



February 4, 2021

To: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
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, Executive Director, CWDA
Karen Keeclar, Executive Director, CAPA

**RE: IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS):
ELECTRONIC FORMS**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) and the California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) respectfully request the Legislature approve \$5 million General Fund (GF) and accompanying trailer bill language to support implementation of electronic forms in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. This would enable older adults and individuals with disabilities -- including applicants for services, existing IHSS consumers, and their providers of care -- to more expeditiously and safely access these vital services in their own homes.

The pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact on our vulnerable older adult population and those with disabilities. California has taken the appropriate steps to safeguard those receiving services in the IHSS program, including allowing for virtual in-home assessments and reassessments, and allowing counties to process some forms electronically. While some counties have been able to make some forms available electronically, counties have not been able to make all forms electronic, nor have all counties been able to devote local resources to this effort. Given that the state of emergency is likely to remain in effect for much if not all of the 2021 calendar year, it is urgent to find additional ways to serve our IHSS population safely.

We respectfully request \$5 million GF (which leverages additional federal funding) beginning

in the budget year and on an on-going basis to allow all counties to procure technological solutions to support electronic forms and forms signature for both consumers and providers. This budget request would enable counties to take immediate steps while the California Department of Social Services explores and develops a 58-county solution through both the public-facing Electronic Services Portal (ESP) and the CMIPS portal, the electronic systems that applicants, recipients, and IHSS providers access regularly.

IHSS is a critical, home-based safety-net program designed to reduce institutional care and nursing home placement, where illnesses and deaths due to COVID-19 continue to be among the highest both in our state and nationwide. Having access to electronic forms will streamline remote access to IHSS services —enabling older adults and person with disabilities to access needed services quickly and safely.

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
Gail Gronert, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Renita Polk, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
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County Caucus