



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

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May 31, 2016

To: The Honorable Phil Y. Ting
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members, Budget Conference Committee

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

**RE: FUNDING FOR CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM
WORKLOAD – SUPPORT ASSEMBLY VERSION**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully requests your support of the Assembly action to provide an additional \$2.4 million General Fund for implementation and ongoing workload required by Assembly Bill (AB) 403 (Statutes of 2015), which established the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). We have worked closely with the Administration since the release of the Governor's Budget in January to refine workload assumptions associated with AB 403 to ensure the success of CCR. While we are largely in agreement, we differ in our estimates of the costs of Resource Family Approval (RFA) implementation.

Assembly Bill 403 required statewide implementation of the RFA process beginning in all counties January 1, 2017. Prior to AB 403, the RFA was a five-county pilot that was authorized to go statewide, and there were seven counties in addition to the original five planning to implement. However, there was no required timeline by which those counties had to implement RFA and there was no statutory requirement that additional counties do so.

CWDA and the California Department of Social Services, informed by the county practitioners in the pilot counties that have already begun implementation of RFA, worked closely on the workload assumptions associated with RFA and are in agreement. However, the Administration is underfunding the actual cost of that work by funding the additional workload at the 2000-01 budgeted amount for county social workers. The terms of Proposition 30, which was enacted in 2012 and included the realignment of all child welfare and foster care programs to counties, requires that the State fund the actual county-by-county costs of all new child welfare and foster care workload associated with new state laws and requirements enacted after 2011. Because AB 403 requires statewide implementation of RFA in all counties beginning January 1, 2017, under the terms of Proposition 30, the State is required to fund the actual cost of the additional RFA work imposed by AB 403, which requires that the social worker cost be funded at the current amount. The amount of

additional General Fund needed to increase the social worker funding for RFA implementation is \$2.4 million in 2016-17.

Counties are committed to the successful implementation of CCR and to realizing its ongoing promise. It is critical that the workload necessary to achieve these goals be adequately funded. The amount of additional General Fund that we are requesting is not large, but the foundational assumptions upon which that additional funding is based are essential. Thank you for your consideration of support for the Assembly version of the budget on this issue.

cc: Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Chris Woods, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal
Jennifer Troia, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Craig Cornett, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Theresa Pena, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Chantele Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal
Will Lightbourne, Department of Social Services
Robert Smith, Department of Social Services
Michael Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency
Amy Costa, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, Department of Finance
Mark Newton, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ben Johnson, Legislative Analyst's Office
Farrah McDaid-Ting, California State Association of Counties
County Caucus