

County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency Administration



SSA04 092909

Prepared by: Frank Motta
Project Manager

Reviewed by: Sandra Dalida
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 29, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Lightbourne".

Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement #08-6052 with the California Department of Social Services replacing Interim Assistance Agreement #19043. The term of the agreement begins on July 1, 2008.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no negative fiscal impact to the County General Fund as a result of the Recommended Action.

The Interim Assistance Reimbursement process allows the County to recover funds paid to clients through the General Assistance Program. In FY 2009, the Social Services Agency recovered a total of \$86,528.58 for General Assistance clients and \$11,898.88 for CAPI clients. Approval of the Interim Assistance Agreement will enable the Agency to continue recovery of County funds.

CONTRACT HISTORY

The previous Interim Reimbursement Agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 12, 1989 and has been continuously in effect with the State of California, Department of Social Services.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The State Department of Social Services requests Board of Supervisor approval to enter into the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement that replaces the previous agreement of 1989. The Agreement begins retroactively as of July 1, 2008. This Agreement will be renewed automatically every 5 years, unless notice is given to end renewal for reimbursement by the State or County, or subsequent agreements that replace the one under consideration are required by the State of California or the Social Security Administration.

This Agreement will insure interim assistance is provided to individuals while benefits under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program have pending eligibility with the Social Security Administration. The agreement also assures available reimbursement to the County for providing this assistance while applications are pending with the Social Security Administration, under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

The Agreement provides technical corrections to the 1989 Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement. The Agreement does not alter the current program for reimbursement, but updates references to the Social Security Administration and State parties as well as clarifies provisions for dispute resolution.

The Agreement being considered for Board of Supervisor approval was mailed to the County on February 26, 2009, addressed to the past Chair of the Board of Supervisors after the past Chair had vacated office. The agreement was routed to the Social Services Agency in July 2009 where additional time was required by staff to research updated provisions of the agreement and to provide the Board with the recommended course of action. The Agreement contains standard terms provided by the State to all of the counties, including a retroactive start date to July 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The General Assistance (GA) program provides cash assistance to individuals who are disabled or unemployed, and are not supported financially by other individuals or other sources of public or private assistance. General Assistance is completely funded by the county General Fund, and is required by the California Welfare and Institutions Code. Some General Assistance recipients are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payments (SSP) but have not received these benefits due to the pending status of their application. The General Assistance program requires these individuals to agree that the County may be reimbursed from SSI/SSP payments made arrears from the time eligibility is determined. This Agreement provides for the process for the County to receive this reimbursement.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County would be unable to recover funds provided under the interim assistance reimbursement program .

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board shall return the signed agreement by the President of the Board of Supervisors to the State of California, Department of Social Services accompanied with a copy of this transmittal authorizing signature. A copy of the signed Agreement shall also be forwarded to the Social Services Agency, Agency Director's Office.

ATTACHMENTS

- Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement #08-6052
- Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement #08-6052 Appendices
- Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement Cover Letter