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April 25, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY FOR CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AND YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM

This is in response to the Board's March 7, 2006 instruction to develop a legislative strategy for continued funding for the CalWORKs After School Enrichment Program, and subsequent instruction on March 28, 2006 to expand the legislative strategy to include the CalWORKs Youth Jobs program.

After School Enrichment Program (ASEP)

On March 22, 2006 and April 6, 2006, my office and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) convened meetings with representatives of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to explore possible funding approaches to replace the $17.1 million in County funding financed by expiring CalWORKs Performance Incentive-Net County Cost funds. It was the assessment of those involved that the best source of funding for the continuation of the ASEP Program is Proposition 49 funds which are expected to be available for the first time in FY 2006-07.

Proposition 49 requires an increase of $426 million above the existing $122 million in State funds appropriated for after school programs. As such, the Governor's Budget proposes $548 million starting in FY 2006-07; however the final Proposition 49 funding level will not be set until negotiations on the State budget are completed. Based on the potential availability of Proposition 49 funding, the County, LACOE, and LAUSD are working on an approach that seeks to transition the ASEP Program into the Proposition 49 funding stream.

Youth Jobs Program

On April 11, 2006, my office and representatives from DPSS, the Department of Community and Senior Services, the Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) for the City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, and the South Bay had a conference call to discuss funding alternatives to replace the $6.5 million in County funding financed by expiring CalWORKs Performance Incentive-Net County Cost funds.

Participants agreed that the outlook for replacement funding is not good as workforce funding streams generally do not recognize short term employment, such as the Youth Jobs Program, as a priority area. Additionally, discretionary funds available to the Governor under the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) are limited and fully allocated for FY 2005-06.

The Youth Jobs Program also faces an unfavorable timing problem, as the program historically begins enrollment in the latter part of May, and potential replacement funding from the State, even if it were secured, would almost certainly not materialize until after July 1, 2006. Thus, it does not appear that the Youth Jobs Program will be available this summer unless another funding stream is secured, or the County elects to fund the program.

The consensus approach of the participants was to send a letter from the County's eight WIBs to Governor Schwarzenegger requesting consideration of emergency funding for this summer and funding under the WIA discretionary allocation for Fiscal Year 2006-07 for the Youth Jobs Program in the summer of 2007.

On a related track, we are also gathering information from County departments to ascertain the number of County jobs that would have been available to eligible youth in the Youth Jobs Program.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know, or your staff may contact Jonathan Freedman at (213) 974-1643 or Manuel Rivas, Jr. at (213) 974-1464.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:MR:cc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Community and Senior Services
Department of Public Social Services
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District