



CWDA

Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of *All* Californians

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Date May 29, 2019

To: The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

**RE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR CALFRESH
EXPANSION: ADOPT ASSEMBLY VERSION**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) supports the action taken by the Assembly to adopt placeholder trailer bill language requiring the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), to work with counties and other stakeholders to update the budgeting methodology used to determine annual funding for county administration of the CalFresh Program.

The May Revision included an additional \$15 million one-time General Fund for county administration for implementation of the CalFresh eligibility expansion to SSI recipients, but proposed budget bill language that would have restricted the use of the additional funding to “unanticipated county administration costs” subject to approval of the Department of Finance. While we understood that the intent of the language was to indicate that it is not necessarily going to be provided on an ongoing basis, and that it was not the Administration’s intent to create additional barriers to accessing the funding beyond those reporting mechanisms that are already in place as part of the existing claiming process, we had concerns about how the language could be interpreted. Furthermore, without assurance that the funding would be available in 2019-20 to reimburse counties for actual and immediate implementation expenses, we were concerned that counties would be reluctant to incur those costs.

Therefore, as an alternative CWDA requested trailer bill language indicating that the \$15 million GF is for the purposes of funding the county administrative workload presented by this extraordinary expansion of CalFresh eligibility and is one-time for 2019-20 pending work together by CDSS, Department of Finance and CWDA over the coming year to update the overall budgeting methodology for CalFresh Administration, which would include an examination of the ongoing workload and costs of the CalFresh SSI expansion. This proposal addresses the Administration’s concerns while ensuring that all of the workload associated

with CalFresh Administration is appropriately funded going forward. The Administration expressed an openness to this language. For these reasons, we urge adoption of the ASSEMBLY version.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Jason Sisney, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Renita Polk, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Luan Huynh, Office of Senator Holly Mitchell
Irene Ho, Office of Assemblymember Philip Ting
Colin Sueyres, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen
Alex Norring, Office of Senator Richard. D. Roth
Elise Gyore, Office of Senator Richard. D. Roth
Zachary Leary, Office of Senator Nancy Skinner
Spencer Street, Office of Senator John M. W. Moorlach
Teresa Trujillo, Office of Assemblymember Jay Obernolte
Maria Alvarez, Office of Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
Brandon Ebeck, Office of Assemblymember Chad Mayes
Anthony Dimartino, Office of Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber
Richard Figueroa, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Mark Newton, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Marko Mijic, Health and Human Services Agency
Paula Villescaz, Health and Human Services Agency
Pat Leary, California Department of Social Services
Robert Smith, California Department of Social Services
Kären Dickerson, California Department of Social Services
Diane Cummins, HHS, Department of Finance
Adam Dorsey, HHS, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, HHS, Department of Finance
Justin Garrett, California Association of Counties
County Caucus