

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

BY: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly  
PHONE: 966-2442

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

It is respectfully recommended that your Board: (1) approve the modified Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Incentive Plan; (2) authorize the department to submit the modified plan to the State Department of Social Services; (3) authorize the department to claim \$200,980 specifically targeted for Mariposa County; and (4) authorize the department to transfer the money from Social Services to Community Action to implement the programs outlined in the plan.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

Please See Attached Memo.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Please See Attached Memo.

Financial Impact? (X) Yes ( ) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$225,863		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Board Memo
Source:		Incentive Plan
Internal Transfer		Budget Action Form
Unanticipated Revenue	4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	X 4/5's vote	
Contingency	4/5's vote	
( ) General ( ) Other		

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**  
 Res. No.: 03-234 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved  
 ( ) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**  
 Requested Action Recommended  
 No Opinion  
 Comments:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

CAO: RA



**MARIPOSA COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

P.O. Box 7 • Mariposa, CA 95338 • (209) 966-2442 • Fax (209) 742-5854

Alcohol & Drug  Community Action  Housing Authority  Mental Health  Public Guardian/Conservator  Social Services  
CHERYLE RUTHERFORD-KELLY, MSW, DIRECTOR

June 12, 2003

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly  
RE: Modified Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Incentive Plan

### **Recommendation**

It is respectfully recommended that your Board: (1) approve the modified Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Incentive Plan; (2) authorize the department to submit the modified plan to the State Department of Social Services; (3) authorize the department to claim \$200,980 specifically targeted for Mariposa County; and (4) authorize the department to transfer the money from Social Services to Community Action to implement the programs outlined in the plan.

### **Background**

There is \$200,980 available to Mariposa County to spend for a variety of social service programs. This County, like the vast majority of the other California counties, has not expended this state money because it was very unclear as to the continuation of funding. The counties were reluctant to hire staff necessary to implement programs on a short term basis. Therefore, monies were accumulated and rolled over from year to year.

### **Current Situation**

The State has indicated that they will reclaim all unspent Incentive Program funds to meet their fiscal needs. It has been suggested that The Departments of Social Service should deplete their Incentive Plan budgets by the close of the fiscal year.

State budget strategies for Fiscal Year 2003/04 are changing rapidly. The plan, as modified, will allow us flexibility and lessen the impact to those programs that may suffer budgetary cuts.

We would like to transfer our money to Community Action so that expenditures are made on a thoughtful and needed basis. The managers from Community Action and Social Services have drafted a plan for your consideration. That plan, in State required format, is attached for your review.

### **Financial**

The current allocation for the TANF Incentive program is \$225,863. It is proposed that the Department transfer \$200,980 from budget line 001-0501-661-0426 in social services to fund budget line 335-0514-309-1600. The remaining \$24,883 of the allocation is to be claimed for the overmatch in other TANF expenses, including Probation. These funds most likely will not be available after June 30, 2003.

## Mariposa County Performance Incentives Plan

Critical community service needs have been identified by Mariposa County's Department of Human Services (DHS) program staff. These areas, as listed on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Category Legend, are shown below:

- (A) Community Based Family Services
  - Family Preservation
  - Parent Education
  - Home Visitation
- (J) Youth Programs
  - Summer Youth Employment
- (K) After School Youth Programs
- (L) Foster Children
  - Emancipated Youth
- (O) Housing (emergency/short-term)

DHS proposes to utilize Incentive Funds to provide services in each of these critical areas listed above, keeping TANF purposes and goals as the benchmark for outcomes. It is projected that this plan will take a minimum of two (2) years to complete. The following summary of proposed programs, funded wholly, or in part, with Incentive Funds, identifies the critical need area being addressed, describes the service need, delivery approach, and states the outcome goal.

**I. Life-Skills Trainer (Counselor)** – Through county staff or contract, a social worker will provide home visitation to vulnerable, at-risk families. The Social Worker will provide parent education, family preservation services and case management to homeless families in Mariposa County. Referrals will come from the Community Action Agency, Child Welfare Services and other social service agencies. (Goal 4, categories A&O).

### Need For Service

This rural County of 17,000 residents boasts eleven (11) people per square mile. The terrain is mountainous and expansive. The greatest concentrations of poverty are located in the most remote parts of the County, resulting in isolated families who often lack the support system of family and friends that others enjoy. Isolation can often place families in very vulnerable positions. It is difficult to access special needs and/or at-risk children in these families, which can be an exacerbating factor in family dysfunction.

Mariposa County's vulnerable/at-risk families would benefit from a Life-Skills Trainer who can reach them in their homes. This professional would assess bio/psycho/social health, providing direct services and resource linkages. Homeless residents also have a demonstrated need for a Life-Skills Trainer to act as mentor and coach as they attempt to stabilize their lives.

### Approach/Service Delivery

This position would report to the Community Action and Family Services Supervisor, both housed within the Department of Human Services. The Community Action Agency

would provide on site supervision, while the Supervisor II from Child Welfare will provide clinical guidance to the Social Worker who will act as a Life Skills Trainer. Although referrals would be made by social service agencies, services under the scope of this project will not be mandatory services. Families and individuals would work voluntarily, thereby increasing the likelihood of a significant response. Towards providing intensive services, it is estimated that the Social Worker/Life Skills Trainer would manage a caseload maximum of ten (10) families.

The outcome goals for this position would include: improved family functioning, identification of special needs children/parents, reduction in the amount of abuse reports and number of required foster care placements, successful transition from homelessness to stable housing, and linkages to community resources promoting self-sufficiency and family well-being.

Incentive Funds Proposed

\$92,000 (2 years)

**II. 2003 Summer Youth Employment Training Program** – This contracted program would benefit low-income/at-risk youth with paid summer employment training. (Goal 3, category J)

Need for Service

Mariposa's One-Stop employment service has operated youth employment training programs in the past. However, the funding for this youth program was eliminated in 2000. Employment opportunities are scarce and competitive in Mariposa. Employment training is critical for low-income/at-risk teens who may not have a mentor steering them towards self-sufficiency. This program not only provides teen with valuable experience, it has an inverse effect on their self-esteem as they begin to view themselves as competent, contributing members of their community.

Approach/Service Delivery

This contracted service would identify low-income, at-risk youth by referral. The youth are then invited to apply for the program. Priority will be given to the candidates demonstrating the greatest adversities. The program coordinator is responsible for working with government, nonprofit, and other local businesses to establish summer training positions. Wages are paid with Incentive Funds, thro with no cost to employers. The youth are responsible for fulfilling the obligations of their position. The program coordinator will provide mediation to employers and trainees.

The outcome goal would be a reduction in the number of at-risk youth continuing the cycle of poverty, now striving towards self-sufficiency.

Incentive Funds Proposed

\$60,000 (2 years)

**III. New Beginnings** – This program serves emancipated youth by assisting them in their efforts toward independent living as they emancipate from the child welfare system. (Goal 3, category L)

Need for Service

Emancipated youth are an extremely vulnerable population, statistically demonstrating 75% dependency recidivism through incarceration, welfare reliance, and/or homelessness. Young adults emancipating from the child welfare system in Mariposa are especially vulnerable to the effects of poverty due to a scarce, competitive low-wage job market and a lack of higher educational opportunities.

Approach/Service Delivery

These monies would be used to support youth emancipating from the child welfare system in Mariposa County to establish permanent housing through transitional living placement, Job Corps enrollment, or local assistance such as Section 8. The monies would help the youth to purchase items such as clothing for work, furnishings or cookware for their new homes, or transportation assistance.

The outcome goal would be a reduction in the number of youth pregnancies and an increase in the numbers of young people securing employment and/or attending college part or full time.

Incentive Funds Proposed

\$20,000 (2 years)

**IV. Homeless Assistance Project** – This funding would help targeted homeless residents to establish permanent housing under the existing homeless assistance program in Community Action. (Goal 1, category O)

Need for Service

Human Services intakes about 35 families per year that have used their lifetime CalWORKs Homeless Assistance, but are still struggling with homelessness. For these families, the Homeless Assistance Program is available. However, limited funding significantly impacts the success rate possible for these families. The current funding available can only assist about one half of the requests. Sometimes funding is completely exhausted, and all families are turned away.

Incentive Funds would be reserved for vulnerable families, particularly young parents, single parents, and families with at-risk children.

Approach/Service Delivery

Homeless Assistance is dispersed through the Community Action Unit of DHS. Applicants are screened for eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, Community Action assists with locating temporary housing. Incentive funds are to be utilized as a supplement for no more than four (4) months per family. The Life Skills Trainer would compliment this program immensely by providing ongoing support to these families.

The outcome goal would be an improvement in family self-sufficiency as vulnerable families learn to maintain stable, affordable housing.

Incentive Funds Proposed  
\$14,980 (2 years)

**V. Administration/After School Resource Project**

The possibility of a Boy's and Girl's Club or other after school resource programs.  
(Goal 3, category K)

Incentive Funds Proposed  
\$14,000 (2 years)

***Total Funds Proposed: \$200,980***

# BUDGET ACTION FORM

FUND	DEP/DIV	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT	INCREASE	DECREASE
335	0514	308.29-05	TANF Incentive		(200,980)	
335	0514	941.04-44	Subcontractors		200,980	
001	0501	305.63-00	Admin - Federal - Public Assistance		(200,980)	
001	0501	661.04-26	Incentive Grants		200,980	
TOTALS					0	0

TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS				DEBIT	CREDIT
001	0501	661.04-26		200,980	
335	0514	308.29-05			200,980
TOTALS				200,980	200,980

ACTION REQUESTED: (Check all that apply)

Budget appropriation by Board of Supervisors (4/5ths Vote Required): Amending the total amount available in the county budget, or in any one fund of the budget , or transferring appropriation from Contingencies

Transfer by Board of Supervisors (3/5ths Vote Required): Moving existing appropriations from one budget to another, or between categories within a budget unit;

TANF Incentive Fund Transfer for program coordination

DEPT HEAD SIGNATURE Prepared by Chris Ebie DATE 6-13-03

APPROVED BY RES NO. 03-234 CLERK [Signature] DATE 6-24-03

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ AUDITOR'S USE ONLY  
BA # \_\_\_\_\_