



County Executive  
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Governmental Relations and  
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County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
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March 7, 2024

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair  
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub. No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Corey Jackson, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: In Home Supportive Services: Administrative “Bridge” Funding  
\$51 million General Fund Request and Language– Support**

Dear Chair Menjivar and Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully request your support of the County Welfare Directors Association’s (CWDA) and the California State Association of Counties’ (CSAC) budget request and trailer bill language to address underfunding of social workers and related staffing costs in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program. In Sacramento County, over 37,000 individuals and families rely on IHSS to ensure loved ones are cared for in the safest and least restrictive setting possible - in their own home. Our staff respond to over 200,000 phone calls annually in support of IHSS administration and provide excellent customer service for those who are aged, blind, and disabled.

CWDA and CSAC request \$51 million General Fund in one-time “bridge” funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and associated budget trailer bill language that requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with CWDA and counties during FY 2024-25 to update the existing IHSS administration budget methodology to take effect in FY 2025-26. This funding ensures timely access to IHSS and meets the growing demand of the program that serves older adults and persons with disabilities.

The IHSS Program is a critical to achieve the goals set forth in California’s Master Plan for Aging. California’s population of older adults aged 65 and older is projected to reach 25 percent of the population, or 8.6 million Californians, by 2030. IHSS enables older adults and persons with disabilities to live with dignity and independence. As of December 2023, over 750,537 older adults and persons with disabilities receive in-home care from 599,176 trusted IHSS caregivers in California. Recently enacted expansions in Medi-Cal eligibility (including to undocumented persons aged 26-49, and those 50 and older) and the elimination of the Medi-Cal asset limit test qualifies more older and disabled people for IHSS services to remain safe in their homes and community, avoiding costly hospitalization or institutionalization. These important policy changes are welcomed and align with California’s Master Plan for Aging.

County human services agencies are not prepared for this influx of older adults and persons with disabilities into the IHSS Program due to inadequate funding of the program’s administrative operations. The IHSS Program relies on social workers to conduct assessments for individuals

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applying to the program to determine eligibility and level of need for in-home assistance. Once found eligible for services, IHSS staff assist recipients with identifying and enrolling their provider of choice to deliver personal care services. County IHSS staff ensure timely payments to those providers and carry out many other administrative duties required by state and federal laws and regulations.

The current funding gap for county IHSS staffing worsens each year as the population of IHSS recipients increases due to population growth and new laws that broaden eligibility into the program. This gap is due to the State never fully funding actual IHSS worker costs when the budget methodology was updated in 2017-18; this underfunding has been carried forward and has grown because there have not been cost adjustments provided. Additionally, the methodology does not fully pay for the workflow associated in processing applications, despite the need to complete assessments in a timely manner to determine if an older adult or person with disabilities is eligible to receive IHSS services. This results in high caseloads for existing county IHSS staff, which in turn hampers counties' ability to adequately respond to the needs of recipients and providers, and to ensure IHSS applications are processed timely and that reassessments occur at least every 12 months, as required by state and federal law.

Sacramento County's applications increased by 25 percent over the last two years. Nearly 30 percent of the applications processed do not result in a funded case. Further, counties, like ours, must adhere to state mandated program changes that require workflow adjustments, policy updates, meet-and-confers with unions, and additional staff training, including ongoing quality improvement, which require greater demand.

This funding gap must be addressed to enable the IHSS Program to properly serve the growing population of older adults and persons with disabilities to live independently and age with dignity as articulated in California's Master Plan for Aging.

For these reasons, Sacramento County urges your support. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
Missy Talbot, County Welfare Directors Association