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Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Board of Supervisors

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May 20, 2003

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FORM AMENDMENT TO INCREASE FUNDING
ALLOCATIONS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES WITH TWENTY-
FOUR (24) AGENCIES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the attached Form Amendment (Attachment A) to be executed with the twenty-four (24) agencies indicated on Attachment B to increase total funding for these twenty-four agencies for Family Support Program Services from \$4,736,120 to \$8,146,125, from the date of execution through September 30, 2003. Services are 100% financed by federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funding with no net County cost. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-03 Adopted Budget and FY 2003-04 Proposed County Budget include sufficient funding.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or the Director's designee, to execute these Form Amendments with the agencies and allocations listed on Attachment B after County Counsel approval; and instruct the Director of DCFS to notify the Board and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) in writing within ten workdays that the amendments have been executed.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The purpose of the recommended actions is to increase the funding for twenty-four (24) current Family Support Program Services Agreements by \$3,410,005, from \$4,736,120 to \$8,146,125. The increased funding for the twenty-four family support contractors will enable them to provide services to additional families thus benefiting children and families in all five Supervisorial Districts. If this Amendment is not approved, the Department will not be able to use the increase in federal PSSF funds to obtain additional Family Support Program Services for children and families in our County.

Additionally, an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Parks and Recreation will also be increased by \$159,564 from \$224,197 to \$383,761 for the provision of countywide Family Support Program Services.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the County Strategic Plan Goals 1 (Service Excellence) and 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being). The recommended actions will increase access to family support services and collaborate/integrate services for children and families across functional and jurisdictional boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

These Amendments will increase funding for the twenty-four (24) agencies indicated on Attachment B by \$3,410,005, from \$4,736,120 to \$8,146,125. The increased contract costs are fully financed using federal PSSF funding; there is no net County cost. Funding is included in the FY 2002-03 Adopted Budget and the FY 2003-04 Proposed County Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The authority for the Family Support Program Services Agreements rests, in part, on the federal law that created and funded the federal family support program. The federal program seeks, among other things, to use community-based services to promote the safety and well being of children and families.

On May 2, 1995, your Board approved a Five-Year Plan for Family Preservation and Family Support in the County of Los Angeles. The agreements with an initial 26 non-profit community-based agencies were executed by your Board during a six-week period from July to September 1997. In addition to the agreements with the 26 community-based organizations, an MOU was executed with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Funding for the first year of family support services totaled \$5,378,666.

On June 30, 1998, your Board approved Form Amendment Number One to the Family Support Program Services Agreements for a one-time 11.03% increase of FFY 1998 funding, totaling \$545,136, increasing the total allocation amount from \$4,890,762 to \$5,435,898, and authorized the Director of DCFS to execute the amendment with each of the 26 family support agencies.

On May 2, 1999, your Board approved a form amendment to increase the annual contract sum in year three for each of the family support agencies and the Department of Parks and Recreation by 16.05%. The maximum total contract sum increased from \$5,181,383 to \$6,076,508.

On June 15, 1999, your Board approved the Los Angeles County Three-Year Plan under the Family Preservation and Support Program and instructed the Commission for Children and Families and the Director of DCFS to continue their leadership responsibilities in overseeing the plan.

On September 21, 1999, your Board approved another form amendment for the 26 agencies and authorized the Director of DCFS to extend the Family Support Program Services agreements from October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000. This extension was to allow DCFS sufficient time to prepare and complete a solicitation process before September 30, 2000. DCFS was not able to complete a request for proposals (RFP); hence, DCFS requested and received State approval to extend the term of the family support agreements. Consequently, on September 26, 2000, your Board approved a form amendment to extend the Family Support Program Services Agreements with the remaining 25 agencies for two additional years (October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2002).

One of the original agencies, Behavioral Science Mental Health Center, Inc. was terminated on December 9, 1999, pursuant to Section 29.0 of the agreement (Termination for Convenience). Santa Anita Family Services' contract was amended on June 13, 2000 to increase their contract by \$185,946 in order to provide services to those clients who would have received services from Behavioral Science Mental Health Center, Inc.

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On May 16, 2000, your Board approved a form amendment for 26 agencies, in addition to DCFS amending the MOU with the Department of Parks and Recreation, to increase the total funding of all agreements and the MOU for FFY 1999-2000 by \$583,218, from \$6,076,508 to \$6,659,726.

On May 29, 2002, the State of California Department of Social Services approved a one-year extension of family support services from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003 to allow the County sufficient time to submit a revised County Plan incorporating all of the current legislative mandates and to conduct an RFP process.

On September 24, 2002, your Board approved a form amendment to extend the Family Support Program Services Agreements with the 25 agencies for one additional year (October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003).

The PSSF allocation for FFY 2002-03 provides a higher level of funding than previously reflected in the agreements and DCFS wishes to use those funds to increase the Family Support Program Services available to children and families throughout the County. As a result, DCFS seeks to amend twenty-four of the current Family Support Program Services agreements. Due to unresolved auditing/business issues pertaining to one contractor, Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc., DCFS is not currently recommending augmenting that agreement; however, once the unresolved issues are adequately clarified, a determination will be made on how best to proceed with regard to that contract.

The Form Amendment also incorporates language currently required in contracts (for example, mandatory registration on WebVen).

This Board Letter and Form Amendment have been reviewed by County Counsel and CAO. County Counsel approved the Form Amendment as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

No additional solicitation process was required for this Form Amendment since the amendment is to augment existing agreements. DCFS has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Ordinance Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The availability of these services is paramount to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by promoting child safety, empowering families, and facilitating healthy parent-child relationships. Approval of this Form Amendment will allow the current family support services providers to utilize the increased funding to provide additional services within their respective communities.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted Board letter and attachments to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Attention: Walter Chan, Manager
425 Shatto Place, Room 205
Los Angeles, CA 90020

2. Office of the County Counsel, Children's Services
Attention: Rose Belda, Principal Deputy County Counsel
201 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

DS:WC:RR:ae

Attachments (2)

- c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Commission for Children and Families