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KC area agencies will receive \$9 million in grants to help homeless

By ASHLEE KIELER
The Kansas City Star

Twenty-eight Kansas City area agencies that help the homeless will receive \$9.1 million in grants, federal officials said Friday.

■ [Homeless get a new daytime refuge](#)

The bulk of the grants, \$7.5 million, will go to 17 service providers in Jackson County.

The grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will fund services including job training, child care, housing, mental health services and substance abuse treatment.

The grants were announced at a news conference at Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry, 3031 Holmes St.

The Missouri Department of Mental Health received six grants totaling almost \$4 million. The grants will fund a permanent housing project for mentally ill homeless people. Funding also will help programs for chronic substance abuse, developmental disabilities and HIV/AIDS.

HUD funding helps the agencies provide permanent housing projects for the chronically homeless, said Cynthia Larcom, director of Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City, but it's not enough to help everyone.

"While \$7.5 million is a huge commitment from HUD, it still fails to meet the need to move (all homeless) people off the streets and into housing," Larcom said.

Last year, HUD provided a record \$1.5 billion in funding nationwide, Macie Houston, HUD regional director, said at the news conference. That amount is projected to grow to \$1.6 billion in fiscal 2008, she said.

Top five recipients

1. Missouri Department of Mental Health, \$3,901,164.
2. reStart Inc., \$ 795,926.
3. Truman Medical Center, \$ 513,246.
4. SAVE Inc., \$ 490,156.
5. Swope Health Services, \$ 299,731.

To reach Ashlee Kieler, call 816-234-4449 or send e-mail to akieler@kcstar.com.

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