

FACT SHEET

January 28, 2009

REQUEST:
Maintain FY09 funding levels

Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund: Home For Homeless People

The Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund is the State's primary funding mechanism to assist non-profit agencies in providing critical services to the homeless population in an effort to help them off of the streets and on to self-sufficiency. The Pamela Atkinson Fund is the cornerstone to ending chronic homelessness in Utah.

We realize that cuts need to be made to the State budget. However, **the Pamela Atkinson Fund should be held harmless** from these cuts and should maintain the funding they have been receiving in one-time appropriations. The Utah Homeless Management Information System shows an increase in emergency shelter usage by individuals and families every year since 2005. Utah Point-in-Time Count has also shown an upward trend in homelessness. Given the current economic climate, homelessness is expected to continue to increase at an increasing rate. Accordingly, the fund needs as much support from the Legislature as is possible. The loss of one-time appropriations and the sub-committee's recommended cuts will equate to a 25% loss in funding at a time when it is needed most.

KEY FACTS

- The fund helps end chronic homelessness through the Pathways Program and other programs that require an upfront cost but make long-term fiscal sense.
- Because of the Pamela Atkinson Fund, Utah is a leader in the nation's fight to ending chronic homelessness.
- Statistics:¹
 - There were and estimated 15,836 men, women and children who were homeless at some point in 2008.
 - Families comprised over 44% of Utah's homeless population, up from 39% in 2007.
 - Over 27% of the homeless are age 17 or under, up from 24% in 2007.
 - Domestic violence accounts for a large portion of the homeless population.
 - There were 8,016 homeless school children in one day (not included in the above estimates).²

¹ All statistics are taken from the *Utah Point-in-Time Count, January 31, 2008*.

² These children were counted using the broader McKinney-Vento federal definition of homeless children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FROM WHERE DOES REVENUE FOR THE FUND ORIGINATE?

- A General Fund appropriation from the Legislature
- Donations from taxpayers through a checkbox on the Utah income tax form

WHAT DOES THE TRUST PROVIDE?

(In descending order of funding per activity.)

- Emergency shelters
- Case management
- Transitional housing
- Permanent housing solutions
- Meals
- Outreach and day centers

HOW FAR DOES THE FUNDING GO?

- \$2 pays for one meal to a homeless individual
- \$12 pays for one night of warm, safe shelter
- \$40 pays for a night of transitional housing for an abused woman and children

**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact
Shawn Teigen at shawn@utahcap.org**

Utah Community Action Partnership Association
230 South 500 West, Suite 260, Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-433-3025 801-596-2011 (fax)
www.utahcap.org

