

#991268

Submitted Eddie
1/22/01 Clark

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Finding Places For New Homeless Shelters

Numerous government programs now available to establish shelters

Highlights that I found:

They range from SRO for one client, to homes for 6 to 14 and on to multiple grants for large new or conversion shelters. They are funded by: H.U.D., the FI. Dept. of Children and Family Services, Fed. Title 1 and more that I haven't found.

They can be obtained by local governments *or* easy to form non-profit groups.

Different programs allow and encourage them to locate nearly everywhere, not just in the old downtown city centers. (You could have a reactionary war here)

A web surf in the HUD web site under the search engine "homeless shelter" found 3,247 sites, of which 6 are majorily funded HUD programs, the Single Room Occupancy, Section 8 and Supportive Housing Program are currently here, they want to add the Emergency Shelter Grant program soon and then Shelter Plus Care program to expand the St Francis House. Then there is the FI Childrens & Family Services \$.

Some Ideas to mitigate their community (neighborhood) impacts

There should be:

Locally produced, demographic field studies of **our community's needs** for additional homeless shelter beds and who will be using them.

Should be **timely**, as the homeless populations can change a lot with the economy at the time or more recently with new state and federal administrations.

Use academically acceptable statistics with references to all numbers used to justify the building or expansion of a shelter in any area of town

All the above should be pertinent and **conducted in Gainesville**, we don't care how they do it up in the Northeast.

Impact Studies

A new homeless shelter of any size will impact neighborhoods wherever they sit it.

Land value changes: Both from a property tax generation standpoint and the possible negative impacts on existing neighbors. Why torpedo new areas of town? If it were that essential to create new shelters in town, the laws would allow them to have "imminent domain's" abilities to help chose a site. (Homeless shelters are more like a landfill than a road widening.)

Neighborhood security concerns: How good is their shelter plan and is it sufficiently financed? Is it financed going forward? What are these guarantees?

What would be **G P D's** ability and needs to help watch this shelter. What have been the existing shelter(s) needs and problems, what kind of manpower will they have to allocate?

Guarantees of funding on a five year rollover type plan. How rock solid is their funding? There should be a "**close down scenario**" if the shelter fails to maintain the integrity of the impacted neighborhood.

We don't want another shelter in the Southeast side of town

They are ALL here now

Please strengthen the language to assure neighborhoods they will be protected

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H.U.D., Dept. of Children and Family Services, Title 1 and more I haven't found
Can be organized by local governments *or* easy to form non-profit coalitions.

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