



**City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs**

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 349-6200, Fax (617) 349-6248

TO: Robert W. Healy
FROM: Jill Herold
RE: Funding of Meal and Food Pantry Programs
DATE: March 25, 1993

I have reviewed the request from CEOC for a supplemental allocation for the current fiscal year for the Food Pantry Network. The existing contract with CEOC for the Food Pantry Network is a nine month contract (October 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993) in the amount of \$60,750. Of the total amount, \$57,750 is allocated for food purchases and \$3,000 is allocated for outreach.

The objective of the funding is to supplement and enhance the nutritional content of food and meals provided to participants of the meal and food pantry programs. The first bill was received and paid to CEOC in early March in the amount of \$36,953.50 and covered expenditures by CEOC for food during the months of October - January. If the current rate of spending were to continue, the contract would fall short by approximately \$30,000 assuming an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000 per month.

Based on documentation and records reviewed by staff of the Department of Human Services and CEOC in September, 1992 city staff determined that, based on prior experience, the expenditure rate was approximately \$6,750 per month and it was that amount which was used to calculate the amount which was appropriated in late September.

There are several factors which contribute to the fact that a definitive number on how much is needed monthly to augment the meal and food pantry network to ensure a nutritionally balanced meal or food package cannot be reached. The very nature of the system is one that is ad hoc and fluid. At the current time, CEOC reports that participation in their pantry has dropped off slightly while others report an increase in demand. During the past six months, a new pantry has opened and the Salvation Army, a major provider of meals for the homeless, elderly and children, has very recently begun to bill CEOC for reimbursement for food costs.

One factor which is anticipated to reduce demand over time is the highly successful outreach program, a collaborative effort between CEOC and the Department of Human Services, which has been operating since June of 1992. As a result of this effort, over 1300 new food stamp applications have been completed and filed and over 800 have been confirmed. In addition, more than 110 new WIC applications have been completed as a result of the outreach. It is anticipated that, in the long run, these efforts will reduce the demand currently placed on food pantries.

DIVISIONS:

Childcare
349-6200

Community Learning Center
349-6363

Community & Youth
349-6231

Council on Aging/Elderly Services
349-6220

Low Income Fuel Assistance
349-6247

Planning & Development
349-6200

Recreation
349-6230

MultiService Center/Homeless Services
349-6340



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Based on documentation and records reviewed by staff of the Department of Human Services and CEOC in September, 1992 city staff determined that, based on prior experience, the expenditure rate was approximately ~~\$6,250~~⁶⁷⁵⁰ per month and it was that amount which was used to calculate the amount which was appropriated in late September.

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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

March 29, 1993

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Enclosed please find a report from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, regarding funding of meal and food pantry programs. Current budget constraints indicate that the capacity to increase funding for the many worthy human service requests that come before me has been reached. I am, therefore, not recommending additional funding for the CEOC Food Pantry Network at this time.

I am, as promised, making a recommendation in the FY94 budget for \$81,000 in funding.

This report also serves as a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 30.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 6

S-148

Awaiting Report Item No. 30, regarding
funding of meal and food pantry programs.

In City Council,

March 29, 1993

*Placed on file
See Connections
in report.*