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May 29, 2015

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CalWORKs Housing Support Program

Dear Senator Leno:

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.

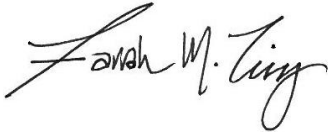
As shown by research, safe and stable housing is essential to the well-being, health and long-term success of children and families. Homelessness has stifling effects on children including impairments in cognitive development, physical health and emotional self-regulation and interferes with learning 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,



Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Members, Budget Conference Committee
The Honorable Kevin De Leon, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Speaker, California State Assembly
The Honorable Bob Huff, Minority Leader, California State Senate
The Honorable Kristin Olsen, Minority Leader, California State Assembly
Jennifer Troia, Office of President Pro Tempore De Leon
Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Chris Woods, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Samantha Lui, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Subcommittee 3
Chantele Denny, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Nicole Vasquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
Julie Souliere, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Donna Campbell, Office of the Governor
Michael Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency
Keely Bosler, Capitol Office, Department of Finance
Matt Paulin, HHS, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, HHS, Department of Finance
Mark Newton, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ryan Woolsey, Legislative Analyst's Office
Will Lightbourne, California Department of Social Services
Todd Bland, California Department of Social Services
Patricia Houston, Department of Social Services
Frank Mecca, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association