

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY *fw*
Urgent _____ Routine X
CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES pt NO _____
(Information Attached)

BOARD AGENDA # B-25
AGENDA DATE July 10, 2001
4/5 Vote Required YES _____ NO X

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE USE OF CALWORKS WELFARE-TO-WORK (WTW) INCENTIVE FUNDS FOR START-UP AND ENHANCEMENT OF APRON STRINGS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM IN STANISLAUS COUNTY.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: APPROVE THE USE OF CalWORKs WTW INCENTIVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$809,500 FOR START-UP AND ENHANCEMENT OF APRON STRINGS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM AS A FULL-SERVICE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND THEIR KIN CAREGIVERS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total amount required from the CalWORKs WTW Incentive Funds is \$809,500 to be spent over three fiscal years. Appropriations and corresponding revenues for year 1, equate to \$269,833, and are included in the CSA Fund 1631 Proposed Budget for FY 2001/2002. This budget request is consistent with or was prepared in accordance with the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Incentives Program Budget approved in concept by the Board on January 23, 2001. Appropriations and corresponding revenues for the succeeding years will be included in the appropriate fiscal year CSA budget request to the Board.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2001-531

On motion of Supervisor Simon, Seconded by Supervisor Blom
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) X Approved as recommended
- 2) _____ Denied
- 3) _____ Approved as amended

Motion:

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk By: Christine Ferraro Deputy

File No.

APPROVAL OF THE USE OF CALWORKS WELFARE-TO-WORK (WTW) INCENTIVE FUNDS FOR START-UP AND ENHANCEMENT OF APRON STRINGS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM IN STANISLAUS COUNTY.

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DISCUSSION: In January 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved "in concept" the Welfare Incentive Expenditure Plan presented by the Community Services Agency (CSA). CSA was directed to return to the Board with specific information regarding each program recommendation. Following is one of several recommendations that will be returning to the Board for consideration.

TITLE: APRON STRINGS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

Apron Strings is the local kinship support services program and center being developed through the collaborative efforts of Community Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and private non-profit contractor, Families First. This program was initiated over a year ago when these three lead agencies coordinated service delivery to kin caregivers and applied for state grant funding for the development of a neighborhood-based kinship center. A community-based facility has been identified and is being leased for Apron Strings staff and services. Staff and services from the three partner agencies are currently being integrated at the 421 East Morris Avenue site. Incentive funds will allow expansion of direct services being offered through Apron Strings.

TARGET POPULATIONS:

Stanislaus County kin caregivers and the at-risk youth in their care.

NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

Kin care, the formal or informal placement of children in the homes of their grandparents or other relatives, is the fastest growing segment of foster care across our nation. As parents face issues of incarceration, substance abuse, health and mental health concerns, and other issues rendering them unavailable or inappropriate as caretakers for their children, more and more elderly grandparents and other family members are responding by taking over responsibilities for the care of their relatives' children. Many of these kinship caregivers experience poverty, poor health, social isolation and have inadequate access to information and services which can benefit the children in their care. These care-giving responsibilities develop unexpectedly in most situations and many families have inadequate food, housing and direct resources to meet children's needs. Once immediate needs have been addressed, there are on-going needs for counseling, legal services, parenting education, peer support, respite, and health and educational advocacy services in order to stabilize these situations and provide on-going stability and permanency for children. Without external support, it is highly probable that these fragile families will disintegrate and that the children will be placed in

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DISCUSSION
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foster care or group homes, or remain in unstable and impermanent living situations for years. The Apron Strings program will address these needs in the following ways:

1. Information and Referral
2. Emergency assistance (vouchers for food, housing, and other emergency needs)
3. Mental Health Services/Counseling
4. Case Management
5. Parenting education
6. Support groups
7. Peer support and advocacy
8. Tutoring/mentoring
9. School advocacy
10. Recreational opportunities
11. Respite opportunities
12. Legal services to formalize care-giving arrangement and ensure kin caregivers have access to financial and medical support for the child
13. Permanency planning and adoption counseling
14. Health assessment, linkage and consultation

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

SERVED:

The center will serve 300 caregivers and 650 children/teens annually.

OUTCOMES:

1. An increase in the utilization of supportive services by kin caregivers at home and community-based through Apron Strings;
2. An increase in the number of kin caregivers utilizing preventive health and/or mental health services for themselves and the children in their care;
3. Increase relative caregiver's capacity to obtain and maintain employment;
4. Greater placement stability for children in out-of-home care with family ties maintained, improving chances for a healthy upbringing;
5. Increase in number of children in legal, permanent care with relatives;
6. Fewer children enter the child welfare system as community-based supports and services are utilized to maintain children with kin.

COST BENEFITS:

With support, relatives can often provide homes for abused and neglected children/teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency. Providing community-based supportive and legal services to maintain children with safe and stable kin caregivers prevents entry

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DISCUSSION
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or re-entry of these children into the dependency or delinquency systems. This results in a decrease in the number/proportion of entries into foster care with a corresponding decrease in court and placement costs to the county. With the provision of needed legal and permanency services to kin caregivers, more children will exit the child welfare or probation systems through kin-gap guardianship and adoption arrangements, again reducing foster care costs. This program supports braided funding and increasing collaboration to reduce child welfare caseloads and reduce public spending.

DURATION OF PROGRAM:

Two to three years

SUSTAINABILITY:

The Apron Strings program will receive support for the next two to three years through braided funding that includes state grant monies, CalWORKs WTW Incentive funds, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT) funds, and CSA Kinship general fund monies. Through the leadership of the Apron Strings Director during the next two to three years, collaborative resources, in-kind contributions, foundation and grant funds, and other financial resources will be identified to enable the private non-profit corporation of Families First to sustain the center and its supportive services into year 2004 and beyond.

POLICY
ISSUE:

Approval of the Apron Strings Kinship Support Services Program will address the Board's priority of Safe, Healthy Communities, Community Service Delivery, Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation and Community Leadership.

STAFFING
IMPACT:

None.