



October 1, 2008

Dear 10-Year Plan Partners and Continuum of Care Coordinators:

The Region IX Interagency Council on Homelessness, one of the committees under the Federal Regional Council (FRC), conducted stakeholder surveys earlier this year with you to obtain data that will assist us in to our initiatives to reduce and end homelessness in the region. We received a total of 52 responses and thank you for participating in the surveys. It is our plan to address the major issues and concerns you raise.

This initial effort will start with addressing the response that 63.3% of 10-Year Plan partners were not at all familiar with the document entitled "A Primer on How to Use Medicaid to Assist Persons Who are Homeless to Access Medical, Behavioral Health and Support Services" prepared last year by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Department of Health and Human Services. This 87-page *Primer* was intended to serve as a resource for state officials and homeless program managers to support your efforts to access and coordinate services and supports for homeless people. In light of the length of the *Primer*, we have prepared a 3-page condensed version that also gives information on where to find the complete text should you wish to use it. If you have any questions about the *Primer* and the Medicaid program, please contact Athena Chapman in our HHS/CMS Regional Office at (415) 744-3591 for assistance.

Our committee's chair, Roberta Rosenthal of the VA, and R9 ICH Coordinator Ed Cabrera, will continue to follow up this initial effort as we work together in improving access for homeless people to major federal programs and resources such as Medicaid. Again, thank you for participating in our stakeholder surveys.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Lorentzen  
Chair, Federal Regional Council, Region IX &  
HHS Regional Director, Region IX

Enclosures