

2007 EMERGENCY SHELTER SYSTEM

CHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 2008

Overview

The Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) provides funding for eight emergency shelters located throughout Chester County. The information contained in the following report is compiled from the Consolidated Plan Quarterly Reports (CPQRs), which are submitted to DCD by County funded emergency shelters.

Demographic Summary

During 2007, the total number of unduplicated cases served by DCD funded emergency shelters was 783. The total number of homeless adults served was 803, with the majority of these persons (76%) being single males. The number of single-parent families made up over 11% of the total number of cases served. The number of two-parent families served by DCD funded homeless shelters continues to be low, at .13% of total cases served.

Single women accounted for 10% of the total adult homeless population. The overall number of single women served by emergency shelters increased slightly in 2007, from 80 to 82 served. However, there has been a growing concern among advocates for the homeless that the needs of single women are not being adequately met. Currently, only one DCD funded emergency shelter accommodates single homeless women. Of the four other shelters serving men, women and families, priority is generally given to those women with children. This often times forces the shelters to turn away single homeless women. The fact that county shelters have maintained the

same number of beds available to single homeless women may account for the minimal change in numbers served over the past several years. During 2007, a Homeless Single Women's Taskforce was created in order to address this growing need to provide more shelter beds for single homeless women. With the support of local agencies and faith-based organizations, a roaming shelter was implemented specifically to serve single homeless women. The roaming shelter operated from October 22, 2007 to March 24, 2008 and served a total of 33 unduplicated cases.

The total number of children served by DCD funded homeless shelters in 2007 was 175. This number increased by approximately 7% since 2006. Of these homeless children, 95 were between 0 and 5 years of age; 62 were between 6 and 12 years of age; and 21 were between the ages of 13 and 18. Of the total homeless population served in 2007, 54% were White, approximately 44% were African American, more than 3% were Hispanic or Latino, and .4% were Asian. No shelters reported serving another race.

Income and Employment

Approximately 31% of the sheltered homeless population in Chester County was employed during 2007. This is a 14% increase since 2006. Approximately 55% of the sheltered homeless were actively seeking employment and just over 19% were receiving a government subsidy of some kind. Approximately 98% of the homeless persons served during 2007 earned 30% or below the Median Family Income (MFI). This is 23% more than

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