A RESOURCE PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS ADULTS AND FAMILIES IN COMPTON, CALIFORNIA: A GRANT PROPOSAL

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Introduction

• In 2014, there were over 578,000 homeless adults on a single evening in the United States (Flanagan & Briggs, 2016).

• Los Angeles County holds more than 48,000 individuals who experience homelessness on any given night, the highest number in the United States (Guerrero, Henwood, & Wenzel, 2014).

• Many homeless individuals experience risk factors, such as mental illnesses, medical issues, and substance use (Shipley & Tempelmeyer, 2012).

• Even with the evident need for intervention, resources for mental health, substance use, and health care are rarely utilized by this population due to the more pressing needs of survival, such as clothing, food, water, and shelter (Rhoades et al., 2014).

• The purpose of this project is to allow the Compton Initiative, a non-profit organization, to use this grant to provide basic need items, resources, and services to the homeless population.
Social Work Relevance

• Within the scope of social work, homeless individuals make up an important population that may benefit from some of the duties of a social worker, such as assessments, resources, interventions, and advocacy, as stated in the social work Code of Ethics (National Association of Social Workers, 2015)

• This population is underserved and it is the responsibility of a social worker to provide service and social justice to those who are underserved

• This program would not only provide service to underprivileged and underserved individuals, but it would also offer a better quality of life to the homeless population, as well as advocate for the needs of this population.
Cross Cultural Relevance

- The homeless population in the United States is made up of every race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, and age.

- Within the homeless population in Los Angeles County, approximately 27,000 are male, 13,000 are women, and 200 are transgender (LAHSA, 2016).

- Approximately 11,000 identify themselves as Latino, 15,000 as African American, 10,000 as Caucasian, 600 as Asian, 1,000 as American Indian, 60 as Pacific Islander, and 2,000 as multi-racial (LAHSA, 2016).

- The age range of the homeless population counted is approximately 18-62 and over, with the majority of homeless individuals being between 25-54 years of age (LAHSA, 2016).
Methods

• Target population: homeless adults and families in Compton, California and surrounding communities

• Strategies used to identify funding source:
  • Search library databases, search engines such as Google and Grants.gov
  • Amount and duration of funding available
  • Mission of funder aligned with goal of program

• Funding Source Selected: Weingart Foundation, Capital Grant
Methods

• Sources used for needs assessment:
  • Comprehensive literature review
  • Data sources available through host agency, the Compton Initiative
  • Information provided by the Compton Initiative service providers to the homeless population

• Project Budget Range and Categories
  • $283,336.96 for one year of operation
    • Categories: Salaries (of Program Manager, Masters of Social Work, Bachelors of Social Work, Receptionist/Office Clerk, Security Officer, Program Volunteers), program and training supplies, expendable equipment, phone and internet costs, basic need items for clients, monthly gift cards for clients, rent and utilities, office supplies/equipment, and miscellaneous costs
Grant Proposal

• Program Summary and Description
  • Every Friday participants can:
    • Receive psychosocial services; referrals for primary care, mental health, and substance use; crisis intervention therapy services; and mental health assessments
    • Receive education on applying for Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private health insurance.
    • Receive emergency basic items, such as food and water, clothing, and hygiene products
    • Use of a portable shower
    • Gift cards of $15 for local grocery stores once a month

• Population Served
  • 90-100 homeless individuals per month from neighboring cities and communities within Los Angeles County
  • Men, women, and families who experience the risk factors of being homeless;
Grant Proposal

• Goals and Objectives
  • To increase the level of independence for homeless adults and families by providing bio-psychosocial resources, referrals, and education.
  • To reduce the intensity of clients’ emotional and behavioral response to a crisis situation by providing crisis intervention therapy sessions focusing on problem solving techniques.
  • To increase access to basic items such as food, water, clothing, and hygiene products in order to improve quality of life to homeless adults and families.

• Evaluation of Program
  • “CHRP Evaluation Survey”
    • On participants 1st, 5th, and 12th visits
  • “Crisis Intervention Therapy Survey,”
    • On participants 1st crisis intervention therapy session
  • “Crisis Intervention Ongoing Services”
    • On participants follow up crisis intervention therapy session
Lessons Learned

• Grant writer’s identification of Need for Proposed Program
  • Previous work experience in the city of Compton as case manager
  • Previous volunteer experience in the city of Compton through The Compton Initiative

• Grant Writing Process
  • Learned how to identify reliable funding source
  • Learned how to create sustainable budget for program
    • Attending a budgeting seminar
    • Consulting with a professional grant writer

• Professional Development
  • Developing discipline, networking abilities, finding and utilizing resources, researching abilities

• Social Work Relevance
  • Serve and advocate for underserved and vulnerable populations (National Association of Social Workers, 2015).
  • Grant writing abilities relevant for effective social work practice
References


