

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

October 28, 2003

SUBJECT:

Update on Human Services Technical Committee and Human Services Coordinating Committee

SUMMARY:

The two Human Services Committees have prioritized human service areas for involvement as well as reviewed and studied community initiatives for further development. The Human Services "Advance" (Strategic Planning Session) was held July 17, 2003 with more than 65 elected officials, city staff, human service providers, volunteers, and stakeholders in attendance. During that meeting the accomplishments of the past year(s) were highlighted and a plan for the next 18 months was developed through a priority ranking process.

Highly ranked on the involvement and importance levels during the prioritization process were the continuation of gaining public input and allocating Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funding (approximately \$4 million); developing initiatives on financial literacy, specifically promoting Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) throughout Maricopa County; advocacy for the one-half cent sales tax on behalf of public transportation service needs; and studying potential issues for planning around elderly, early intervention and prevention services, as well as web-based services and youth services.

The Human Services Division will continue to maintain domestic violence coordination and planning as well as homeless coordination and planning as deliverables. Additionally, the Human Services Division will provide staff support to the Arizona Department of Transportation Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Section 5310.

A presentation of EITC as a recommended new regional initiative will be given by members of Human Services Technical Committee who have implemented marketing programs for EITC in their municipalities. The EITC is a refundable tax credit that could result in extra money in the hands of eligible taxpayers. The encouragement of residents to apply and receive EITC could increase the resources and dollars coming into local communities and businesses.

This priority ranking was discussed and voted on in the Human Services Technical Committee meeting held on September 18, 2003 and then brought through recommendations to the Human Services Coordinating Committee at their October 9, 2003 meeting. During that joint meeting of the Human Services Coordinating Committee and the Human Services Technical Committee, a consensus was reached to bring the priorities to the Management Committee and the Regional Committee for information, discussion and comment.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Input received at the Human Services Advance on July 17, 2003 was incorporated into the plan that was developed through the priority ranking process for the next 18 months.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: During a time of economic decline, it is difficult for many families on a fixed income to maintain a self-sustaining budget. Eligibility for EITC could put up to \$4,140 annually into a family's tight budget.

CONS: The marketing and education regarding EITC would take some time and thought for each local planning area to determine what support could be lent to the efforts.

ACTION NEEDED:

Information, discussion and comment.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Joint meeting of Human Services Coordinating and Technical Committees: On October 9, 2003, a consensus was reached that supported the recommendations of the Human Services Technical Committee was reached.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ATTENDING

- Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network, Chairman
- Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
- * Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services
- Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
- Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
- + Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
- Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
- Connie James, City of Scottsdale
- Mindy Wakefield for Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
- * Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
- Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
- Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
- * Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community Service Program
- John Paul Lopez, City of Tolleson
- Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW
- * Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
- * Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
- Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
- Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
- * Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
- Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
- Rex Critchfield for Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
- * Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
- Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
- * Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
- * Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
- Neal Young, City of Phoenix

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ATTENDING

- * Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear
- * Dennis Cahill, City of Tempe, Chair
- Kyle Jones, City of Mesa
- * Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix
- Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale
- * Linda Huff Redman, Tempe Community Council
- * Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale
- * Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging
- * Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert
- * Joan Shafer, City of Surprise
- Phillip Westbrooks, City of Chandler
- * Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing

*Those members neither present not represented by proxy.

MAG Human Services Technical Committee: On September 18, 2003, the Human Services Technical Committee reviewed the ranking and recommendations from the July 17, 2003 Human Services Advance. The Committee recommended that the priorities outlined during the discussion of the Advance ranking be maintained, that new initiatives be reviewed with human services transportation as a priority for discussion, and that MAG take on the EITC initiative as a regional issue.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network, Chairman
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
*Joan Ellis, Rehabilitation Services Admin
Diane Janovich for Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
+Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Sue Zevan for Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Margarita Leyras for Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
*Ramon Leon, El Mirage Community Service Program
John Paul Lopez, City of Tolleson
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way

*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
*Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Linda Snidecore, City of Goodyear
Mark Ludwig for Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
*Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
*Neal Young, City of Phoenix

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CONTACT PERSON:

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