

County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord



## County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
Phillip R. Serna, District 1  
Patrick Kennedy, District 2  
Rich Desmond, District 3  
Rosario Rodriguez, District 4  
Patrick Hume, District 5

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Restore \$81 million Cut to  
IHSS Administrative Funding and Reject CFCO County Penalties

Dear Chairs Gabriel, Wiener, Jackson, and Weber Pierson:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully request that you reject the May Revision proposal to reduce county IHSS administration funding by \$81 million, requiring counties to pay new fiscal penalties when counties do not meet the 100 percent compliance rate for annual reassessments for the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) in the IHSS program.

Historically, counties have faced challenges addressing this workload due to chronic underfunding of the program, as evidenced by the Administration's own reassessment at May Revision that determined counties are underfunded by at least \$246 million total funds to meet current mandates. Unfortunately, the May Revision does not propose new funding to address this gap and instead exacerbates persistent underfunding by passing through penalties. To address county workload, Sacramento County requests that the Legislature hold counties harmless for administrative cuts due to budget solutions, immediately **reduce counties' quality assurance** requirements, and direct the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with counties and other stakeholders on other approaches to mitigate this gap.

The proposed reduction would severely impact county administration of the IHSS program resulting in increased workload for social workers and undermining timely access to services for consumers. County social workers conduct assessments for individuals applying to the program to determine eligibility and level of need for in-home assistance, as well as annual reassessments for current recipients and other administrative activities. The proposed funding reduction could jeopardize the jobs of

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approximately 322 social workers statewide, making it even more difficult for counties to meet federal compliance requirements. To meet annual assessment requirements and avoid penalties counties would need to shift resources from intake assessments and the processing of IHSS applications to reassessments, subsequently delaying IHSS services for those applying for the program and in need of assistance. Cutting administrative funding only serves to decrease funding for social worker staffing, further **jeopardizing counties' ability to meet all** federal and state-mandated administrative requirements, and at worst, jeopardizes access to IHSS services for recipients.

The May Revision proposes the imposition of fiscal penalties on counties that fail to meet federal compliance requirements for CFCO reassessments via a reduction of \$81 million in county administrative funding. The federal government requires 100 percent of CFCO annual reassessments to occur on time. When states do not meet that 100 percent compliance rate, they lose the enhanced federal funding match associated with those cases, an additional 6 percent compared to other federally eligible cases. Proposing reductions to county administrative funding to recoup the loss of enhanced federal funding for services to CFCO recipients is contrary to providing care and improving the health of IHSS recipients.

As noted, county failures to meet the annual reassessment requirements are a direct result of the underfunding of administrative costs. The Administration acknowledges in its recently released IHSS budget methodology analysis that current county administrative funding is severely inadequate and that counties are underfunded by at least \$246 million total funds (\$124.8 million state general funds). In fact, counties have consistently been forced to overspend their state allocation to administer the program and are currently projected to overspend again in FY 2024-25. This underfunding results in a high workload for social workers, which undercuts timely access to IHSS services that older adults and persons with disabilities are entitled to under the IHSS program. Imposing penalties on counties, without providing adequate administrative funding, will result in difficult tradeoffs in the program. Counties would need to shift resources away from other tasks, resulting in delays in other areas of the program.

In August 2024, the Sacramento County's IHSS program was placed on a Quality Improvement Action Plan (QIAP) for overdue CFCO reassessment performance during FY 2023-24. At the start of the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the Sacramento County IHSS program had a CFCO reassessment compliance rate of 85.97%, which improved to 97.49% by the start of FY 2024-25—an 11.5% improvement. Prior to entering the QIAP, the Sacramento County had exceeded the CDSS 90% compliance requirement for the last three months of FY 2023-24 (April: 92.67%, May: 94.95%, June: 96.61%).

Sacramento County began FY 2024-25 at 97.49% and has maintained state compliance throughout the year. The initial QIAP was submitted in September 2024, with updates provided in January and April 2025. As of March 2025, the IHSS program has achieved an overall FY compliance rate of 97.03%.

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Despite this significant progress, the May Revision proposes reducing county IHSS administrative funding and imposing fiscal penalties for not achieving 100% annual compliance in CFCO reassessments. These changes fail to acknowledge persistent scheduling challenges faced by both clients and staff, which affect timely reassessments. Furthermore, they overlook ongoing resource limitations, the sustained efforts of IHSS staff to meet critical community needs, and the administrative burden of maintaining the QIAP—such as developing detailed action plans, dedicating staff to collect and analyze data, addressing staffing and retention issues, and implementing initiatives to ensure ongoing compliance. These demands continue to strain departmental capacity.

Reducing IHSS administrative funding to recoup federal fiscal penalties, as the May Revision proposes, while simultaneously failing to provide funding to address social worker workload, is counter-intuitive and puts IHSS recipients at greater risk of institutionalization, homelessness, and other negative outcomes.

For these reasons, Sacramento County urges you to reject the May Revision proposal to impose fiscal penalties on counties that do not meet 100% compliance with federal reassessment requirements due to overwhelming workload. Further, we urge support for trailer bill language requiring CDSS to work with counties and stakeholders on approaches to reduce county workload given the significant IHSS funding gap. 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  
Staff of Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
Staff of Assembly Committee on Budget  
Sacramento County Delegation  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
County Welfare **Directors'** Association