

News from the Denver Commission To End Homelessness

Monday, May 10, 2004

Downtown Ambassador Program Nets \$54,000 for Homeless Outreach

The Mayor's Office of Economic Development (MOED) is contributing \$54,000 from its travel budget to help the City expand its Downtown Safety Ambassador Program, a public-private collaboration that assists homeless citizens and seeks to reduce panhandling in downtown Denver.

The money will fund additional Safety Ambassadors, which are outreach workers who offer various types of assistance to downtown visitors. As part of their efforts, the ambassadors help homeless individuals downtown connect to needed services, including food, shelter and medical services.

The Safety Ambassador Program is a partnership of Denver Human Services, MOED, Denver Police Department and the Downtown Denver Partnership.

**Contacts: John Huggins, Director, MOED, 720-913-1621
John Desmond, Downtown Denver Partnership, 303-571-8204**

Delores Women's Shelter Receives Funding To Re-open for Summer

Thanks to an award of \$32,000 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), The Delores Project's 36-bed Emergency Shelter for Women will re-open for the summer. The shelter closed last month because its shelter site is unavailable during the summer. The DOLA funding will allow it to open at a new site for the summer months, ensuring that homeless women in Denver continue to have shelter and connect to other important services. The state funding augments contributions from Delores Project community partners.

**Contacts: Linda Rice, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, 303-866-6249
Julie Duffy, Delores Project, 720-218-5466**

(continued)

CO Dept. of Local Affairs Provides Huge Boost to Transitional Housing

The Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs (DOLA) has awarded \$2.1 million in federal funding to Catholic Charities for rental assistance for low-income workers. In addition, DOLA is providing Denver Human Services with another \$25,000, and the Denver Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development Services is chipping in \$28,800 to pay for case management assistance for the renters in the Catholic Charities program.

**Contacts: Linda Rice, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, 303-866-2156
Ben Levek, Denver Human Services, 720-944-2875
Andy Proctor, Housing & Neighborhood Development Services,
720-913-1567**

Homeless Commission Launches Web Page

The Denver Commission to End Homelessness now has its own web page on the City of Denver website. So for all the news you can use about Commission progress and committee schedules – as well as links to valuable resources – just go to <http://www.denvergov.org/Homelessness>. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Denver Commission To End Homelessness

Roxane White, Chair

Deborah Ortega, Executive Director

720-944-2666