

**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:
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Phone:
(707) 565-4348

Board Date:
June 23, 2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Transitional Housing Program Plus

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Contingent upon state funding, authorize the Human Services Department Director or her designee, to sign an agreement with True to Life Child and Family Services for \$405,000 to provide the Transitional Housing Program Plus services for FY 2009/2010.

EXPENDITURES

ADDL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Estimated Cost	\$	405,000.00	Contingencies	\$	000.00
			(Fund Name:)		
Amount Budgeted	\$	450,000.00	Unanticipated Revenue	\$	
			(Source: State Allocation)		
Other Available Approp. (Explain Below)	\$	000.00	Other Transfer(s)		000.00
			(Source:)	\$	
Additional Requested:	\$	0	Total Source of Funds:	\$	0

Explanation (if required):

Funds are provided by the State General Fund through California Department of Social Services.

Prior Board Action(s):

March 24, 2009 – Authorized a budgetary adjustment to the agreement with TLC Child & Family Services for unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$128,106 due to an increase in allocation of \$450,000.

November 4, 2008 - Authorized an agreement with TLC Child & Family Services who was the recommended provider as determined through an RFP process.

July 2008 – Authorized agreement for 7/1/08 to 10/31/08 for \$190,000 with TLC Child & Family Services until RFP process could be completed.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

The Human Services Department would be unable to assist former foster care and probation youth with critical housing and supportive services to transition from out-of-home placement to independent living.

Background:

THP Plus is a supported housing program established by the California State Legislature in 2001 to assist youth in making a safe, supported transition from foster care. The program is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and provides 24 months of supervised, affordable housing and intensive supportive services to former foster and probation youth aged 18-24 years. The program helps young people make a successful transition to independent adulthood by providing up to 24 months of affordable housing assistance coupled with comprehensive supportive services such as life skills training, job readiness training, 24-hour crisis intervention and support, case management and coordination with the Independent Living Program.

In 2006, the State eliminated the required county match and made the program fully supported by the State General Fund. This was in response to California failing the federal performance measure for youth aging out of the Foster Care system. California was fined for this failure in 2008 and continues to fall short of the federal performance target statewide.

Since its implementation in July 2007, twenty-nine Sonoma County youth have been served in the program. There are currently 19 youth who are participating in the program and 12 youth are on the THP Plus wait list. Sonoma County's emancipated youth outcomes have increased slightly over the past year, but hope that THP Plus program will have more impact in the next year as youth successfully complete their plans and leave the program. The contractor, TLC Child and Family Services, was selected through a competitive procurement process in October 2008.

Currently there is no approved State budget. The current contract for services ends 6/30/09. State funding for FY 2009-10 for this optional service is unclear. In May 2009, the governor proposed the elimination of the entire THP Plus program. Subsequently, the State Budget Conference Committee has recommended approximately a \$5 million reduction in funding for the program, which would reduce the local services by about 10% to \$405,000 or approximately 13.5 slots.

If the program is further reduced, we can accommodate further reductions by not filling vacant slots. Several youth are near their 24 month limit and will be leaving the program in the next six months. If the program is entirely eliminated, the contract can be cancelled in 30 days. Past practice has been for the State to reimburse reasonable costs if the State chooses to discontinue the program sometime after the 2009-10 contracts begins 7/1/09. The HSD Director has received specific reassurance that this practice will apply to the THP Plus program.

RECOMMENDATION :

Contingent upon state funding, authorize the Human Services Department Director or her designee, to sign an agreement with TLC Child and Family Services for \$405,000 to provide the Transitional Housing Program Plus services for FY 2009/2010.

Attachments:

On File With Clerk: Draft Agreement

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: