

Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund Talking Points

20,000 people in the city of Ventura are at risk for homelessness because they earn under \$25,000 per year.

“50% of newly fallen individuals and families to homelessness could be prevented” according to the Ventura County Homeless & Housing Coalition Working Group.

The VSSTF Prevention Subcommittee developed the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund aiming to prevent 50-60 households from becoming homeless each year.

Since June 2007, 46 households including marrieds, singles, families with children and seniors have been able to maintain their housing with assistance from the VHPF.

100% of the donation goes directly to maintaining homes. Neither VSSTF or our partners, United Way, Catholic Charities, Project Understanding and Salvation Army receive any fees or compensation for administering the fund.

Helping households maintain their housing is less costly and more effective than helping households obtain housing after they become homeless.

To be eligible to receive VHPF, an applicant must be a Ventura resident still in housing, but in imminent danger of eviction or otherwise losing their housing. The precipitating cause of the problem must be determined to be a one-time, non-repetitive event or circumstance such as an accident, loss of job, temporary illness, medical bill, needed car repair, etc. that the case worker determines can be effectively mitigated with short-term corrective action.

Assistance is limited to \$1,000 and is available only once per year per family or household.

Checks are made payable only to landlords or mortgage companies (always a third party – not to the applicants directly).

Caseworkers at our partner agencies check back with recipients at 90 days and 1 year.