

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2020-21

In-Home Supportive Services Program

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides personal care and domestic services to Medi-Cal eligible individuals to help them remain safely in their own homes and communities. Recipients are eligible to receive assistance with tasks such as bathing, dressing, housework, and meal preparation. The recipients are typically responsible for hiring and supervising a paid IHSS provider. Social Workers employed by the County conduct in-home IHSS assessments of an individual’s needs in order to determine the amount and type of service hours to be provided, based on state guidelines. In recent years funding for this mandated service has been an issue for counties, as State funding has changed, increasing costs to counties. This is discussed further in the Pending Issues section below. The FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget includes an increase to the IHSS MOE which includes the 4% annual inflator and the estimated cost increase from the recent provider wage agreement allowing a fifty-cent supplemental increase above minimum wage.

SB 163 Wraparound Program

The SB 163 Wraparound Program is designed to improve youth outcomes. Until June 30, 2009, County participation was funded by filling six slots for high-risk youth, with savings available for reinvestment to provide additional services to at-risk youth in the community. As of FY 2010-11, services provided in the community were funded entirely from use of the fund balance and interest earnings related to this program from prior years. Use of the remaining fund balance in FY 2020-21 is budgeted to pay for specialized staff to continue working with high-risk youth and their families.

CalOES Victim Services Grant

El Dorado County administers a Victim Services Grant from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). This grant provides enhanced funding to Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of El Dorado County for increased services and support to victimized youth in Foster Care. The grant was originally awarded in FY 2017-18 for a period of two years, but has been extended on a yearly basis.

BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

Social Services Total	Appropriations	Revenues	Net County Cost	Staffing
SB 163 Wraparound	\$ 22,656	\$ 22,656	\$ -	0.00
CalOES Elder Abuse Grant	\$ 206,069	\$ 206,069	\$ -	1.00
CalOES Victim Services Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	0.00
SS Admin & Public Assistance	\$ 66,058,573	\$ 62,885,482	\$ 3,173,091	271.15
Social Services	\$ 66,537,298	\$ 63,364,207	\$ 3,173,091	272.15

PENDING ISSUES

The Social Services programs are subject to constant change by federal and state legislation. The following items concern the potential impact to the county due to increasing costs and volatile funding resources:

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- **In Home Support Services (IHSS):** The redirected and accelerated Realignment Growth received from the State allowed HHSA to fully fund the current MOE obligations, but as Realignment Growth reverts back to the original distribution methods, IHSS funding continues to be a budgetary concern. HHSA has recently finalized a labor agreement with the United Domestic Workers union which represents the IHSS providers in labor negotiations. The negotiated wage increase of \$0.50 above minimum wage will increase the current and future MOE obligation, as will the annual statutory 4% increase, regardless of Realignment Growth. In addition to the MOE costs, Program Administration funding is now capped. As costs out of the Department's control rise, 1991 Realignment will be required to fill the gap. Realignment funding is dependent on a healthy economy; therefore, an economic downturn could affect the County's ability to fund these types of mandated obligations.
- **Foster Care Assistance:** As we enter the fifth year of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) implementation, Foster Care Assistance costs are beginning to stabilize. FY 2019-20 Foster Care Assistance is projected to increase by about 1.7% over the prior year compared to upwards of 14% in prior years. The lingering concern is that as California's minimum wage rises, fewer foster care cases are eligible for federal reimbursement. As the non-federal share of Foster Care Assistance and Children's Programs are mostly realigned to the County, the reduction of federally eligible cases puts an additional strain on limited Realignment funding sources.
- **Extended Foster Care (AB 12):** This program provides supports for young adults exiting foster care until the age of 22. The funding that supports this service is 2011 Realignment which is also impacted by Extended Foster Care and Adoptions assistance costs and is currently estimated to be \$1.4 million over the County's statutory obligation, according to AB 12, estimated at \$300,000. As a result, the use of 2011 and 1991 Realignment is required to meet the needs of the program as the program is treated as a mandatory service by all counties at this point. At this time, any changes will be subject to state legislative review.
- **Child Welfare Services:** The Family First Prevention Services Act, signed in the February 2018 Federal Spending Bill prioritizes the limited use of congregate foster care (group homes) and puts more money toward prevention services such as at-home parenting classes, mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment. This law places a two-week cap on the federal funding for group homes (currently, group home placements have open-ended federal funding for federally eligible cases). The new restrictions began in 2019, and California has requested a two-year delay to implement the group home provisions of the law. The delay will cause the State to be ineligible to receive federal funding for preventive services. If California does not delay implementation, counties will be reimbursed for services provided to families outlined in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse for up to 12 months with the goal of keeping families together. The challenge for states will be transitioning the child welfare process and provider base from placement to prevention. California AB 74, effective June 2019, gives authority for the State Finance Department to provide increased funding to the State Department of Social Services in the event of unanticipated costs due to Families First. It is unclear how this will translate to assisting counties should there be a significant reduction in federal revenue. Additionally, the cost of services aimed at prevention and family reunification has increased by over \$1 million annually over the past few years and it is uncertain how these services will be funded. The increase in costs is currently being funded with limited Realignment sources.
- **Realignment Revenues:** In 2011, the State shifted fiscal responsibility to counties by realigning the funding for traditional Children's Welfare Programs, Adult Protective Services and the cash benefits for CalWORKs, Foster Care, and Adoptions Assistance. These programs are supported

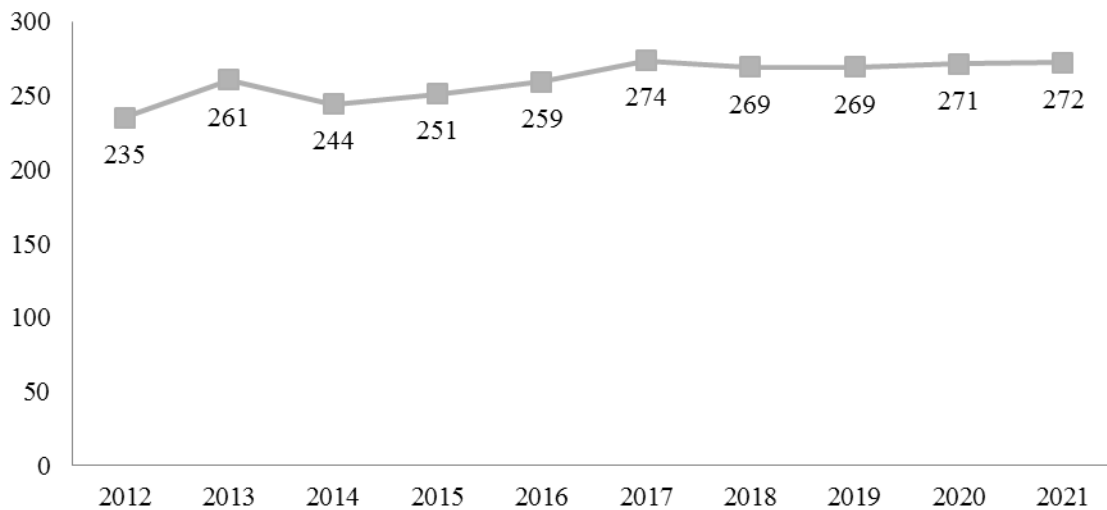
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mostly with Federal and Realignment funding. This is further impacted by the increasing IHSS MOE county share and increasing Children’s Welfare costs. As costs that are out of the Agency’s control increase at a faster rate than revenues are realized, the programs that compete for the same funding are at greater risk of requiring future County General Fund support to meet county match and program administration requirements. These are mandated entitlement programs for which we cannot deny eligible beneficiaries due to budgetary restrictions.

STAFFING TREND

The recommended staff allocation for FY 2020-21 is 272.15 FTEs. The net change to Social Services is a decrease of .15 FTE and includes the transfer of .15 FTE Social Services Program Manager to the Community Services Department.



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Social Services budget is recommended at \$66,537,298 (including Social Services at \$66,264,642 plus Wraparound Services and CalOES Victim Services Grant at \$272,656), which is an increase of \$3,207,397 (5%) when compared to the FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 4.8% of the funding for the Department at \$3,173,091, an increase of \$645,395 (25.5%) when compared to the FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget.

In concept, the Department applies all State, federal, and Realignment funding to cover its operational costs, and considers the A-87 Cost Plan charges for Countywide central services to be largely unfunded. Total A-87 charges are recommended at \$3,409,325, an increase of \$777,457 from FY 2019-20. The Department has also budgeted a position vacancy rate of 6% for most cost pools, which is significantly lower than the FY 2019-20 budget, which ranged from 10% to 14% depending on employee cost pool. This results in higher General Fund cost. The 6% rate aligns more closely with FY 2017-18 budgeted vacancies. This is a conservative rate and may be adjusted upward to align with actual vacancy rates as the vacancy rates for positions with increased salaries are realized.

The increase in General Fund support is primarily attributed to an increase in A-87 costs (\$777,000), higher building costs for the new allocation of space utilized by department staff (\$675,000), and the

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lower vacancy factor (\$863,000), offset by a reduction in costs from the lower ICR (\$1,510,000) and other reductions (\$160,000).

The Recommended Budget includes a request for \$133,892 for the purchase and replacement of 183 desktop computers, 446 monitors and 6 workstations (for South Lake Tahoe reception booths) due to the required system compatibility of the Self Sufficiency program to access State systems. This is a catch-up replacement from the last three years due to a pause in the computer refresh cycle attributed to the countywide implementation of Virtual Desktop Interface (VDI).

CAO Adjustments

No CAO adjustments are recommended.

Sources and Uses of Funds

The Social Services Department is funded by State, Federal and Realignment funding streams. Any non-reimbursable costs are charged to the County General Fund. In concept, the General Fund pays primarily for the A-87 Cost Plan charges for Countywide central services, since program service levels and costs exceed available Realignment and other funding streams.