

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 2/5/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Director Lee Collins 805-781-1825	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution amending the Fund Center 180 - Department of Social Services Position Allocation List to add 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions to accommodate the transition of the Healthy Families Program to the County; and request to authorize an associated budget adjustment in the amount of \$208,091.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: 1. Approve the resolution to amend the Fund Center 180- Department of Social Services Position Allocation List to add 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions; and 2. Authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$208,091 to Fund Center 180.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) MediCal allocation (100%)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$208,091	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$121,130	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1213078 <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services / Director Lee Collins
805-781-1825

DATE: 2/5/2013

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution amending the Fund Center 180 - Department of Social Services Position Allocation List to add 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions to accommodate the transition of the Healthy Families Program to the County; and request to authorize an associated budget adjustment in the amount of \$208,091.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the resolution to amend the Fund Center 180- Department of Social Services Position Allocation List to add 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions; and
2. Authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of \$208,091 to Fund Center 180.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the passage of AB 1494 and AB 1468 (Chapters 28 and 438 of Statutes of 2012, respectively), the Healthy Families Program is being transferred to California's Medi-Cal Program. Together these bills allow the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to adopt the option to use less restrictive income and resource methodologies than currently used in Medi-Cal. Under these new provisions, income eligibility for children will be expanded up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Limits (FPL), without an asset test.

Formerly, children aged 1 through 5 were eligible up to 133% of the FPL, and children aged 6 to 19 were eligible up to 100% of the FPL. Infants under 1 year of age were eligible up to 200% of the FPL. The legislation also implements a premium payment program for children with incomes greater than 150% of FPL, at \$13/child up to a maximum of \$39/family.

The Healthy Families Program, funded in part by the Federal Government's "State Children's Health Insurance Program," previously covered children living in families who were low-income but did not meet Medi-Cal's very strict income guidelines. Now, with the approval of the Federal Government, Medi-Cal will cover these children under a new optional program known as the Targeted Low-Income Children's Program.

The County's Department of Social Services became responsible for processing new applications for the program beginning January 1, 2013 and will assume responsibility for existing cases on a phased approach. The first phase begins on March 1, 2013, when we anticipate that approximately 1,400 children will be transferred to the County's caseload. The second phase, in which another 4,000 children will be transferred to the County, is scheduled to occur on August 1, 2013. It is projected that the County will be processing approximately 145 new applications per month.

In recognition of the new workload, the State Department of Health Care Services is allocating new funds to the County so that these cases may be processed. Both the formula utilized to develop these allocations and the appropriations themselves have been subject to controversial delays by the State Department of Health Care Services. Even though the County assumed responsibility for processing new cases on January 1, 2013, for example, we still have not received an allocation – or even an estimated allocation – for that activity.

We have received allocations to support our activity in processing the transitional cases, however. In October and November, 2012, we received notice of allocations totaling \$208,091 intended to offset the County's costs of transitioning Healthy Families Program enrollees. As with any Medi-Cal funded activity, these funds do not require a County match.

Because this is a new administrative requirement for the County's Department of Social Services, and because the Medi-Cal program already has been increasing year by year, it is necessary that the Department augment its staffing levels to accommodate these new tasks. At this time, because we do not have even an estimate of the allocation for new applicants, we are requesting only 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions. The application processing and eligibility determination work that will be done is in line with the work the Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions in the department currently perform. Once we have received the allocation for the new applicants, we will consider proposing additional adjustments to the County's Position Allocation List either within the Fiscal Year or as part of our budget submission for Fiscal Year 2013/2014, depending on timing and workload demands.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Department has consulted with the Human Resources Department and the Administrative Office in preparing this proposal.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total annualized cost for an Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III is \$60,565. The net cost impact of these position changes in Fiscal Year 2012/2013 is an increase in cost of \$50,471 (2.0 FTE for five months) with no corresponding General Fund increase. The annualized cost increase is \$121,130 in subsequent fiscal years, with no increased cost to the County's General Fund.

The requested Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$208,091 is 100% funded with additional Medi-Cal allocations for the transition of Healthy Families Program. In the current year, \$50,471 of this funding will be used for the salaries of the new requested Employment Resource Specialist I/II/III positions. The balance of the funds, \$157,620, will be used in services and supplies to support administrative costs for this new program. Pursuant to explicit instructions from the State, any balance left unspent at year-end will be available for use in Fiscal Year 2013/2014.

ADD

Classification	Position	Annual S&B	FTE	Total
01546	ERS I/II/III	\$60,565	2.0	\$121,130

NET

\$121,130

RESULTS

Implementation of this proposal will enable the County to process both new applications and existing cases under the new Targeted Low-Income Children's Program in accordance with State Law.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Social Services PAL Addition Resolution