




TO: Eric Anderson, City Manager
FROM:  John Briehl, Director, Human Rights & Human Services Department
SUBJECT: **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing**
DATE: May 7, 2009

During the May 5 Public Hearing on the Substantial Amendment to the 2008-2009 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan, Councilmember Walker and Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority, asked whether the proposed distribution of funding between Financial Assistance and Housing Relocation/Stabilization Services could be reversed. This request was based on a proposal that the Pierce County Housing Authority is developing which would supplement the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding with the use of short term Section 8 vouchers.

While there may be merit to this proposal, the details of the approach are not yet mature and the impact of such a change at this late date in the process may have unintended consequences. In the meantime, staff recommends that the allocations remain as proposed in the Substantial Amendment. The allocations in the Substantial Amendment are considered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be "preliminary estimated amounts". If, following the Request for Proposal process, there is a difference of more than 25% in the distribution of funding between Financial Assistance and Housing Relocation/Stabilization Services, based upon successful proposals, staff will propose a second Substantial Amendment which would reflect the actual distribution of funds. Any change in distribution of less than 25% can be done by the City without submitting a Substantial Amendment to HUD.

Staff has discussed this proposal with staff from the Pierce County Housing Authority, who are supportive of this approach. Staff has also verified the process and requirements with HUD.

Please contact Debbie Bergthold, dbergtho@cityoftacoma.org, 253.591.5042, with any questions.