

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA #: *B-3

AGENDA DATE: December 13, 2016

SUBJECT:

Approval of a Four Month Extension for Community Services Agency Temporary Staff Assignment to Support the State Consortium Automated Welfare System Project

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2016-615

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended


2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

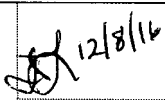
File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency
Urgent Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: *B-3

AGENDA DATE: December 13, 2016



CEO CONCURRENCE: 

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval of a Four Month Extension for Community Services Agency Temporary Staff Assignment to Support the State Consortium Automated Welfare System Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve a four month extension of the Community Services Agency Temporary Staff Assignment to support the State Consortium Automated Welfare System Project scheduled to end February 28, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

In California, the counties have mandated responsibilities for administering many Federal, State and local assistance programs. These programs include California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Child Care, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance Program, Refugee Assistance, Cal-Learn and CalFresh Employment and Training.

Chapter 303 of the Budget Act of 1995 mandated the development of a Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS), and authorized the development of a Multiple County Consortium Strategy as the foundation of the SAWS effort. This mandate authorized the automation of the Eligibility and Case Management functions of the various welfare programs. There were three consortiums in existence when this Budget Act was passed: LEADER, CalWIN, and Integrated Statewide Automated System (ISAWS). The Counties of Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino and Stanislaus had to affiliate themselves with one of the three consortiums but due to technical, policy and business considerations, agreed to partner as the fourth consortium; known as SAWS Consortium IV (C-IV).

On April 10, 2001, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Community Services Agency (CSA) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the C-IV Joint Powers Authority and Merced, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties for the oversight of project development, implementation, maintenance and operation for the C-IV system. In April 2004, the C-IV system was implemented at CSA.

On February 13, 2007 the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Amendment 1 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement that added thirty-five (35) Integrated Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (ISAWS) counties to the current C-IV Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The benefit of the increase in C-IV counties membership base was an opportunity to expand and improve the C-IV system as it existed. At that time, the BOS formalized our commitment to

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continuing staffing support of three Family Services Specialist Supervisor positions dedicated to the project.

Managing a project of this magnitude and complexity requires a significant commitment of human resources. CSA continues to commit staff as required by the MOU and approved by the Board of Supervisors in February 2001 with responsibilities ranging from development and implementation to project maintenance and operations. Staff dedicated to CIV are permanently located in other locations such as Sacramento. The staff assigned to these long-term assignments have actively participated in implementation, maintenance, and the operations of this system. Both the County and the CIV Project benefit from providing the most talented staff to ensure the on-going success of this project.

In 2011 a proposal was submitted to the State to replace Los Angeles County's automated system, LEADER, in view of the upcoming changes driven by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). LEADER's functionality was past it's useful life. In addition, an upgrade was the directive given under Assembly Bill 47, the statute that authorized the development of a statewide eligibility process by the Food and Nutrition Service of United States Department of Agriculture. As a result, Los Angeles (LA) County developed a new welfare automation system. Rather than having a 'from scratch' development, Los Angeles County chose to use a baseline application starting with the current C-IV system used by Stanislaus and 38 other counties to issue welfare benefits. C-IV was modified to meet their needs and the system is temporarily called the Leader Replacement System (LRS). Los Angeles County is currently migrating all their offices to LRS. Beginning in 2017, C-IV Counties will begin migration activities to move to the new combined LRS and C-IV automated platform. The new system which will serve all 40 counties is called CalAces (California Automated Consortium Eligibility System). Prior to this new governance structure beginning July 1, 2017, a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will be formed and an amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

History shows County staff from the C-IV counties are an important part of the development and operations of the C-IV System projects.

In preparation for the merger of C-IV with LRS, on October 5, 2012 C-IV opened a recruitment for long-term developmental assignments for JPA county employees to apply and if selected participate on the LRS project. Selected county staff was tasked to work full-time for up to 50 months at the Los Angeles Eligibility, Automated Determination, Evaluation and Reporting (LEADER) Replacement Solution (LRS) Project site located in Norwalk, CA. Selected staff represented C-IV in activities related to the development of LRS and possible impacts to the C-IV System in preparation for the merger of C-IV and LRS. Selected staff gained experience and knowledge and provided input, into the operation of the current C-IV System and what the C-IV System will be in the future.

C-IV recruited for seven (7) positions and each County's Director approval was required in order to apply for the developmental assignments. Consistent with current practice, assignments were considered temporary and selected County employees remained regular County employees with regard to rights and benefits.

All salaries, benefits and travel costs including lodging and per diem have been covered by the C-IV project in accordance with the Office of System Integration's Long-term Travel Policy.

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The Department has confirmed this policy is consistent with the Stanislaus County Travel Policy specific to long term travel. All selected county employee costs have been reimbursed 100% by the C-IV allocation.

One CSA employee was selected for the LRS Project assignment. On May 7, 2013, in Board Item #2013-226 the Department received approval for the selected employee to work in the temporary long-term assignment with a start date of January 12, 2013 and end date of February 28, 2017. CSA promised to return to the BOS for approval if an extension was needed.

CSA is now requesting an extension of this assignment due to the needs of both the LRS and C-IV Projects. LRS migration and support has been extended by both projects. Los Angeles County has extended its migration activities to integrate the Foster Care Program into LRS. Migration activities for this program are still occurring and migration support is needed by LA County from experienced county staff. In addition, the system enhancements are still under development with cross consortia collaboration. Input from experienced end users is critical to make the system operate with both accuracy and efficiency for all users. The migration and support activities have been extended by both projects until June 30, 2017. As of July 1, 2017, the migration of both systems into one system CalAces will begin and the migration from Leader to LRS will officially end. At this time, all future support positions will be open and a selection process will occur. County staff who are currently serving in the support positions will have an opportunity to apply for support positions for CalAces. Those that are not selected will return to their home County into their former positions.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this agenda item supports continuity in the Community Services Agency's commitment to providing staff participation in developmental projects that enhance statewide automation that streamlines communication between Counties for timely issuance of temporary economic assistance to members of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of the extension for the temporary staff assigned to the Consortium IV (C-IV) Los Angeles Eligibility, Automated Determination, Evaluation and Reporting (LEADER) Replacement Solution (LRS) project is approximately \$33,000 for salary/benefits and travel costs of \$24,000 for a total cost of \$57,000 for the period of March 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. The Community Services Agency 2016-2017 Final Budget includes sufficient appropriations and estimated revenue to support the staff cost.

One hundred percent of the salaries and travel costs are supported with Federal and State funds through the C-IV Project County Allocation. The fiscal year 2016-2017 allocation supports the assignment through June 30, 2017. There is no additional cost to the General Fund associated with this agenda item.

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Cost of recommended action:	\$ 57,000
Source(s) of Funding:	
Federal and State Funding	57,000
Funding Total:	\$ 57,000
Net Cost to County General Fund	\$ -

Fiscal Year:	2016/2017
Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:	No

Fund Balance as of N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of the four month extension of the Community Services Agency Temporary Staff Assignment to the State Consortium Automated Welfare System Project supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community, A Strong Local Economy and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by continuing to commit Stanislaus County staff participation of developmental projects that enhance Statewide automation that streamlines communication between Counties for timely issuance of temporary economic assistance to members of the community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The existing staff member assigned to the LRS Developmental Project has agreed to continue to work on the Project through June 30, 2017. There are no other staffing impacts associated with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director (209) 558-2500

ATTACHMENT(S):

NONE