included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Since the winter of 1999-2000, The Salvation Army has provided emergency shelter services, rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness, food, and transportation services to individuals and families in Placer County who are in need during the winter months. At that time, this contract was initiated in lieu of the county opening and operating the armory as a temporary winter shelter.

The Salvation Army Winter Voucher Program has proven to be a cost effective and efficient way to assist families and individuals in crisis and in many cases, to avoid homelessness. In winter 2009-2010, the Salvation Army was able to provide emergency assistance to 75 households that included 209 men, women and children. Thirty nine (39) of those families were seeking help because of employment loss.

With the prolonged economic recession, it is expected that more families and individuals in need will be accessing these services this winter. The Salvation Army is reporting a 12 to 15 percent increase for housing and utility assistance and a threefold increase in families and individuals needing help with food.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Salvation Army 2010-2011 Winter Emergency Voucher Program is funded with County General Funds. The amount is a \$7,000 increase over the prior year due to increased demand related to the struggling economy. The cost is included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Budget and will be offset through one-time federal funds to the extent they become available.

This contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for your review.

