

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY OF SOLANO

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
675 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 6500
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533-6342
(707) 784-6100



To: Board of Supervisors
From: Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator
Date: April 19, 2011
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

1. **County Administrator's Update on Contracts**

The County Administrator did not sign any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

2. **SSI Advocacy Program to Officially End on April 29**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy program, which had two dedicated appeals specialists assigned to it, will officially end on April 29, 2011. This discretionary non-mandated program was cut as part of the Board's action on February 8, 2011 to reduce the County General Fund contribution to Health & Social Services by \$3 million annually. The screening of clients for SSI and the initial paperwork remains part of the intake process for cash and medical assistance. In order to wrap up cases in the appeal process, the SSI Advocates stopped accepting new referrals in February. Staff have contacted active clients to inform them of the change and made referrals to local firms who offer similar advocacy services. The last few appeal hearings are expected to be completed by the end of this month. The two staff affected by the program's end are transitioning to new roles in the Special Investigations Bureau within Health and Social Services.

- Contact: Christiana Smith, H&SS Deputy Director for Employment & Eligibility Services, 553-5173

3. **DCSS, Fighting Back Partnership Apply for Enhanced Transitional Job Program Grant**

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting grant applications to support applicants in providing enhanced transitional jobs programs, as well as other activities and services, to increase the workforce participation of low-income, hard-to-employ populations, specifically non-custodial parents and/or ex-offenders reentering their community. The grant is for a four-year period, and approximately \$40 million in grant funds is available, with successful applicants receiving between approximately \$3 and \$6 million per grant awarded. The deadline for submitting applications was April 15, 2011.

Because the grant criteria requires applicants (non-profit organizations, local Workforce Investment Boards, or faith-based organizations) to partner with child support enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, career centers and employers, Solano DCSS was recently approached by Fighting Back Partnership (FBP) to partner for this grant opportunity. FBP,

established in 1988, is a Vallejo-based, non-profit organization that partners with business, residents and government to improve neighborhoods, strengthen families, and support youth development. FBP will serve as the lead agency developing strategies and leadership for implementing the grant program. If selected, they will hire case managers to work with program participants and will identify and offer services addressing factors usually associated with recidivism, such as substance abuse, anger management and domestic violence.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD), the Solano County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), private employers (including Michael's Transportation), and Solano County DCSS are partners in this grant program. The role of Child Support Services is primarily to help identify and recruit eligible non-custodial parents into the program and reduce barriers to successful employment by establishing and/or modifying reasonable child support orders in an expedited manner, thereby minimizing the risk of non-custodial parents going "underground" in an effort to avoid paying child support. DCSS will receive an estimated \$317,000 over four years to pay for the cost of hiring a journey-level Child Support Specialist to conduct the needed work.

An MOU between FBP and DCSS is currently being developed and will be presented for your consideration at the June 7, 2011 BOS meeting. Because there was not sufficient time to bring this matter to your Board for consideration prior to submitting the grant application on April 15, 2011, the grant application was submitted contingent on subsequent BOS approval. Should the Board decide not to approve the MOU, the grant applications will be withdrawn.

- Contact: Pam Posehn, Director, Department of Child Support Services, 784-3606

4. Job Order Contracting Program: Recent Accomplishments / Work in Progress

The County's Job Order Contracting Program (JOC) program is now in its fifth year of project delivery with construction efforts that renew County facilities. The two current JOC contracts will terminate in May 2011. General Services Division of Architectural Services has completed solicitation of two new JOC contracts; options and recommendations for 2011 are under review by the County Administrator's Office and General Services at this time.

Through the existing JOC program, the County was able to complete work on five separate job orders at two County Parks between authorization on January 24, 2011 and March 31, 2011. The JOC contracts allowed the County full benefit of \$288,244 in remaining Prop 40 funds administered by the State of California that otherwise would have remained unspent.

Since the last Significant Issues JOC report on January 11, 2011, the following projects have been completed:

- ADA upgrades at Lake Solano Park at the public telephone and parking area on the campground side of the park. These two job orders were constructed with Prop 40 funds. \$27,297.
- ADA upgrades at Lake Solano Park including parking lot modifications and an ADA compliant ramp at the boat landing on the day use side of the park. These two job orders were constructed with Prop 40 funds. \$53,138.
- Expansion of the picnic area at Sandy Beach Park including installation of picnic tables and grills at new concrete pads. The work included ADA upgrades to the parking lot and an accessible path to ADA compliant picnic tables. This job order was constructed with Prop 40 funds. \$78,538.

- Installation of Fleet's new emergency generator at the County Corporation Yard at 3255 N. Texas St. in Fairfield, which will serve emergency and public service vehicles in a disaster. The job order was constructed with funds from a Federal Homeland Security grant. \$111,078.
- Demolition of the Weights and Measures building at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. \$174, 618.

JOC projects in progress under the current contract include:

- Main Jail Flow Meter Retrofit project at the Main Jail at 530 Union Ave. in Fairfield, which will address flooding at the Coroner's Office (95% complete).\$263,611.
- ADA upgrades at the Hall of Justice at 550/600 Union Ave. in Fairfield and at the Vallejo Justice Center at 321 Tuolumne St. in Vallejo (90% complete). \$653,486.
- ADA upgrades at the Rio Vista Veterans Hall at 610 St. Francis Way, which includes a wheel chair lift at the existing stage, accessible path of travel, and plumbing fixtures (construction initiation). Estimates under review.
- ADA upgrades at the Vacaville Veterans Hall at 549 Merchant St., which includes elevator upgrade, ramp, door hardware, and plumbing fixtures (construction initiation). Estimates under review.
- Rear driveway modification at 2101 Courage Drive in Fairfield (construction initiation). Estimates under review.
- John F. Kennedy Branch Library (505 Santa Clara St. in Vallejo) consolidation for more effective function, increased efficiency in the delivery of library services, and reduction in operating expense. JOC is providing structural engineering services for the initial study and constructability. Estimates under review.
- Contact: Rosa Lane, General Services Associate County Architect, 784-7908