



County Administrative Office Governmental & Legislative Affairs

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, M.D.
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Child Support Funding

Dear Assemblyman Arambula:

The County of San Bernardino writes in support of the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) stakeholder proposal to increase funding for Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs). This increased funding will support the child support program that provides essential services to families.

Between 2002 and 2018, State funding for the child support program was held flat, forcing LCSAs to absorb operating cost increases within existing budgets. The 2019-20 budget included an increase in funding for LCSAs that was the first step in a three year implementation of a new funding methodology. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty for state revenues caused by the pandemic, funding for LCSAs was decreased in 2020-21. The Governor's 2021-22 January Budget proposes to increase funding for LCSAs by \$24.9 million, however that does not meet the resource needs of LCSAs as they work to address California's child poverty crisis.

CSDA is requesting a total increase of \$56.5 million (\$19.2 million State General Fund; \$37.3 million federal funds) for 2021-22 above 2020-21 funding levels, representing a \$31.6 million augmentation to the Governor's proposal. This funding would be utilized for operational needs and ensure counties can provide appropriate and effective services. Child support payments assist families by providing funds for food, shelter, clothing, and other basic living expenses for children and are a critical part of efforts to fight poverty and promote family self-sufficiency.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports CSDAs proposal for increased funding to LCSAs. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Maral Hernandez and (909) 387-4777 or Maral.Hernandez@cao.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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