

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

HUD gives county \$800,000

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About \$800,000 in federal grants has been awarded to Jackson County to continue helping homeless people. The Community Action Agency received \$570,573 and Training and Treatment Innovations Inc. received \$234,387 in renewal grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

for local homeless assistance programs, according to a news release.

Toby Budd, neighborhood development director at Community Action Agency, said the money will go toward "helping families get back on their feet."

About \$59,510 for the agency's two transitional housing programs will help residents pay for rent for up to two years, she said. The nonprofit

partners with AWARE Inc. on these programs and works with local landlords to find housing.

The agency also received money for its Partnership Park permanent housing project, which also helps local families with rental assistance. In the neighborhood, the organization owns five housing units for homeless families, Budd said. For the program, at least one adult

in the household must have a disability defined by HUD. All three programs help about 60 families a year, Budd said.

The Community Action Agency also received about \$54,000 to manage data collection and reporting through a Homeless Management Information Systems database. Budd said the money will help provide technology and training for other partnering

agencies, such as Salvation Army and Do'Chas II, and will provide a clear picture of homelessness in Jackson.

"The state of homelessness in the area requires much more than we can provide at this time," she said.

Training and Treatment Innovations Inc. in Jackson received grant money to help fund its two leasing assistance programs. Agency officials were not available for

comment. HUD is providing the renewal grants to local programs to prevent any interruption in federal assistance and will announce funding for new projects in early 2010.

"As we move into the coldest time of the year, it's critical that no programs risk running out of money to keep their doors open," HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in a news release.