



Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

June 17, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND CONTRACT WITH  
THE LAW OFFICES OF DEVERMONT & DEVERMONT  
FOR THE PROVISION OF  
GENERAL RELIEF (GR) SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)  
APPEALS PROGRAM SERVICES  
(ALL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that services performed by Contractor under this Agreement continue to be more cost effective than if performed by County employees.
2. Approve and instruct the Chair to sign the attached Amendment Number Two to contract number #72346 with the Law Offices of Devermont & Devermont, a Professional Corporation, for the provision of SSI Appeals services for GR participants, extending the current contract on a month-to-month basis for up to 24 months until August 3, 2005, or until a new Request For Proposal (RFP) is developed and new contract is awarded, whichever is sooner, at an annual estimated cost of \$523,000 financed with 100% County funds. Funding for the amendment is included in the FY 2003-04 Proposed County Budget. Funding for future years will be included in the Department's budget request.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDATION**

The current contract is on a 12 month, month-to-month extension, which will expire on August 3, 2003. An extension of up to 24 months is necessary in order to complete the new RFP process to replace this contract. The previous RFP that was released February 12, 2002 was canceled due to concerns expressed by community representatives.

DPSS staff have met with the community representatives regarding those concerns. A new RFP is in development, which will meet those concerns in a fair and equitable manner that minimizes the cost to the County, while still providing the appropriate level of services to the community.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The amendment is consistent with the County's Strategic Goal #7: Health and Mental Health, by continuing and supporting the Department's efforts to ensure GR participants who are eligible for SSI successfully transition to SSI, which includes Medi-Cal benefits.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The current contract compensates the Law Offices of Devermont & Devermont at a fixed rate of \$450.00 for a successful SSI appeal per GR participant who was referred to the Contractor by DPSS. The average Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) to the County from the Social Security Administration (SSA) is \$2,030 per case.

The annual cost of the amendment is estimated at \$523,000 fully funded by Net County Cost. Funding for the amendment is included in the FY 2003-04 Proposed County Budget. Funding for future years will be included in the Department's budget request.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The current contract with the Law Offices of Devermont & Devermont has been in place since August 1999 for the provision of SSI Appeals services for GR participants in the SSI Assistance Program (SSIAP).

Pursuant to the settlement agreement in the City of Los Angeles v. County of Los Angeles (1990) lawsuit, the County agreed to assist applicants/participants identified as SSI eligible due to physical or mental disability with SSI hearing representation services when SSI is denied at the reconsideration level.

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This Amendment updates County Terms and Conditions by adding new contract requirements approved by the Board.

The provision specifically stating that the Contractor shall have no claim against the County for payment after the expiration or termination of this agreement has been included. The provisions and requirements of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law have also been included.

This is a Prop A contract and the Contractor is in compliance with the Living Wage Ordinance.

County Counsel has approved this amendment as to form.

### **CONTRACT PROCESS**

No additional solicitation process was required for this amendment since it is to extend an existing agreement.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

The amendment will allow the County to ensure uninterrupted SSI Appeals hearing representation for GR participants who need this assistance to transition from GR to SSI.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to send one adopted stamped Board Letter and four original signed copies of the Amendment Two to the Director, Department of Public Social Services.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

BY:gp

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel