

The Daily Item

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Goals for \$1.9M in aid set in Lynn

By Thor Jourgensen

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Excerpt:

LYNN - Armed with \$1.9 million in freshly-distributed federal money, local agencies focused on helping the homeless will target substance abuse and obstacles to permanent housing in 2010.

Nearly half the Continuum of Care money handed out last week will support programs providing shelter to the homeless while another \$343,000 will aid Project COPE's substance abuse treatment programs

Lynn homeless prevention programs and nearly 300 others across the country received \$57 million in federal money to assist with job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care.

Continuum of Care grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. These grants fund a wide variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families.

"As we move into the coldest time of the year, it's critical that no program risk running out of money to keep their doors open," said federal Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan. "These grants will make certain that those programs on the front lines of helping the homeless have the resources they need to house and serve persons who might otherwise be forced to turn to the streets."

Local groups dividing up the Continuum money include the Housing Authority, **Bridgewell**, Housing Works, Shelter Plus, Neighborhood Legal Services, Project COPE, Serving People In Need and the YMCA, which will use \$29,000 to continue running its housing program providing single rooms.

Based on HUD's latest homeless assessment, chronic homelessness has declined since 2005 and federal housing officials attribute the drop to homeless grants helping to create significantly more permanent housing for those who might otherwise be living on the streets.

..." (End of excerpt from article)