



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: 2/7/23
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
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: Christina Groppetti, Economic Assistance and Employment
Services Operations Manager, (805) 346-7116
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with California Department of Social Services
for the County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services access to The
Work Number for Online Employment and Wage Verification Services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services Director, or designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Social Services for the purpose of authorizing County access to The Work Number, pursuant to the Agreement between California Department of Social Services and Equifax/TALX Corporation; and
- b) Determine that the execution of the MOU is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), finding that the execution of the MOU is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services (DSS) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allow DSS staff access to The Work Number. The Work Number provides online employment and wage verification for the purpose of determining eligibility in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh programs. This MOU is necessary for DSS employees to access The Work Number for purposes of determining eligibility, prevention or identification of fraud, or overpayments associated with receipt of public assistance. DSS recommends approving the MOU.

Background:

The Work Number is the largest source for past and/or current employment and wage verification in the country. The Work Number service by the Equifax/TALX Corporation is an online employment and income verification system based on social security numbers which became available to all 58 California counties in a pilot program starting in 2015. CDSS has renewed the agreement with Equifax/TALX to continue to provide Work Number services statewide from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025. As part of the renewal process, CDSS is requiring each county to update the MOU for access to The Work Number service.

The Work Number provides quick access to an industry standard verification system that allows designated DSS staff to log into a secure website and retrieve information instantly. The Work Number service then provides critical employment verification data such as employee earnings and hours worked in accordance with the California Work Verification Plan approved by the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACT) on October 8, 2008. Without access to the Work Number data, DSS would lose the ability to verify clients' current eligibility and many clients could lose benefits or receive overpayments, increasing administrative workload for DSS.

CDSS will provide full funding for the use of The Work Number. There will be no charge to use the service as an authorized user under the MOU. The MOU provided by CDSS as part of its Agreement with Equifax/TALX Corporation cannot be altered or amended. If the Board does not approve the MOU, DSS will lose its access to independently verify employment and income information in compliance with the state's Work Verification Plan at this time.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: There are no fiscal or facilities impacts as there are no associated costs to the County.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Please scan and email a copy of the minute order to:

DSS Contracts Unit

C/O Tricia Beebe

Email: TBeebe@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Agreement for the Work Number Social Services – 21-3093 CDSS-TALX Corporation
2. Attachment 2 – MOU between DSS and CDSS for CDSS Work Number Express

Authored by:

Christina Groppetti, Economic Assistance and Employment Services Operations Manager

Tricia Beebe, Contracts Coordinator