

**County of Sonoma  
Agenda Item Summary Report**

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
Meeting Date  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Human Services

**4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Marla Stuart

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-5849

**Board Date:**  
4/28/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
4/28/09

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis: The relationship between the economy and human services in California and Sonoma County and a report of a recent meeting with community partners

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Information only.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADDL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

|  |    |        |                        |    |        |
|--|----|--------|------------------------|----|--------|
| Estimated Cost                             | \$ | 000.00 | Contingencies          | \$ | 000.00 |
|  |    |        | (Fund Name: )          |    |        |
| Amount Budgeted                            | \$ | 000.00 | Unanticipated Revenue  | \$ | 000.00 |
|  |    |        | (Source: )             |    |        |
| Other Available Approp.<br>(Explain Below) | \$ | 000.00 | Other Transfer(s)      |    | 000.00 |
|  |    |        | (Source: )             | \$ |        |
| Additional Requested:                      | \$ | 0.00   | Total Source of Funds: | \$ | 0.00   |

**Explanation** (if required):

**Prior Board Action(s):**

- In June, 2007, the Human Services Department presented the "Human Services Long Term Budget Report" to the Board. The purpose of this report was to analyze the impact of multiple years of inadequate funding and increasing expenses on the Human Services Department' ability to fulfill its mission.
- In April, Supervisor Carrillo requested a board briefing about the HSD/DHS hosted March 30 meeting with community based partners regarding the impacts of the economy on Community Based Organizations and their clients hosted.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:**

An alternative to a Board presentation is a written summary distributed to the Board.

**Background:**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) have launched a Grassroots Advocacy Campaign. This campaign is intended to educate county Boards of Supervisors, the public, and state elected officials about the impact that the economic recession has had on the demand for county human services – especially in light of years of under-funding of human services by the state. It is also intended to help state and local officials appreciate the sizable economic contribution that human service benefit payments make to local economies. The hope is that increased awareness of both the need for and economic value of the county-administered human services will lead to stronger state support for maintaining adequate state funding for human service programs.

For this effort, CSAC and CWDA jointly released two reports (listed below). CSAC distributed these two reports to all county board members in early April.

This presentation to the Board will summarize these two reports and will incorporate the following Sonoma County data:

- Recent Sonoma County unemployment trends.
- Recent trends in Human Services program applications and caseloads.
- Level of local consumer spending generated by Human Service grants to clients.
- Details about the state funding gap for Sonoma County Human Services.
- Summary of the recent meeting with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) hosted by the Human Services Department and the Department of Health Services regarding the impact of decreasing health and human services funding on CBOs and their clients.

**Recommendation:**

Use this information in ongoing advocacy with the state to fully fund human service programs.

**On File with Clerk:****Attachments:**

- *Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis* by CWDA and CSAC (April, 2009).
- *Spending on County Human Services Program in California: An Evaluation of Economic Impacts* by Beacon Economics (March 17, 2009)

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY****Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

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**Vote:**