



**CWDA**

Advancing Human Services  
for the Welfare of All Californians

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May 13, 2023

To: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Cathy Senderling-McDonald, CWDA Executive Director

**RE: IN HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: INCREASE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING – MAY  
REVISION**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) continues to respectfully request \$240.2 million General Fund (GF) to increase funding for county administration of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program. This funding is needed to ensure IHSS social workers have manageable caseloads to perform essential functions of the IHSS program.

**IHSS is Essential to the Master Plan for Aging (MPA):** IHSS is a key strategy in meeting the goals of the MPA. As of April 2023, over 713,000 older adults and adults and children with disabilities are authorized to receive in-home care from 620,760 trusted IHSS caregivers in California. Enabling qualified IHSS recipients to remain in their own homes and receive care reduces hospitalization, nursing home care, and premature death. Providing adequate administrative funding will allow county agencies to retain staff, reduce intake times, and increase availability of services for a population that is expected to grow significantly in the coming decade.

**County IHSS Administration State Budgeting Methodology is Flawed:** In 2017-18, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in consultation with county human services agencies and CWDA, updated the methodology to fund county administrative activities associated with the IHSS program. Unfortunately, the revised methodology is flawed in two

major ways:

- **Methodology underfunds the cost of IHSS workers.** The updated methodology never fully funded actual IHSS worker costs from the beginning, due to decisions made by the state to exclude some costs. The resulting funding shortfall has grown ever since. This result is a significant funding gap –about 40 percent of actual worker costs is not accounted for.
- **Methodology does not count all workload.** Administrative funding is not provided if an application does not lead to someone receiving services, even if the individual is approved but unable to find a provider. For example, December 2022 CMIPS data show that 12 percent of “authorized” cases (those completing the application process) did not receive services. Counties receive no administrative funding despite county workload occurring for those cases.

**Higher per-worker caseloads, which will continue to grow without more funding for additional staff, are likely to impede access to IHSS:** Administrative underfunding is contributing to higher worker caseloads in many counties, which in turn contributes to counties’ inability to recruit and retain staff. Caseloads of 300 and 400 consumers per social worker are not uncommon in some counties. This hampers counties’ ability to timely and accurately administer the program and respond to the needs of recipients and providers.

**Proposed Solution – Update Worker Costs and CDSS Funding Methodology:** CWDA requests a total of \$240.2 million GF on an ongoing basis to rectify the underfunding of worker costs (\$185 million GF) and to include the application processing and ongoing case management workload associated with authorized but unpaid cases (\$55 million GF) in the state budgeting methodology. This will enable county IHSS social workers to respond to the growing demand for IHSS services as envisioned in the Master Plan for Aging and California’s commitment to caring for its older adults and persons with disabilities.

For these reasons, we urge your support for this request.

Cc: Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore  
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore  
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly  
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly  
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3  
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office  
Jessica Bartholow, Office of Senator Skinner  
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor  
Angela Pontes, Office of the Governor  
Marko Mijic, Health and Human Services Agency  
Kim Johnson, California Department of Social Services  
Adam Dorsey, HHS, Department of Finance  
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties  
County Caucus