



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: February 27, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Maria Gardner, Assistant Director, Economic Assistance &
Employment Services Branch, (805) 346-8289
SUBJECT: Social Services Public Assistance Programs Overview

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a presentation from the Department of Social Services regarding the Social Services Public Assistance Programs Overview; and
- b) Determine that the activity is not a “Project” subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to present an overview of the public assistance programs administered by the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services.

Background:

Public assistance programs serve as an economic safety net for low-income families and individuals, helping meet basic needs for food, shelter, and health care. The Department of Social Services administers a variety state and federally mandated programs and services to assist individuals to improve or maintain their health and create economic security. These services, which are part of the Social Safety Net, form a critical lifeline for vulnerable populations, providing essential support systems that offer stability and assistance in times of need.

These programs act as a buffer against the adverse effects of poverty, unemployment, disability, natural disasters, and other hardships that can destabilize individuals and families.

Social Safety Net programs have far-reaching effects, benefiting the individuals directly receiving support and society as a whole through poverty reduction, crisis management, and long-term economic stability.

Each month Social Services issues over \$12 million in cash and food assistance benefits to eligible low-income families to help make ends meet. Those benefits are spent locally, and in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture estimates, every dollar in food assistance generates \$1.54 in local economic activity. Accordingly, these monthly assistance benefits generate nearly \$19 million in economic activity for Santa Barbara County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with receiving and filing this report.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Public Assistance Programs Overview Presentation

Authored by:

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