



May 14, 2014

To: The Honorable Shirley Weber, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

Re: May Revision Hearing - Funding for CalWORKs Family Stabilization Services

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully requests your consideration of a budget augmentation of \$35 million in 2014-15 to provide Family Stabilization services for eligible families in the CalWORKs program. The current proposed funding level for 2014-15 only provides for enhanced case management time. Additional resources are necessary to effectively allow counties to fulfill the statutory requirement that Family Stabilization “shall include intensive case management *and services*.”

Family Stabilization is envisioned to provide intensive services and support to CalWORKs families who are in crisis, ensuring a basic level of stability in the family unit and thereby increasing the likelihood of parental engagement in employment or activities that lead to self-sufficiency. These services go beyond the traditional employment services that all welfare to work participants are eligible to receive and focus on all affected members of the household, rather than simply the parent or parents, recognizing that family dynamics and the issues of other household members may have a direct impact on the required participants’ ability to successfully engage in welfare-to-work. Some examples of the types of services that could be provided include, but are not limited to, non-medical day treatment programs, rehabilitation services, children’s services, and rapid rehousing and other housing supports. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has issued instructions to counties that Family Stabilization services are not limited to the aided or work-eligible adult on the case, and children and unaided members of the assistance unit should be included in the provision of services. Yet no additional funding is provided for these services beyond that which is already provided for the traditional employment services.

Our preliminary estimate of the full-year costs of Family Stabilization services is \$35 million. This estimate is based on CDSS’ projection in the 2014-15 budget that 7.5 percent of the employment services caseload will need Family Stabilization services. We currently estimate that an additional 50 percent in the base employment services cost per case is an appropriate budget level for those services. We look forward to discussing these assumptions to refine this budget estimate as necessary.

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cc: Gail Gronert, Office of Assembly Speaker
Chris Woods, Office of Assembly Speaker
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Julie Souliere, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Mark Newton, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ryan Woolsey, Legislative Analyst's Office
Michael Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency
Matt Paulin, Program Budget Manager, HHS, Department of Finance
Will Lightbourne, Director, California Department of Social Services
Todd Bland, Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services
Patti Houston, California Department of Social Services
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, California Association of Counties
County Caucus