



CWDA

March 26, 2007

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

Honorable Members, Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

**RE: Linkages Program — REQUEST SUPPORT TO AUGMENT
LINKAGES BY \$1.85 MILLION (GF)**

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) urges your committee's support for the Linkages Program and to augment this program by \$1.85 million State General Fund.

The Linkages program provides critical supportive services and intensive case management to frail elders and disabled adults. Our local county Adult Protective Services (APS) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) programs regularly partner with Linkages programs and Area Agencies on Aging to serve seniors and dependent adult clients who come to our attention in order to prevent unnecessary institutionalized placements. In fact, the Linkages program compliments the county social service programs available locally. For example, APS often refers clients to Linkages programs to access needed services beyond what can be offered in a traditional APS program. The services offered by Linkages program includes comprehensive, multi-disciplinary case management and support services for individuals with high acuity of health conditions that might otherwise warrant placement into a nursing home absent other services.

Linkages is a cost-effective program that diverts low-income seniors and dependent adults from institutional care. Reducing entries into nursing home care results in cost savings to taxpayers in the burgeoning health care arena. Allowing persons to remain in their own homes is beneficial to clients and their families, and is consistent with current statewide efforts to promote community-based placements for this population.

The Linkages program is a proven and cost-effective strategy to prevent premature institutionalization of seniors and dependent adults and for this reason, we urge your support for a \$1.85 million augmentation—a modest investment for a program that will yield benefits to society and taxpayers for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

cc: Nicole Vazquez, 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
Ann Boynton, Health and Human Services Agency
Ana Matosantos, Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Cliff Allenby, Director, Department of Social Services
Sue Bost, Department of Finance
Todd Bland, Legislative Analyst's Office
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