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County groups get \$6.9M in grants to combat homelessness

19 programs help place people into support housing or private residences.

By [Joanne Huist Smith](#), Staff Writer

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DAYTON — Nineteen Montgomery County programs assisting homeless people will share nearly \$6.9 million in federal grants to continue operations another year.

The groups help people move into permanent support housing or into private residences.

“I believe this community cares about people who are struggling. These grants enable us to give people help they need,” said Joyce Probst MacAlpine, Montgomery County’s manager of housing and homeless solutions. “It gives them hope.”

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, on Wednesday, awarded the grants which fund housing programs and other services such as job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. The grants are awarded competitively.

- St. Vincent de Paul received a \$109,410 grant to support the Kettering Commons apartments, which opened in 2008 as the county’s first permanent supportive housing program for families. The program houses up to 14 families who have moved from an emergency shelter into an apartment.
- PLACES, a local nonprofit, got a \$214,781 award for the Belvo Road apartments in Miamisburg to house individuals with disabilities who were living on the streets.

“Six of the eight people who moved in during the summer of 2009 when it opened still live there,” MacAlpine said. “There is a story behind every one of these grants.”

Other notable organizations receiving grants include Daybreak, Mercy Manor, Homeful and the city of Dayton.

MacAlpine said the Continuum of Care grants are the county’s single largest source of funding for programs to end homelessness. Montgomery County will target the funding to help people who are medically fragile, elderly or mentally ill.

An estimated 4,000 people sought housing at a Montgomery County emergency shelter in 2010, about an 11 percent increase over 2009. This comes despite creation of 430 units of supportive housing. On any given day, there are 300 or more people seeking beds at the St. Vincent de Paul Gateway for Women and Families, 120 W. Apple St., and The Gettysburg Gateway for Men, 1921 S. Gettysburg Avenue.

“While we do have more housing, we also have more need,” MacAlpine said.

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