

County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency
Department of Development & Operational Planning
Office of Contracts Management



SSA04 060909

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DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: Approve Delegation of Authority to the Director of the Social Services Agency to Enter into Extended Agreements with Current Independent Living Program Providers

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve delegation of authority to the Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, to negotiate, amend and terminate contracts with existing agreements relating to providing Independent Living Program services in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 for the period July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009 following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on October 1, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action. Funding for the recommended action for FY 2010 in the amount of \$80,000.00 for the period July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009 is included in the FY 2010 Recommended Budget.

CONTRACT HISTORY

The Social Services Agency currently has five (5) Independent Living Program service providers: Bill Wilson Center (\$187,169); Community Solutions (\$169,104); Family and Children Services (\$169,104); Unity Care Group (\$169,104); and MACSA (\$146,523).

As of July 1, 2009, it is the intention of the Social Services Agency to have one (1) contract for the Independent Living Skills Program. Due to the magnitude of the Independent Living Program participation and change in the service delivery model, it is recommended that the current contracts be extended for three months allowing for a transition period.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Social Services Agency is requesting delegation of authority to negotiate, amend and terminate the existing contracts in order to implement a seamless transition for the youth to a new service delivery model for FY 2010. Current delegation of authority for the FY 2009 contracts expires on June 30, 2009.

In accordance with Board policy for entering into agreements, the Social Services Agency is requesting delegation of authority to negotiate, amend, and terminate contracts with existing Independent Living Program providers which will allow them to receive funding for an additional three month transition period. Upon the completion of the current solicitation process, the Agency will be entering into a new contract with one provider.

BACKGROUND

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 permanently authorized the Independent Living Program (ILP), which offers training to foster care adolescents and emancipated youth enabling them to be independent when their foster care terminates. In 1999, an amendment to the Social Security Act provided more flexibility in funding of ILP service and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program authorized expansion of this program to serve foster youth ages 16 to 21.

The Social Services Agency has been providing ILP services since the inception of the program by the State through contracted services. Youth between the ages of 16 and 21 who are in foster care, group home, and transitional housing are eligible for the Independent Living Program. Participants meet with Case Managers and receive supportive services which include, but are not limited to, educational planning, career development, daily living and survival skills, social skills, financial literacy, housing, etc. The Independent Living Program is offered to approximately 700 -750 eligible youth during each year and about 600 -650 youth are served.

In 2005, the Social Services Agency released a Request for Proposals and selected five agencies (Bill Wilson Center, Community Solutions, Family and Children Services, Unity Care Group and MACSA). The contracts were originally set to expire on June 30, 2008 but a delegation of authority was approved to extend the contracts until June 30, 2009.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on February 23, 2009 for services beginning July 1, 2009. The Agency is in negotiations for the FY 2010 contract. Due to the complexity of the RFP and the extended timelines, the Agency is requesting delegation of authority to extend the existing contracts for an additional three months to continue existing services pending successful contract negotiation and Board approval, and to ensure that youth participants are transitioned as seamlessly as possible to a single provider model.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Social Services Agency will be unable to amend the existing contracts for an additional three months and participating youth will likely experience a disruption in services.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will follow the usual steps for a transmittal of this type. The Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, will amend the existing Independent Living Program contracts, as needed, and will forward a copy of each amendment to the Clerk of the Board within 30 days of execution.