



Agenda Item

49

DATE: February 24, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Delfino E. Neira, Director
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Mid-Year Adjustments to General Relief Assistance Org 6645

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Health and Welfare Trust Org 5243 in the amount of \$176,958 (4/5th vote).
2. Adopt Budget Resolution decreasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations for the Aid to Adoptions Org 6415 in the amount of \$176,958.
3. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Aid to Adoptions Org 6415 in the amount of \$176,958 (4/5th vote).
4. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations for the General Relief Org 6645 in the amount of \$165,655 (4/5th vote).
5. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations for the Contingencies Org 8210 in the amount of \$11,303 (4/5th vote).

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Social Services to utilize an unbudgeted increase in Social Services Realignment funds to offset a portion of the net County cost budgeted in Aid to Adoptions, Org 6415 in order to make it available to fund higher than anticipated caseload growth in General Relief Program, Org 6645. The first recommended action will recognize the unbudgeted increase in Social Services Realignment funds in the Health & Welfare Trust, Org 5243 (\$176,958). The second and third recommended actions comprise the mechanism to reduce the budgeted NCC for Aid to Adoptions, Org 6415 by the same amount (\$176,958), due to the increased Realignment revenues that can be used in Aid to Adoptions. The fourth and fifth recommended actions make a portion of the NCC (\$176,958) budgeted in Org 6415 available for use in General Relief Org 6645 (\$165,655). The remainder will be made available to Contingencies Org 8210 (\$11,303).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW

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APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

UNANIMOUS ☒ BORGEAS _____ MENDES _____ PACHECO _____ PEREA _____ POOCHIGIAN _____

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(s):

There are no viable alternative actions. If the recommended actions are not approved, the Department will not have sufficient appropriations to issue General Relief Assistance payments through June 30, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no net increase in net County cost associated with the recommended actions. Based on the current year caseload trends, the Department's current projected average number of General Relief (GR) cases is 3,233 cases per month, which is 76 cases higher per month than the budgeted average caseload of 3,157 cases per month. At the average grant amount of \$223, the increase in assistance payment costs is projected to be \$203,376 for the current fiscal year. However, this increase is partially offset with the lower than projected costs of the physical incapacity evaluations (\$37,721), resulting in a net projected increase of \$165,655 for the current fiscal year. As the GR Program is a County-funded program, the net increase must be funded through NCC. The unbudgeted increase in Social Services Realignment of \$176,958 allows \$165,655 of NCC budgeted in Aid to Adoptions, Org 6415, to be made available to fully offset the increase in caseload growth in the GR Program, while the remaining amount of NCC in Aid to Adoptions, Org 6415 (\$11,303) will be made available in Contingencies, Org 8210.

If approved, the first recommended action will increase the FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Health and Welfare Trust Org 5243 in the amount of \$176,958, to recognize the unbudgeted increase in Social Services Realignment funds. The second and third recommended actions will allow DSS to release \$176,958 in budgeted net County cost from the Aid to Adoptions Org 6415, due to this Realignment funding increase. The fourth recommended action will increase FY 2014-15 appropriations for the General Relief Org 6645 in the amount of \$165,655. This will allow the Department to utilize the released NCC from Aid to Adoptions in the General Relief program for caseload growth. The fifth recommended action will increase FY 2014-15 appropriations for the Contingencies Org 8210 in the amount of \$11,303.

DISCUSSION:

The General Relief Program was established on June 29, 1971, by Resolution from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. General Relief is a County funded program that provides cash assistance to incapacitated and/or unemployed single adults and couples with no minor children, who do not qualify for any other cash assistance program. Incapacitated adults are those who have a physical or mental condition, which renders the applicant unable to obtain or continue sufficient employment to maintain himself or herself above the General Relief payment standard. Unemployed individuals are those without a job, or an individual working part-time whose income is less than sufficient to meet his/her needs according to the General Relief Standard of Assistance. All individuals seeking General Relief assistance as unemployed must be available for and seeking employment. The General Relief Program is mandated by Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I) Sections 17000-17409 and counties adopt rules and regulations covering eligibility and assistance standards in accordance with the applicable W&I Codes.

The FY 2014-15 Adopted GR Program Budget included an 8% caseload growth from the prior year actuals. Based on the current projections, the actual caseload growth is projected to be 10% from the prior year actuals. This growth is primarily due to the incapacity-based GR cases. Clients receiving incapacity-based GR must apply for Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) if the incapacity is expected to last at least 12 months. If approved, the County will receive retroactive

reimbursement for the GR assistance paid while the SSI case was pending. All incapacity-based clients are reassessed for eligibility every 12 months, or less if the incapacity is expected to end prior to the 12-month annual assessment.