

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 12/21/01
Department Name: DSS
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 1/15/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 15 min.
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Charlene A. Chase, Director, Social Services Department

STAFF CONTACT: Kathy Gallagher, Deputy Director
X-7101

SUBJECT: Approve Wage increase for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Individual Providers (IP's)

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve a 5.31% wage increase for IHSS Individual Providers (IP's) effective February 1, 2002.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation to approve a wage increase for IHSS Individual Providers is aligned with the County's Strategic Plan Goal II: Safe and healthy community in which to live, work and visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In-Home Supportive Services are delivered in Santa Barbara County through Individual Providers (IP's), who work directly for the recipient and through a contract mode where the service providers are employees of a Contract Agency. On December 4, 2001, the Board approved a rate increase to Addus Home Healthcare that provided a wage increase to their employees. Historically, Santa Barbara County has paid Individual Providers minimum wage for their services because State and Federal reimbursement for those services was available only at minimum wage levels. State legislation approved during the past two years has increased state and federal financial participation by 5.31% above state minimum wage. These individual providers that assist the elderly and disabled in our community are dedicated employees and a wage increase would help to keep that group of providers on the job.

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Mandates and Service Levels:

There is no change in the level of service.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Assembly Bill 429 (Chapter 111, Statutes of 2000) allows State financial participation in non-Public Authority counties for wage increases of up to 5.31 percent above the minimum wage effective July 1, 2001. A wage increase for IP's would reduce the inequity of wages that currently exists between them and the contract employees.

A wage increase of 5.31 percent effective February 1, 2002 would set the new Individual Provider wage rate at \$7.11 per hour. The estimated total cost of this increase for the balance of FY 2001/02 is \$237,433. There would be State and Federal financial participation, so that the estimated increase in local tax dollars for FY 2001/02 would be \$51,073. The Department has prepared a budget adjustment to increase appropriation and revenue accordingly and fund the local share by decreasing the fund balance of the Social Services Special Revenue Fund. We may need to return to the Board at a later date for County contingency funds if CalWORK's and General Relief caseloads continue to grow to a level above what is currently in our fund balance. The Department is monitoring these caseloads and costs monthly.

Special Instructions:

Please send one copy of the minute order to the Department of Social Services, attention Hilary Yost.

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
County Counsel

Attachments:

A: Wage Increase Chart