



**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: 09/28/10
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kathy Gallagher, Social Services, 681-4451
Director(s) Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, 568-2306
Contact Info: Mekala Manus, Division Chief, 346-7356

SUBJECT: In-Home Supportive Services Fraud Prevention and Program Integrity Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Department of Social Services and the District Attorney to submit the proposed In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Fraud Prevention and Program Integrity Plan to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Summary Text:

On July 2, 2010, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) transmitted a letter to counties that provided information on the proposed continuation of funding available for fraud investigations and enhanced program integrity efforts related to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. State funds for this purpose are provided pursuant to the California Budget Act of 2010. The appropriated state funds along with federal matching funds and required county match total \$28 million statewide for these activities July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Thereafter, continuation is subject to available funding on an annual basis and approval by the State. Santa Barbara County's estimated share of the total funding including our local match is \$182,609. Counties choosing to participate in this program for FY 2010-11 must submit a plan and budget to CDSS. The plan and budget for FY 2010-11 must be approved by your Board prior to its submission to CDSS for approval. The plan is due to CDSS by October 1, 2010.

This funding will enhance Santa Barbara County's local efforts to detect, deter and mitigate IHSS fraud. A required component of the plan is to ensure collaboration and partnerships between the District Attorney and Department of Social Services related to the IHSS program. Other plan components required by the State include identification of overpayments and underpayments, detailing of current and

proposed anti-fraud activities, outcome tracking and reporting, a budget, and an annual outcomes report each year.

This plan proposes to fund one full-time Social Worker senior and one half-time Administrative Office Professional fully devoted to fraud prevention and enhanced program integrity in the IHSS program. The funds would cover associated salaries and benefits for these staff.

CDSS approval is anticipated, however, actual funding may vary, based on the number of counties seeking participation. Additionally, final authorization is contingent on approval of these funds for this designated purpose when the State budget for FY 2010-11 is finally enacted. To the extent funding is available in subsequent years CDSS will require the submittal of an annual plan update. We are optimistic that annual funding will be provided to continue efforts to mitigate the potential for fraud and to further bolster program integrity efforts to safeguard the public trust and ensure benefits are correctly distributed to the vulnerable IHSS population.

Background:

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provides services to the eligible aged, blind, and disabled persons who are unable to perform certain services for themselves and who could not otherwise remain safely in their own homes. IHSS is an alternative to institutional care. IHSS provides personal care and domestic and related services to low income disabled adults and seniors who need assistance with activities of daily living. Additional services include protective supervision and paramedical services. IHSS saves taxpayer dollars by maintaining elder and disabled adults safely in their own homes, thereby avoiding costly institutional care.

Santa Barbara County's Department of Social Services (DSS) administers the IHSS program for 2,900 aged and disabled community members. As with any public assistance program, the potential for fraudulent and misrepresentative activity exists. Fraud detection has always been a component of this program. In 2009, there were 35 fraud referrals to the Department of Health Care Services and the District Attorney. As part of the California State Budget Act of 2009, dedicated funding for enhanced IHSS fraud detection, prevention and program integrity activities was appropriated. Access to this funding requires a collaborative plan between the Department of Social Services and the District Attorney, and Board of Supervisors approval.

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	\$ 27,868.00		
State	\$ 65,020.00		
Federal	\$ 89,721.00		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 182,609.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Funding for the project will be provided by a combination of Federal (49%), State (36%) and Local Funds (15%). FY 2010-11 funding for Fraud Investigation and Program Integrity Efforts related to IHSS is included in the FY 2010-11 Governor's proposed budget. Funding for this effort is not included in the DSS FY 10-11 Adopted Budget.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

1.58

Special Instructions:

After execution by the Chair, please return one signed original of the County Response cover page and one certified copy of the minute order, attention: Diana Klopp.

Attachments:

- A: IHSS Anti-Fraud Activities 2010-11 Proposed Allocation
- B: County Response Cover Page
- C: Proposed Plan for Increased Fraud Prevention and Program Integrity
- D: Fraud Referrals, Overpayments and Underpayments
- E: Budget Justification

Authored by:

Jan Pollard, (805) 681-4424