County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459

PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

SHERYL L. SPILLER
Chief Deputy

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

26 AUGUST 4, 2009

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 4, 2009

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

Dear Supervisors:

REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE FOOD STAMP/MEDI-CAL MOBILE OUTREACH VEHICLE (ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

As a result of a 2004 Board Motion, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) was charged with reducing food hunger/insecurity and related health problems, and increasing Food Stamp (FS) utilization on a Countywide basis. Although, the Department has successfully utilized various outreach strategies in addressing these critical issues, there is a need to enhance the Department's outreach approach, particularly in this tough economic time, by using a Mobile Outreach Vehicle to deliver FS and Medi-Cal application services to targeted non-traditional locations where eligible individuals and families can apply and receive FS and/or Medi-Cal benefits on-site. Moreover, the Mobile Outreach Vehicle will also serve as a Los Angeles County FS/Medi-Cal emergency response unit, so that residents who have immediate needs due to natural disaster will receive expedited services and benefits. The purchase of a Mobile Outreach Vehicle will generate investments in the form of FS federal dollars that cycle through the local economy and yield savings associated in fighting food hunger/insecurity and preventing chronic illnesses. On December 8, 2008, the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) approved DPSS' Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) of $212,000 grant amount and $163,350 loan amount with 2.33% interest rate for the purpose of purchasing a FS/Medi-Cal Mobile Outreach Vehicle.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the Departments request to authorize the Purchasing Agent to proceed with the acquisition of one specialized vehicle. This specialized vehicle and its applicable taxes and fees total approximately $350,000. This purchase exceeds the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board and requires your approval to move forward with the acquisition process.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

As incorporated in the approved PIF grant request to the QPC, the cost estimate for the mobile vehicle is $350,000, plus $25,000 for first year maintenance. This cost estimate is based on price quotes provided by two vendors. Therefore, we are requesting Board approval to authorize the acquisition of one specialized vehicle in accordance with the County's Purchasing Policy and Procedures.

The Mobile Outreach Vehicle will be approximately 33 feet long with two 10 feet each, slide-out sections, equipped with an emergency generator and optional solar power system. It will also be equipped with wireless technology to support the use of LEADER, Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System, and Electronic Benefits Transfer to process FS and/or Medi-Cal applications and issue expedited service benefits on-site. There will be two Screening areas and one Fingerprinting area, one Card-Issuing station, one Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliant Screening and Fingerprinting room, and a galley that has a three seat waiting area. Having this equipment will allow our staff to process and approve FS and/or Medi-Cal applications and issue expedited service benefits on-site.

The purchase of the FS/Medi-Cal Mobile Outreach Vehicle will be instrumental in the Department's effort to expand the Countywide FS Outreach Campaign, in response to a Board Motion introduced by Supervisor Antonovich on June 15, 2004, in response to the "Report on Food Insecurity and Hunger in Los Angeles County." Our Medi-Cal outreach efforts have been in place for ten years. Outreach is a critical element to increase FS and Medi-Cal participation and fight food insecurity/hunger, particularly in this time of recession. Outreach is also a significant approach to overcoming barriers associated with FS and Medi-Cal participation. The Mobile Outreach Vehicle will allow us to reach out to communities by promoting and delivering FS and Medi-Cal application services to targeted locations and providing Los Angeles County residents, who are facing immediate needs due to natural disaster an opportunity to receive expedited service benefits.

The anticipated outcome of the FS/Medi-Cal Mobile Outreach Vehicle is increased participation in the FS and Medi-Cal programs, which will provide investment values to the communities. The total number of individuals who will be served by using the Mobile Outreach Vehicle is an additional 4,522 individuals or 2,001 FS only cases annually, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11. FS bring federal dollars into communities in the form of benefits, which become revenue for retailers; the funds cycle through the local economy, generating a multiplier effect. Furthermore, increasing participation in the FS and Medi-Cal Programs via the purchase of the Mobile Outreach Vehicle, will not only stimulate the local economy, but avoid potential costs associated with fighting food hunger/insecurity and preventing chronic illnesses.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The purchase of a specialized Mobile Outreach Vehicle supports and is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goals #1 and #2. For Goal #1, Operational Effectiveness, this project supports the County's effort in providing innovative and professional services, enhancing public access to quality information, and more importantly, making quality services more convenient and accessible to the public. For Goal #2, Children, Family and Adult Well-Being, this project supports the County's effort in improving the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and educational/workforce readiness.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The approved PIF grant/loan combination totaling $375,350 is a one-time only request that includes the first year maintenance costs and is included in the Department's FY 2009-10 Budget. Maintenance costs for subsequent years will be included in each year's departmental budget request.

The total PIF loan amount of $163,350 and interest of $11,800 will be paid to the QPC in five annual payments. DPSS will be able to claim the depreciation at a rate of 20% per year in quarterly installments, for five years. There is no additional net County cost (NCC) after the required CalWORKs and FS Maintenance of Effort is met. However, the share of cost associated with programs such as General Relief results in an estimated NCC of $13,500 for principal and NCC of $11,800 for interest for a total estimated NCC of $25,300. The annual NCC costs are distributed as follows:

Costs for FY 2009-10

There is no estimated NCC, as no scheduled payments will be made the first year.

Cost for FY 2010-11

The total estimated NCC is $5,600; $2,700 for principal and $2,900 for interest.

Cost for FY 2011-12

The total estimated NCC is $6,100; $2,700 for principal and $3,400 for interest.

Cost for FY 2012-13

The total estimated NCC is $5,400; $2,700 for principal and $2,700 for interest.

Cost for FY 2013-14

The total estimated NCC is $8,200; $5,400 for principal and $2,800 for interest.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby departments must obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of $250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to the Purchasing Agent.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a commodity purchase under the statutory authority of the Purchasing Agent. The purchase will be requisitioned through, and accomplished by, the Purchasing Agent in accordance with the County's Purchasing Policies and Procedures, established by the Internal Services Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will add value to the Department's outreach effort by increasing FS and Medi-Cal awareness and participation among eligible residents of Los Angeles County. Furthermore, it will provide an excellent platform to deliver services, particularly during this time of economic crisis, as well as during and following any disaster.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acquisition of a specialized vehicle is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it has no potential of a significant effect on the environment.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one adopted stamped copy of this Board Letter to each of the following:

1. Department of Public Social Services
   Executive Office
   12860 Crossroads Parkway South – Main
   City of Industry, CA 91746-3411
   Attention: Philip L. Browning, Director

2. Department of Public Social Services
   Financial Management Division
   12860 Crossroads Parkway South – Main
   City of Industry, CA 91746-3411
   Attention: Jose Perez, Division Chief

3. Internal Services Department
   Purchasing Division
   1100 N. Eastern Avenue, Room 102
   Los Angeles, CA 90063
   Attention: Gerry Plummer, Division Manager

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip L. Browning
Director

PLB:rr

c: Chief Executive Officer
   Acting County Counsel
   Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
   Auditor-Controller
   Internal Services Department