



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 26, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS' MOTION REGARDING THE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESTRUCTURE THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM: SYN 39 –
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

On October 6, 2009, on a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Director of Public Social Services (DPSS) in consultation with the Director of Mental Health and the Acting Director of Health Services, and report back on the following: proposed General Relief (GR) to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) enrollment targets; a plan to evaluate and report back quarterly to the Board on the progress in meeting those targets and other reforms; options for a new name to replace "General Relief;" and the feasibility of collaborating with other entities at the State and federal levels to benefit the GR program.

During Phase 2 of the GR Restructuring Process, approved by your Board on October 6, 2009, the GR Restructuring Workgroup is discussing a wide range of recommendations to increase the number of GR participants approved for SSI. The Departments of Mental Health and Health Services are members of the Workgroup. On October 22, 2009, the Workgroup reached consensus to recommend the following SSI approval targets:

	FY 2008-09 Baseline	FY 2010-11 Targets	FY 2011-12 Targets	FY 2012-13 Targets
Approval Rate at Initial Application	40% (est.)	50%	60%	70%
Total SSI Approvals	5891	6400	6900	7400

The first row of the chart provides the minimum targets for increasing the SSI approval rate at the **initial application level** for SSI applications filed on or after July 1, 2010. The goal is to be more successful at the outset of the SSI application process. The second row of the chart addresses overall SSI targets, as the goal is not only to improve the success rate at the outset, but also to increase the total number of SSI approvals, which includes approvals at the reconsideration and appeals steps of the process.

The CEO-SIB evaluation staff, with input from the workgroup, will develop an evaluation plan for the recommendations already approved by your Board, including SSI advocacy. The evaluation plan will be submitted to your Board for approval as part of the Phase 2 recommendations. The CEO and DPSS will provide the Board with quarterly updates on the implementation of the recommendations approved by your Board, including progress in meeting the above SSI advocacy targets.

The GR Restructuring Workgroup met on October 15, 2009, and discussed potential benefits of changing the name of the GR Program to reflect the new direction of the program. On October 22, 2009, the Workgroup brainstormed possible names for the GR Program. The options for the name change, including consideration of names used in other counties and States, will be discussed further at the GR Restructuring Workgroup meeting on October 28, 2009. Potential options for a new name will be submitted to your Board by December 15, 2009, as part of the Phase 2 recommendations.

Regarding the feasibility of collaborating with other entities at the State and federal levels to benefit the GR program, DPSS has an existing ongoing collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the State's Disability Determination Services Division (DDSD). DPSS has plans to enhance this collaboration to strengthen the County's current SSI advocacy efforts, by strengthening working relationships with SSA and DDSD, in particular during the initial development and implementation phase of the SSI-related aspects of the GR Restructuring process. Additionally, DPSS plans to engage the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Labor, California Department of Rehabilitation, and the Veterans' Administration in conjunction with the GR Restructuring process.

The CEO, DPSS, and the nine other County departments involved in the GR restructuring process will submit implementation and evaluation plans and additional recommendations to your Board by December 15, 2009, including all of the information requested by your Board at your meeting on October 6, 2009.

WTF:SRH:JW
JB:mdq

c: Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director, Public Social Services
Director, Mental Health
Acting Director, Health Services