



May 18, 2015

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The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair
California Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol Building, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CalWORKs Housing Support Program

Dear Assembly Member Thurmond:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) respectfully requests consideration of a budget item to increase funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program by \$30 million General Fund.

The Housing Support Program, enacted in the 2014-15 Budget, assists homeless CalWORKs families by moving them directly out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Currently, the Housing Support Program is funded at \$20 million and is expected to serve 6,000 children in 3,000 families in 2014-15. A \$30 million augmentation will enable the program to serve an additional estimated 10,350 children in 4,500 families.

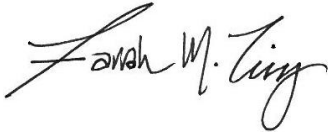
As shown by research, safe and stable housing is essential to the well-being, health and long-term success of children and families. Homelessness has stifling effects on children including impairments in cognitive development, physical health and emotional self-regulation and interferes with learning and social relationships. Of homeless parents, 84 percent are single mothers. Homelessness results in difficulty seeking jobs, physical health problems and depression.

California accounts for 20 percent of the nation's homeless population and accounts for the highest percentage of people experiencing homelessness in "unsheltered" locations – nearly 63 percent, as well as the highest number of chronically homeless families in the country.

Based upon the principles of rapid re-housing, the Housing Support Program is already demonstrating success. As of January 2015, only three months into implementation, 419 families have been served. Forty-two counties sought a portion of the \$20 million provided by the Housing Support Program in its first year, requesting more than \$52 million in funding. In order to most effectively utilize the limited funding, twenty counties were provided an allocation. Counties not selected and additional counties have expressed their desire to participate in the program. The resources to expand the Housing Support Program will play a vital role in pulling vulnerable Californians out of homelessness.

Counties thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have additional questions about this request, I can be reached at fmcdaid@counties.org or (916) 650-8110. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Farrah M. Ting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Mary Bellamy, Republican Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Mike Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency
Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Social Services
Matt Paulin, Program Budget Manager for HHS, Department of Finance
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Patricia Houston, Legislative Affairs, Department of Social Services
Frank Mecca, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association