

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

1999 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-68-1999

Proposed by The Chairman (by request - County Executive)

Introduced by Council Member Estep

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction November 23, 1999

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Prince George's County Continuum of Care for Homeless People

3 For the purpose of recommending the continuous engagement of the citizens of Prince George's

4 County to further develop a seamless service delivery system for homeless residents of the

5 County.

6 WHEREAS, the success of this effort will result in strengthened communities and a
7 subsequent reduction in the occurrence of homelessness; and

8 WHEREAS, homelessness is a symptom of larger social and economic issues that exist in
9 communities around the country; and

10 WHEREAS, the County's increased activity around economic development and
11 revitalization will, as a natural outcome, empower and strengthen communities as they address
12 the symptoms of social and economic issues such as homelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, the County's Homeless Services Partnership, the County Executive's advisory
14 board on homeless issues, has shown leadership in the effort to improve services to residents
15 experiencing homelessness using the Continuum of Care model; and

16 WHEREAS, one of the fundamental principles guiding the recommendations of the County
17 Executive's Homeless Services Task Force was the County's on-going commitment to increase
18 the coordination, collaboration and communication with others in the community who share the
19 County's commitment to serving the poor and economically disadvantaged; and

20 WHEREAS, recommendations in the 1998 report of the County Executive's Homeless
21 Services Task Force have, among other results, yielded an outcome of marked improvement in

1 the integration of services among numerous County agencies, community-based organizations
2 and faith-based service providers; and

3 WHEREAS, the County's Continuum of Care service providers have made substantial
4 progress toward the common goal of creating a seamless homeless service delivery system that
5 includes prevention, outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing with
6 services and is augmented with an array of supportive services; and

7 WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that through improved communication, coordination
8 and collaboration the Prince George's County Continuum of Care has benefited from the work of
9 committed advocates from across the County and has realized an overall 38% increase in
10 homeless services spending over the past four years; and

11 WHEREAS, because of increased spending, improved project designs have resulted in
12 enhanced on-site services such as comprehensive case management, employment assistance,
13 substance abuse counseling, life skills training and housing placement assistance for persons
14 residing in emergency shelters; and

15 WHEREAS, over the last five years advocates around the country have made substantial
16 progress in educating Congress and the public about the need for additional resources for
17 addressing the needs of homeless people; and

18 WHEREAS, new grant awards supporting an increased homeless services capacity have
19 come from at least ten federal, state and local funding sources; and

20 WHEREAS, the County agencies listed below have been involved with either the funding
21 or the provision of services to the Continuum of Care for residents experiencing homelessness:

- 22 λ The Department of Social Services
- 23 λ The Department of Housing and Community Development
- 24 λ The Office of Central Services
- 25 λ The Department of Family Services
- 26 λ The Health Department
- 27 λ The Fire Department
- 28 λ The Department of Environmental Resources
- 29 λ The Police Department
- 30 λ The Public School System
- 31 λ The Department of Public Works and Transportation; and

1 WHEREAS, despite the determined efforts of all stakeholders to address the root causes of
 2 homelessness, it must be acknowledged that there are ongoing goals to be accomplished to insure
 3 social and economic stability for all citizens of Prince George's County; and

4 WHEREAS, the County Executive joins with the Council in this resolution to emphasize
 5 the County's commitment;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
 7 County, Maryland, that County agencies are urged to continue to engage the citizens of the
 8 County in strengthening communities to address the causes of homelessness through ongoing
 9 and increased communication, coordination and collaboration. Such communication,
 10 coordination and collaboration shall, at a minimum, result in the following outcomes:

- 11 λ A reduction in the occurrence of homelessness; and
- 12 λ A comprehensive, five-year strategic plan to address increased and improved services
- 13 to residents of Prince George's County experiencing homelessness; and
- 14 λ The identification of additional financial resources; and
- 15 λ Further improvement in the integration of mainstream resources into the Continuum of
- 16 Care for homeless people in Prince George's County.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that strategies and action steps included in the
 18 comprehensive five-year plan, shall become part of the County's FY 2001-2005 Consolidated
 19 Plan submission to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In
 20 addition, progress made toward the accomplishment of these strategies and actions steps shall be
 21 reported on annually by The Homeless Services Partnership, which is the County Executive's
 22 advisory board on homeless issues. This annual report shall be presented in writing to the
 23 County Executive and the County Council during the month of August of each year.
 24

Adopted this 23rd day of November, 1999.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
M. H. Jim Estepp
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Wayne K. Curry
County Executive