

✓ *Homeless* Emergency-shelter money imperiled *11-19-85*

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SANTA CRUZ — City Council members and county Supervisors are fighting to keep the budgetary ax from falling on the federally funded Emergency Shelter and Food program.

They say a technical error in a Federal Emergency Management Agency report is the cause of the budget threat.

At jeopardy is half the county's emergency-shelter money for next year. Money to pay for 5,300 days of emergency shelter for the homeless could be lost if the error is not corrected, said Fred Gray, loc Federal Emergency Management Agency

board chairman.

Local officials say FEMA is using the wrong figure to indicate the county's poverty level. Funding eligibility hinges on the so-called "poverty incidence" figure.

That figure should be 12.2 percent, based on the U.S. 1980 Census, but FEMA is using 11.8 percent, say local officials.

If the higher figure were used, the funding would be approved under FEMA regulations, local officials say.

If either figure were used, local officials maintain the county would still meet the eligibility criteria for the number of unemployed, considering there were more than 9,200

people without jobs, based on a 1984 average.

After hearing a report from Gray last week, council members agreed to notify the FEMA national board about the dilemma.

County supervisors today were expected to pass a recommendation from board Chairman Gary Patton to notify federal officials about the concern.

FEMA spokeswoman Carolyn Perroni today said FEMA staff "will certainly be looking into this. There are apparently discrepancies in the calculations."

She said funding decisions would be delayed until the matter is cleared up.