



County of Los Angeles
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March 9, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains a report on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position on a State Budget Item Related to CalWORKs Housing Support Program.** The Governor's FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget includes \$20.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 to continue funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program. Additionally, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is pursuing a budget proposal to increase funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program by \$30.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 to enable the program to serve an additional estimated 10,350 children in 4,500 families statewide. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals which increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing and supportive services, **the Sacramento advocates will support the Governor's Budget proposal to continue funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, and will support the request of an additional \$30.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 for the program to serve additional families as proposed by CWDA.**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Pursuit of County Position on a State Budget Item Related to CalWORKs Housing Support Program

The Governor's FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget includes \$20.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 to continue funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program. Additionally, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is pursuing a proposal, described below, to increase funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program by an additional \$30.0 million in FY 2015-16, for a total of \$50.0 million statewide, to enable the program to serve additional children and families.

Background

The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), which was enacted as part of the FY 2014-15 State Budget Act, provides interventions to CalWORKs families that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The funding allows the County to assist homeless families to obtain permanent housing and support, including case management and supportive services such as mental health and substance abuse. Families participating in the CalWORKs Program are eligible to receive HSP services, regardless of their asset or income levels, when the County finds that the family is experiencing homelessness or housing instability that is a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program Budget Proposal

The County Welfare Directors Association indicates that the current funding of \$20.0 million statewide for HSP, which is the amount proposed in the Governor's FY 2015-16 Budget to continue funding for the program, is expected to serve an estimated 6,900 children in 3,000 families in FY 2014-15. According to CWDA, a \$30.0 million augmentation will enable the program to serve an additional estimated 10,350 children in 4,500 families. CWDA notes that HSP is a proven and successful solution to the problem of housing instability, and expanding HSP funding will improve the long-term prospects of children in CalWORKs families.

County Impact

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) offers several homeless programs for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families, the newest being the HSP. The HSP funding enables the County to maximize resources and improve services to homeless families and alleviate the barriers of homelessness.

According to the Department of Public Social Services, Los Angeles County was allocated \$3.5 million from the statewide total of \$20.0 million in FY 2014-15 for HSP to support projects that implement or expand housing services for CalWORKs homeless families, which includes families not enrolled in the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Program. There is no net County cost impact as these costs will be fully offset with State and Federal revenue.

The Department of Public Social Services indicates that continued additional funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program is also important to allow the County to continue assisting more eligible CalWORKs families in need of homeless assistance services. According to DPSS, since July 2006, the number of CalWORKs homeless families has increased by 188 percent to nearly 16,000 countywide, while the overall CalWORKs caseload has only increased by 11 percent. From January 2014 to January 2015, the number of CalWORKs homeless families increased by 12 percent, despite the economic recovery and a four percent drop in the overall CalWORKs caseload.

Conclusion

This office and the Department of Public Social Services support the Governor's Budget proposal of \$20.0 million in FY 2015-16 to continue funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, and also recommend support for the request of increased funding of an additional \$30.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 for the program to serve additional families as proposed by CWDA. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals which increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing and supportive services, **the Sacramento advocates will support the Governor's Budget proposal to continue funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, and will support the request of an additional \$30.0 million statewide in FY 2015-16 for the program to serve additional families as proposed by CWDA.**

The County Welfare Directors Association's proposal is supported by Housing California and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. There is no known opposition at this time.

This proposal is scheduled to be considered in the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services on March 26, 2015. Additionally, the Senate Human Services Committee and Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services will convene a joint oversight

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hearing on the CalWORKs Program on March 10, 2015. Phil Ansell, Chief Deputy Director of DPSS, will be testifying at this informational hearing to share the local county experience, including the CalWORKs Housing Support Program.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
OR:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
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