

## APPENDIX E: ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

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Staff from the Clackamas County Community Action Agency have been vital participants in the development of the information and strategies which respond to the needs of the lowest income households in the County. The CCCAA has provided information on the homeless population, on migrant and seasonal farm workers, and on different aspects of housing assistance efforts. The CCCAA is the central agency responsible for the development and implementation of this strategy.

Consistent with that strategy, they have served as advocates for the poor.

The CCCAA is part of the County's Social Services Division. The mission of the Social Service Division is to provide quality services and meaningful opportunities for the elderly, disabled, and low-income residents through a comprehensive system that meets immediate service needs while encouraging as much self-help and independence as possible. Planning, coordination and advocacy are other elements of the Division's mission.

The CCCAA's mission is to assist people to maintain and/or achieve their highest level of personal and economic self-reliance. This Plan includes the following goals to further that mission:

- Bring economically dependent persons into active conversation and partnership with other community groups.
- Foster the leadership necessary to share the vision of the mission with the community.
- Work for a coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system sufficient to meet basic shelter, food, health care and employment opportunity needs for all County residents.
- Provide leadership, in the County, to identify and resolve issues of poverty.
- Provide advocacy to facilitate the development of essential services and to support a responsive delivery system.
- Recognize the importance of employment as the primary solution to the condition of poverty. In support of the goals, the CCCAA operates the following programs:
  - ✓ A comprehensive information and referral (I&R) service and network of 34 separate agencies plus several volunteer I&R teams located in different parts of the County.
  - ✓ A housing assistance program that offers rent assistance, emergency housing assistance, help in locating low-income affordable housing, landlord-tenant dispute resolution information, and help with housing discrimination issues.
  - ✓ A self-sufficiency case management program that provides direction to families in setting realistic goals and time schedules in their efforts to achieve self-reliance.
  - ✓ An independent living case management program that provides crisis intervention and stabilization services to individuals with limited abilities to plan and direct personal efforts to achieve their optimum self-sufficient levels, such as those eligible for SSI or similar state or federal programs.

- ✓ A variety of emergency services such as food boxes, energy assistance, transportation, medical, etc., primarily through contacts with private non-profit agencies.
- ✓ Volunteer programs to assist primarily elderly and disabled persons with needs such as financial services, transportation, limited-in-home help, chore services, etc.

Clackamas County has adopted and maintained a strategy of close coordination between the Housing and Community Development program and the service programs operated by the CCCAA. Available CDBG funds are used sparingly to directly provide services and are instead applied, to the maximum extent possible, to facility improvements.

Policies for producing affordable housing in coordination with other programs and services for poverty level families are also addressed by the County's Continuum of Care strategies. These strategies address policies for producing and preserving affordable housing and other programs and services for which the County is responsible.

This Consolidated Plan also contains an inventory of facilities and services available for poverty-level families, and incorporates Continuum of Care strategies. Coordination of efforts to provide affordable/special needs housing with other poverty-level programs and services has become a major focus of the Community Development program. The CCCAA cooperates with and is supported by members of the CCHP and the CHAN in their efforts.