AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND HILDA L. SOLIS January 13, 2026

Holding the Line for Working Families Against Attacks on Federal Funding for Los Angeles County Residents

Los Angeles County (County) is home to more than 112,000 CalWORKs families, representing nearly 270,000 residents, including approximately 200,000 children, who rely on CalWORKs cash aid, employment supports, and childcare to stabilize their households and move into work. CalWORKs, California's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, represents approximately $557.4 million in TANF funds annually, $330.5 million of which is issued in the form of direct cash to support eligible families.

On January 6, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) imposed restricted federal access, widely understood as temporary freezes, on three foundational anti-poverty programs for California and four other states: TANF, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG).

Any prolonged funding distribution freeze would have a disproportionately harmful impact on lower income working families, exacerbating longstanding inequities in income stability, housing security, and child wellbeing.

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Pursuant to communication from the County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), California has now received formal written notification from ACF. These directives require the State to immediately comply with extensive federal data demands and suspend routine drawdowns of federal dollars until ACF completes its review and verifies compliance. According to the letters:

1) TANF and SSBG are subject to restricted drawdowns until the State submits full administrative and eligibility data for all program participants between at least 2022 and 2025. The State must also document eligibility verification practices and submit a full roster of every contractor, subrecipient, nonprofit organization, educational institution, and service provider funded with TANF or SSBG dollars from 2019 through 2025.
2) CCDF funding may not be accessed again until the State demonstrates that subsidized childcare hours have been attended and recorded through contemporaneous, verified attendance documentation. This information must be aggregated and de-identified.

These actions represent an extraordinary departure from standard federal oversight and drawdown practices and require an undertaking that typically takes months rather than weeks, even in the absence of funding restrictions. The State must comply with these requirements by January 20, 2026. Restricted drawdowns remain in place until ACF confirms compliance, with no clear timeline for resolution.

If these funding interruptions are prolonged or implemented in a draconian manner, the consequences for County residents will be immediate and severe. CalWORKs grants help families, the majority of which are female-headed households, purchase food and diapers, pay for rent and utilities, and meet basic needs. CCDF provides childcare so that parents can work, train, or remain employed. SSBG funds support programs that keep families together, prevent foster care placement, and provide critical services to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Any disruption in these supports will push low-income families deeper into poverty, increase household food insecurity, widen educational and economic gaps for children, and increase demand on homelessness, emergency food systems, and our public health and hospital systems. Furthermore, CalWORKs injects funds into the local economy and

helps create jobs through its subsidized employment and skills training programs. Thus, disrupting CalWORKs would also undermine the labor workforce. The County must prepare now to protect residents who will bear the consequences of federal actions beyond their control and stand with the families who will be most affected by these disruptions.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Department of Public Health's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) and other affected departments/ offices to:
    a) Assess the County's exposure, given the aforementioned January 6, 2026, directive from the federal administration initiating "funding freezes" across Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) known as CalWORKs, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) funded programs;
    b) Report back to the Board in writing in 14 days with impacts to: benefit payments and eligibility determinations, CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work services, childcare access for CalWORKs-linked families, and SSBG and CCDF-funded programs in DCFS and other affected departments.
2. Direct the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to communicate identified impacts to the County's Congressional delegation, State legislative delegation, and other relevant state and federal parties, and to advocate for full restoration of funding.
3. Direct County Counsel to evaluate immediate legal protections for County departments in light of the federally-induced restricted drawdown (funding freeze) for TANF, SSBG and CCDF, and report back to the Board in writing in 14 days on any financial, civil, or privacy risks created by federal demands for personally identifiable information requested in conjunction with this funding freeze.

4. Direct County Counsel to work with affected departments and report back to the Board in writing in 14 days on a coordinated legal strategy that includes, but is not limited to:
    a) Coordination with the California Attorney General to bring legal challenges to the federally-directed restricted drawdown of these vital safety net funds;
    b) Coordination with similarly situated counties, municipalities, and states nationwide to bring relevant legal challenges;
    c) Participation in litigation or amicus filings aimed at restoring full federal funding and protecting congressionally appropriated benefits.
5. Direct the Director of DPSS, in coordination with the CEO, DCFS, OAECE, and other impacted departments to report back to the Board in writing in 14 days with:
    a) Fiscal and operational impacts under 30-, 60-, and 90-day freeze conditions;
    b) Messaging for impacted constituents incorporated into the existing *Keep Your Benefits* campaign and incorporated into the multi-departmental, multi-platform communications action plan already underway as directed by the Board on December 2, 2025, ("Strengthening Countywide Communications on Health, Social Services and Emergency Impacts");
    c) Opportunities for additional funding to sustain program delivery during the funding freeze including partnership with private and philanthropic partners;
    d) A coordinated communications strategy across all impacted departments, led by DPSS in collaboration with Countywide Communications, to communicate the impact of the federal funding freeze and contingency plans, if any, to the public and impacted constituents.
6. Direct the Directors of DPSS, DCFS, OAECE, the CEO, and other relevant departments to convene with impacted stakeholders and community-based

organizations to assess the impacts of this funding freeze and develop coordinated strategies, including recommended emergency actions, to pool available resources to mitigate programmatic impacts, and report back to the Board in writing in 30 days on the impacts of these efforts.

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