Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program

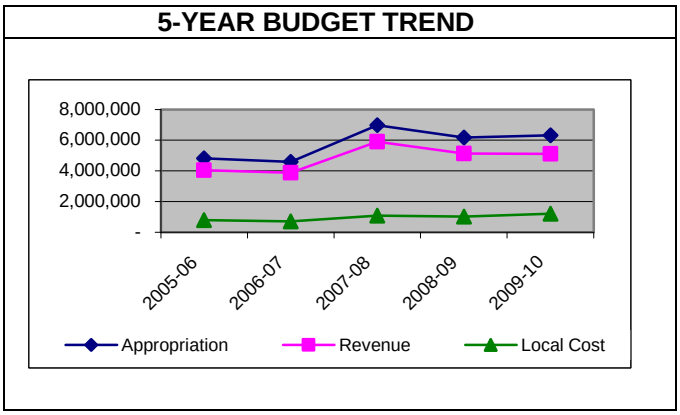
DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

This federal program was implemented Jan. 1, 2000. It provides a subsidy to children who leave the juvenile court dependency system to live with a relative legal guardian. It offers relative caregivers of dependent children a new option for providing a permanent home to these children. To be eligible for the program, the child must have lived with the relative at least 12 consecutive months, the relative guardianship must be established pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 366.26, and the juvenile court dependency for the child must be dismissed. Movement to the Kin-GAP program is not automatic. The court, with a recommendation from the social worker, has discretion regarding whether termination of dependency is in the child's best interest.

Due to recent funding changes made by the State, this program is approximately 80% state funded. The remaining 20% mandated local share is funded by the county general fund.

There is no staffing associated with this budget unit. Services for this program are provided by staff budgeted in the Human Services (HS) Administration budget unit.

BUDGET HISTORY



PERFORMANCE HISTORY

	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Modified Budget	2008-09 Estimate
Appropriation	3,988,895	4,449,022	5,129,830	6,211,472	5,472,242
Departmental Revenue	3,459,945	3,737,015	4,241,049	5,135,205	4,402,012
Local Cost	528,950	712,007	888,781	1,076,267	1,070,230

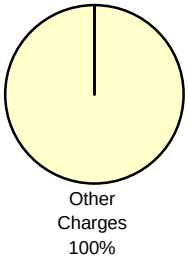
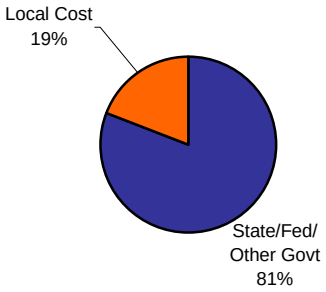
Estimated appropriation for 2008-09 is anticipated to be $0.7 million less than modified budget due to lower than expected caseload and grant costs. Although the number of 2008-09 cases is estimated to be 3% higher than actual caseload experienced in the prior year, the 2008-09 caseload is estimated to be 10% lower than modified budget. Fewer children have entered this program than was projected when the budget was prepared. Grant costs are estimated to remain at the level budgeted.

In March 2007, the state implemented an enhancement to this program, KinGap Plus. This enhancement includes a Specialized Care Increment (SCI) and clothing allowance. Implementation of the program has progressed more slowly than projected further contributing to the lower than budgeted expenditures.

In prior years, this program was 65% federal and 17.5% state funded, requiring a 17.5% local cost. Recent changes made by the State to the method of funding this program have eliminated federal funding and changed the funding ratio to 80% state and 20% county.

In April 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved adjustments to HS 2008-09 Final Budget. To address the funding changes detailed above, this item included an adjustment to this budget unit that increased local cost by $50,000. It is now estimated that local cost will be approximately $6,000 less than modified budget. These savings will be used to offset local cost overages in other HS Subsistence budget units to allow HS to remain within local cost allocations, overall.

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED BUDGET

2009-10 EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY	2009-10 FINANCING SOURCES
	

GROUP: Human Services
DEPARTMENT: Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program
FUND: General

BUDGET UNIT: AAB KIN
FUNCTION: Public Assistance
ACTIVITY: Aid Programs

	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Estimate	2008-09 Final Budget	2009-10 Proposed Budget	Change From 2008-09 Final Budget
Appropriation							
Other Charges	3,988,895	4,449,022	5,129,830	5,472,242	6,161,472	6,304,032	**142,560**
Total Appropriation	3,988,895	4,449,022	5,129,830	5,472,242	6,161,472	6,304,032	**142,560**
Departmental Revenue							
State, Fed or Gov't Aid	3,403,407	3,687,046	4,155,375	4,339,432	5,075,205	5,043,225	**(31,980)**
Current Services	56,538	49,969	85,674	62,580	60,000	60,807	**807**
Total Revenue	3,459,945	3,737,015	4,241,049	4,402,012	5,135,205	5,104,032	**(31,173)**
Local Cost	528,950	712,007	888,781	1,070,230	1,026,267	1,200,000	**173,733**

Other charges of $6.3 million represent subsidies paid to relative caregivers of children who leave the juvenile court dependency system to live with a relative legal guardian. Despite Children and Family Services' continuing efforts to expand the KinGap Plus program, the movement of children into this enhanced program has expanded more slowly than anticipated yet caseload is steadily increasing each year. Appropriation is expected to increase only 2% from 2008-09 budgeted levels.

Departmental revenue of $5.1 million represents reimbursements received from State and Child Support collections.

Due to the increase in appropriation and decrease in federal/state reimbursement, local cost is expected to increase $173,733 from 2008-09. Estimated local cost savings in other HS Subsistence budget units was used to adjust local cost allocations for 2009-10 and allows HS to remain within local cost allocations, overall.