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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Investment in Human Services Directly
Stimulates Local Economies
Studies find Food Stamps and CalWORKs are Catalysts for Economy, Push for
Policymakers to Preserve Funding for Safety Net Services**

SACRAMENTO – Human services such as Food Stamps, CalWORKs and General Assistance provide a boost to the state’s economy, with an estimated \$1.32 in economic activity generated for every dollar spent, according to a new study released by Beacon Economics.

The results of this study, along with new statewide data showing the dramatic increase in the demand for human services, are highlighted in a report to be released by the California State Association of Counties and the County Welfare Directors Association of California.

The reports note several other key findings, including:

- Failure to fund these human services programs results in poor outcomes for children and families, creating an even greater long-term cost to the state;
- California counties are grappling with a long-term state disinvestment in human services, now totaling nearly \$2 billion annually;
- Deep cuts have resulted in reduced staffing levels, diminished access to and availability of services, and delayed benefits to eligible families who are struggling in the current economic downturn.

The studies’ findings are being presented to County Boards of Supervisors across the state at their April 21 and April 28 meetings.

Media members are invited to a briefing call on the studies on **Monday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.**

What: Media briefing call on two studies:

- “Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis: An Examination of California’s Current Safety-Net Programs and Related Risks and Benefits for Communities” and
- “Spending on County Human Services Programs In California: An Evaluation Of Economic Impacts”

When: Monday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.

Call-In Number: 1-800-311-9409, Passcode: counties

Call participants include:

- Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County Supervisor and CSAC Board of Director
- Joe Valentine, Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Director
- Frank Mecca, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California
- Kelly Brooks, Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties
- Jon Haveman, Founding Partner, Beacon Economics