

DEPARTMENT: Child Support Services

BY: Debbie Walton
PHONE: 966-3400

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize Chair to sign and send letters of support for the Child Support Directors Assn. (CSDA) budget request to secure a cost of doing business adjustment to the fund of our local child support department.

Mariposa County Child Support Services is funded solely by State and Federal Funds. For the last five years our budget has been held flat. That includes no increase for employees increase in salary and benefits. To this end the only option to absorb the increased costs has been to lay off staff as indicated in attached letters.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has previously sent letters of support to legislators for various purposes. Letters of this kind are better received from the Board of Supervisors rather than from department heads.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize Chair sign or authorize Director of Child Support Services to sign and send letters

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: \$		Sample Letters (2)
Source:		Effects of Lost Positions attachment
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. 07170 Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
Absent: _____
[Signature] 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

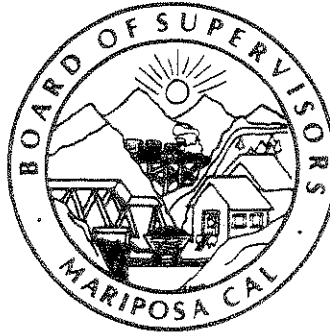
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: *[Signature]*

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 DIANNE FRITZ
District 5 BOB PICKARD



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

P.O. Box 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
(209) 966-3222
1-800-736-1252
FAX (209) 966-5147
www.mariposacounty.org/board

May 1, 2007

The Honorable Tom Berryhill
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Support CSDA 3.5 Percent Cost of Doing Business Funding Request State Budget Item 5175 Department of Child Support Services

Dear Assemblyman Berryhill:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly support the budget request submitted by the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) to secure a 3.5 percent cost of doing business adjustment to fund our local child support department. Because each state dollar is matched two for one with federal dollars, CSDA's request would require an investment of approximately \$8.3 million in State General Fund dollars to deliver the \$24.8 million required to fund the requested 3.5 percent increase. Also, this funding will support the continued recoupment of public assistance dollars owed to the state.

This augmentation is vital in order for our county to support current levels of effort to collect child support owed to the most economically fragile families in our community. In Mariposa County our child support program is responsible for collecting child support on behalf of 899 children. CSDA's budget request would result in approximately \$ 23,000 in additional funding to support Mariposa County's child support program. The 3.5 percent cost of doing business figure was arrived at based on what the State has agreed to increase compensation to the majority of its represented workforce.

State funding to support our local child support program has been held flat for the past five years. As a result, our local program has been required to absorb annual operational cost increases resulting from increases in rent, retirement contributions, workers' compensation insurance, salary and benefits and other cost drives. To absorb these costs, Mariposa County Dept. of Child Support Services has been required to reduce child support staffing levels by 15 percent. For our county, this has resulted in a loss of one and a half positions out of a total of ten.

The effects of the positions lost in our County cause remaining staff to give less attention to each case, which results in disgruntled clients, the potential for decline in collections, inappropriate orders and loss of money to families and the government.

If adequate resources are not made available to support our local child support program, I anticipate that collections will continue to decline in our county. As a result more families will move from financial self sufficiency to requiring costly state and local public assistance.

I would also request your support of a second CSDA budget request that would continue the \$12 million in Performance Improvement Funds into State Fiscal Year 2007-08.

Mariposa County would greatly appreciate any effort your office can provide to support CSDA's request for additional funding. Our request has been submitted to both the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services and to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services. CSDA's funding request remains an open item in both subcommittees.

On behalf of Mariposa County, thank you for supporting your district's local child support program.

Sincerely,



Janet Bibby, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Fabien Nunez, Speaker
The Honorable Michael Villines, Minority Floor Leader

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

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May 1, 2007

The Honorable Dave Cogdill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Support CSDA 3.5 Percent Cost of Doing Business Funding Request State Budget Item 5175 Department of Child Support Services

Dear Senator Cogdill:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly support the budget request submitted by the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) to secure a 3.5 percent cost of doing business adjustment to fund our local child support department. Because each state dollar is matched two for one with federal dollars, CSDA's request would require an investment of approximately \$8.3 million in State General Fund dollars to deliver the \$24.8 million required to fund the requested 3.5 percent increase. Also, this funding will support the continued recoupment of public assistance dollars owed to the state.

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Sincerely,



Janet Bibby, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Don Perata, Speaker Pro Tempore
The Honorable Dick Ackerman, Senate Minority Leader

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Effects of Lost Positions at Local Child Support Agencies		
Types of Positions	Consequences of Lost Positions	Effect on families and the State
Program Staff		
Caseworkers	Less attention to each case Takes longer to establish an order Takes longer to act on nonpayment Takes longer to modify orders Less interaction with other states on interstate cases	Potential declines in collections Loss of money to families and the government Inappropriate arrears and lower than appropriate orders
Fiscal/Accounting Staff	Delays in preparing accounting statements for court Takes longer to establish accounts Takes longer to work mis-identified payments	Loss of money to families and the government Delays in getting money to families
Attorneys	Takes longer to get contested orders to court Takes longer for court ordered enforcement actions	Loss of money to families and the government
Clerical Support	Delays in data entry and case processing Delays in filing papers with court	Loss of money to families and the government
Special Units		
Welfare Office Interviewers	Less complete information on welfare cases Delays in establishing orders, collecting support	Reduced welfare recoupment. Possible increased TANF costs due to families staying on aide
Special Project Teams	Inability to do program improvement projects Inability to respond to new state initiatives - COAP Lack of dedicated staff for transition data clean-up	Lack of progress on federal performance measures No real testing of state initiatives Work done at expense of casework, reduced collections

Effects of Lost Positions at Local Child Support Agencies		
Types of Positions	Consequences of Lost Positions	Effect on families and the State
Training Units	Training experts not available to do ongoing training Diverts most skilled staff from other duties	Lack of progress on federal performance measures Work done at expense of casework, reduced collections
Community Education and Outreach	Potential loss of non-welfare cases Decrease in community knowledge about program	Potential decline in percentage increase in collections
Ombudsman/Complaint Resolution	Delays in responding to customer complaints Diverts most skilled staff from other duties	Disgruntled customers Work done at expense of casework, reduced collections
Customer Service Staff		
Interviewers	Fewer weekly public office hours Increased wait times for appointments	Disgruntled clients Delays in case processing
Call Centers	Reduced hours for customer calls Increased call wait times	Disgruntled clients Delays in case processing