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June 30, 2009

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 ACCEPT COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT FUNDS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT (ALL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Authorize the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to accept Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from the State Department of Community Services and Development for job opportunities and employment support services for the youth population of the Los Angeles County's General Relief (GR) program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Director of the DPSS to accept the CSBG ARRA funds from the State Department of Community Services and Development.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPSS to directly enter into contract with the State Department of Community Services and Development for the CSBG ARRA grant funds and any required term extensions, modifications and/or amendments, and to accept additions or reductions in this aforementioned grant.

3. Delegate authority to the Community Action Board (CAB) to sign the CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan and any required modifications and/or amendments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law ARRA of 2009. The Recovery Act provides for $1 billion in additional funds to the CSBG program to expend until September 30, 2010.

States and local entities are encouraged to focus their stimulus funds to: 1) provide a wide range of innovative employment-related services and activities tailored to the specific needs of their community; 2) use funds in a manner that meets the short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families and communities; and 3) make meaningful and measurable progress toward the reform goals of the Recovery Act with special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities.

California will receive approximately $89 million in CSBG ARRA funds of which, approximately $11.6 million will be allocated to DPSS. The term of the contract with the state for the CSBG ARRA funds will be from July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. The CSBG ARRA contract will be separated from the regular CSBG contract. Currently, DPSS receives approximately $6.4 million annually under the regular CSBG program.

Community Action Agencies are required to submit to the State Department of Community Services and Development a Recovery Act Local Plan encompassing innovative employment-related services and activities that assist in creating sustainable economic resources in our community. DPSS submitted the County's Local Plan to the state on May 11, 2009. The Local Plan was approved by the CAB's Executive Committee at its May 7, 2009 meeting. Upon approval by this Board, DPSS will follow up with a signed copy of the plan to the State.

The County's CSBG ARRA funds will be utilized to provide subsidized employment opportunities for youths in the County's GR program. Priority will be given to foster youth in the GR program. In addition, employment support services will be provided to the employed youth to help ensure that each youth will be successful in the job placement and will be prepared to transition into unsubsidized employment upon completion. There are approximately 13,000 youths ages 18-24 receiving GR in the County.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan, Goal 5: Children and Families' Well-Being, as measured by achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by your Board: good health; economic well being; safety and survival; social and emotional well being; and education/workforce readiness. This project will have a positive impact on the economic well being of the low-income youth population in Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated costs of $11.6 million will be fully funded by ARRA funds through the State Department of Community Services and Development. There is no net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The State agreement will be executed only after approval by the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel. The purpose of the agreement with the State is to accept the CSBG ARRA funds to provide subsidized employment and employment support services to youths in the County's GR program.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will enable DPSS to provide subsidized employment and employment support services to youths in the GR program from all Supervisorial Districts of Los Angeles County.

The cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Duarte, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, South Pasadena, and the unincorporated area of Altadena receive CSBG ARRA funds directly. Residents in these areas will not be served under the County's CSBG ARRA Program but rather by their own community action agencies.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one adopted stamped Board Letter to the Director of DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Browning
Director

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c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Community Action Board