

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

BY: James A. Rydingsword

PHONE: 966-2000

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The Department of Human Services respectfully requests that your Board approve a letter to United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer in support of efforts to maintain an emergency fund for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chairman to sign the letter.

Such Action would allow states to continue and expand allowable efforts initiated under the existing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) to help struggling families during this jobless recovery.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively _____
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Letter of Support pgs. 1-2 _____
Source:		_____
Internal Transfer _____		_____
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		_____
( ) General ( ) Other		_____

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

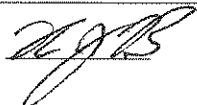
Res. No.: 10-135 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved  
 Minute Order Attached  No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
 County of Mariposa, State of California  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy

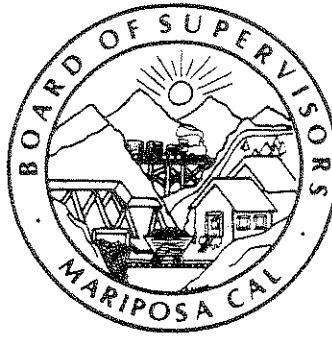
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

Requested Action Recommended  
 No Opinion  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

CAO: 

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ..... BRAD ABORN  
District 2 ..... LYLE TURPIN  
District 3 ..... JANET BIBBY  
District 4 ..... KEVIN CANN  
District 5 ..... JIM ALLEN



RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS  
Clerk of the Board

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March 23, 2010

Senator Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The American Public Human Services Association and its affiliate, the National Association of State TANF Administrators, strongly support any effort to maintain an emergency fund for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Such action would allow states to continue and expand allowable efforts initiated under the existing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) to help struggling families during this jobless recovery.

Options proposed in the President's fiscal year 2011 budget to establish a new emergency fund for TANF as of October 1, 2010, as well as a replenished regular Contingency Fund, are critical to states. We also support the provisions of H.R. 4564, *The Emergency Jobs Program and Assistance for Families Extension Act*, which embodies much of the President's proposal for additional funds and offers some additional flexibility under the current ECF.

State TANF agencies have been able to respond to the unprecedented need for family support and employment services in large part due to funding made available in ARRA. By adopting legislation for emergency TANF funding, including the provisions of both the President's proposal as well as those of H.R. 4564, Congress can ensure that state TANF agencies can continue and expand their efforts to provide subsidized employment and one-time non-recurring benefits as well as continue to receive 80 percent federal reimbursement for the costs of rising caseloads. However, we underscore that Congress needs to act quickly. Some states must have budgets prepared by July and other states must have budgets finished even earlier; most of these states will have to make very serious choices about what services to save and what services to cut. The knowledge

that emergency TANF funding would be available for FY 2011 is critical in this decision-making process.

Currently, 23 states have been able to implement subsidized employment programs. However, these programs are complicated, and both start-up tasks and steps necessary to conform to the required protocols are time-consuming. States have been aggressively implementing subsidized employment, and the new emergency funding under ECF will allow them to mature these programs by bringing in more private and public employers willing to provide subsidized employment slots. It will also finance needed supportive services such as transportation and child care so that clients can keep these vital jobs.

Without replenished emergency funding states will be hard-pressed to continue these efforts since they face, collectively, an estimated \$142 billion budget deficit that will require them to continue the painful process of scaling back programs.

We are also very supportive of both the President's and Congressman McDermott's efforts to increase the federal reimbursement rate for subsidized employment from its current 80 percent to 100 percent beginning in FY 2011 and the inclusion of a fourth allowable category of reimbursable expenditures for work supports and services. H.R. 4564 would allow this new category of work supports to be an allowable expenditure eligible for 80 percent federal reimbursement not only in FY 2011, but also under the current ECF that can be claimed through September 30, 2010.

This is why we ask that Congress find some vehicle, whether it be under a Jobs bill, a UI/COBRA extension bill, or some other avenue, to provide additional emergency funds for TANF, thus ensuring that states can continue and expand their current efforts after September 30, 2010, with minimal interruption.

If you have any questions please call or e-mail American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) contacts Robert Ek ([robert.ek@aphsa.org](mailto:robert.ek@aphsa.org)), (202) 682-0100 x235, or Larry Goolsby ([larry.goolsby@aphsa.org](mailto:larry.goolsby@aphsa.org)), (202) 682-0100 x239.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cann, Chair  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Congressman George Radanovich  
California State Senator Dave Cogdill  
California State Assemblyman Tom Berryhill  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)  
Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce  
Chuck Cole, Mariposa County Lobbyist