



CWDA

May 15, 2007

To: The Honorable Patty Berg
Chairman, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

Re: **Transitional Housing Program-Plus – URGE FULL
FUNDING CONSISTENT WITH LAST YEAR'S BUDGET
AGREEMENT**

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) urges full funding of the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) consistent with last year's budget agreement.

THP-Plus is the state's only housing program for youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Prior to FY 2006-07, counties had a 60 percent share of cost in THP-Plus, creating a significant barrier for counties to implement the program. In the FY 2006-07 budget, the Governor and Legislature agreed that expanding the program was a critical support for transitioning foster youth and so eliminated the county share of cost. However, the amount of funding provided was a placeholder amount and only sufficient to fund 5 of the 17 counties with approved THP-Plus plans at that time. The FY 2007-08 January budget proposed a current year augmentation of \$10.5 million to fund the actual need in the current year, including necessary start-up funds for counties ramping up for a July 1, 2007 implementation.

The May Revision proposes to maintain THP-Plus funding at the current year level, underfunding counties by \$19.7 million, despite last year's budget agreement to fully fund counties with approved plans. Doing so would create inequities among counties as well as leading to increased public assistance and other costs due to reduced outcomes for transitioning foster youth. Based on the county plans approved by the Department of Social Services, many of the estimated 1215 transitioning foster youth in 44 counties that would have been served would not have

access to needed housing support to facilitate their move to independence.

Therefore, we urge full funding of THP-Plus consistent with last year's agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

cc: Nicole Vasquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Gail Gronert, Office of The Honorable Fabian Nunez
Julianne Huerta, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Scott Carney, Health and Human Services Agency
Jennifer Kent, Health and Human Services Agency
Ana Matosantos, Office of the Governor
Cliff Allenby, Director, Department of Social Services
Patricia Huston, Department of Social Services
Michael Wilkening, Department of Finance
Todd Bland, Legislative Analyst's Office
County Caucus