



**Agenda Item No. 3**  
**October 1, 2008 Meeting**

**DATE:** September 23, 2008

**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County

**FROM:** Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 

**SUBJECT: Transitional Shelter Expansion**

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**SUMMARY:**

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County allocated \$10 million in July 2008 to develop a five-year agreement with the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse to purchase land and develop transitional housing projects. The complex agreement will be presented for final approval in January 2009. In the meantime, outreach efforts to Orange County cities began to promote the availability of leveraged funds to expand transitional shelter beds for families with young children. This report requests Commission approval to set-aside matching funds for a new project in the city of Lake Forest that meets the Commission criteria to expand transitional shelter projects.

**Families Forward Transitional Housing Project**

The Commission funds are intended to be leveraged with lenders and organizations that invest in low income, targeted communities. Families Forward is a nonprofit organization that provides support and homeless prevention services to low-income and homeless families in Orange County. Families Forward successfully submitted a proposal to the city of Lake Forest and will receive \$500,000 of Community Redevelopment funding to expand transitional beds in the city, with a condition to complete the project within 180 days.

Due to the city of Lake Forest's expedited timeline, Commission approval is recommended to set-aside \$500,000 to match the city's investment. Families Forward will coordinate with the Commission to identify additional sources of funding that can include HomeAid Orange County, the Community Reinvestment Act, and other organizations, and design the scope of work for the transitional shelter project. A final funding agreement will be presented for Commission action in November 2008 and will be contingent on Families Forward's successfully developing an agreement with the city of Lake Forest.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The proposed action has been reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Strong Families goal. Commission currently has \$10 million set-aside for the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse agreement, staff is recommending shifting \$500,000 of this allocation into the set-aside for Families Forward (new total for the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse agreement would be \$9,500,000). Sufficient funding for this item is included in the approved FY 2008-09 Budget within the Strong Families budget category.

**PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

July 2008 – Authorized a \$10 million, five-year agreement with the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse to facilitate the development of transitional shelters.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Set aside \$500,000 in matching funds to be allocated to Families Forward for the development of a transitional shelter project in partnership with the city of Lake Forest and direct staff to develop a scope of work and return in November 2008 with a funding agreement.

**Contact:** Kim Goll