

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

448



**FROM:** Department of Public Social Services

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
4/28/2009

**SUBJECT:** Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the attached joint report from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) regarding the impact of human services in a time of economic crisis.

**BACKGROUND:** CSAC and CWDA have prepared a joint report that addresses the impact of human services on the economy, the current demand for these services, the impact of state funding cuts on these programs and a framework to address State policy makers on these issues. In conjunction with this report is an economic study completed by Beacon Economics and Berkeley Policy Associates, which identifies the direct, secondary and tertiary impacts of human services to the local economy.

Departmental Concurrence

*Susan Loew*  
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Susan Loew, Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> N/A	<b>Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Requires 4/5 Vote</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *Debra Cournoyer*  
Debra Cournoyer

**County Executive Office Signature**

Dept' Recomm.:  Consent  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  
 Policy   
 Policy

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:** | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

2.8

**Background:** (Continued)

Some local highlights related to these reports include:

- Statewide unemployment as of March is 11.2%, while Riverside County's unemployment rate continues to exceed the State with a 13.2% unemployment rate.
- From September 2007 through January 2009, caseloads for Food Stamps and CalWORKs have grown by 52.3% and 27.6% respectively in Riverside County.
- On average, every \$1 spent in human services programs generates \$1.47 in economic activity. This is paying for rent, groceries, etc.
- In January, Riverside County issued \$31.8 million in combined Food Stamps and CalWORKs benefits, which translates to \$46.7 million in economic activity.
- Over 40% of applicants in Riverside County are first time applicants of social services.
- The State funding gap for human services amounts to a \$113 million annually in Riverside County.
- Further opportunity exists for economic stimulus if the State fully accesses or otherwise enables counties to access federal stimulus funding for human services programs.

These reports demonstrate that human service programs serve as a stimulus to the economy and that cuts to these programs have significantly impacted counties' ability to deliver services timely and comprehensively. These reports serve as an opportunity to further educate the Legislature as they consider how to balance the State budget and stabilize the economy.