



City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs
51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 349-6200, Fax (617) 349-6248

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy
FROM: Jill Herold
DATE: September 17, 1992
RE: Awaiting Reports #30 and 26, Funds for local shelters and meal programs
Spending for hunger programs.

City spending on nutrition programs includes the following:

I. In April 1992, the City appropriated \$40,500 to fund the purchase and distribution of food by pantries and meal programs through CEOC. According to Elaine DeRosa, CEOC Executive Director, these resources have been exhausted. City grant funding has been used primarily to enable CEOC to expand significantly its purchase of wholesale canned, packaged and frozen foods, baby formula and some frozen meats from wholesalers and occasionally, overstocked items from supermarkets. Pantries may receive foods through salvage, donation, USDA surplus commodities and the Boston Food Bank, but foods available through City funding enable the pantries to provide a nutritionally balanced grocery bag to clients. Meal and shelter programs, as well as individual households, meal and shelter providers, in addition to individual households, have access to these resources.

II. The City also appropriated \$2,500 to support an outreach effort designed to enroll eligible residents in the Food Stamp and WIC programs. Three outreach workers (one English-speaking, one bilingual English/Spanish, and one bilingual English/Kreyol) have assisted over 150 individuals, primarily at the pantry sites, in completing applications over the ten-week period this project has been underway. Follow-up reports indicate that the vast majority of these individuals have been successful in obtaining Food Stamps.

III. The City's FY93 CDBG award to Food for Free was \$20,000. This organization collects and distributes a variety of foods, primarily fresh produce and breads, from restaurants, bakeries and grocery stores to pantries, shelters and various feed programs.

DIVISIONS:

Childcare
349-6200

Community & Youth
349-6231

Low Income Fuel Assistance
349-6247

Recreation
349-6230

Community Learning Center
349-6363

Council on Aging/Elderly Services
349-6220

Planning & Development
349-6200

MultiService Center/Homeless Services
349-6340

IV. The City appropriated \$98,101 from the Summer Food Service Program, which consists of federal funds administered through the State Department of Education's Bureau of Nutrition. Actual summer 1992 spending figures will be available shortly. Approximately 1100 children were served at 14 Cambridge sites.

V. On September 8, 1992, the City appropriated \$50,000 awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Community Food and Nutrition Program. This project is designed to improve the health and well-being of low-income Cambridge and Somerville residents by enhancing access to, and utilization, of food and nutrition programs and information. The grant will fund a nutritionist to work with pantries, meal providers and other food distributors to enhance the nutritional value of food made available through these programs, and to develop multilingual, culturally appropriate nutritional information. Building upon experiences with the Food Stamps and WIC program piloted by the City and CEOC over the last few months, this project will include extensive benefits outreach campaign targeting persons likely to be eligible. Another aspect of the project will be coordinating and enhancing planning and fundraising capabilities of organizations providing food and nutrition services.

VI. In connection with its operation of childcare programs, the City has received \$9,000 from the Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition, School Year Nutrition Program. These are used for breakfasts and snacks at the various sites.

Jh/cg



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300

FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

September 21, 1992

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 26, regarding spending for hunger programs as well as Awaiting Report Item No. 30, regarding funds for local shelters and meal programs, please find attached a response received from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, concerning these issues.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM #9

S-736

- a. Awaiting Report Item No. 26 regarding spending for hunger programs; and
- b. Awaiting Report Item No. 30 regarding funds for local shelters and meal programs.

In City Council,

September 21, 1992

QA- Placed on file

QB- Placed on file