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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



SOLANO COUNTY

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May 29, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chairman, Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2019-20 May Revision, Homeless Aid for Planning and Shelter Program – SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Mitchell and Chairman Ting:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of Governor Newsom's FY 2019/20 May Revision budget proposal related to the Homeless Aid for Planning and Shelter Program that directly allocates \$275 million to counties.

As you know, counties provide the services that address the root causes of homelessness by providing the programs and services necessary to help keep people off the streets. These services include substance abuse, behavioral health, health care and human service assistance programs. Counties are also uniquely positioned as full-range service providers to coordinate with the state, cities and community-based organizations to manage the challenges of homelessness.

Homelessness continues to be a challenge in Solano County as findings from our most recent Point-in-Time Count demonstrate. In January 2017, the latest date the data is available, the homeless population (who met the HUD definition of homelessness in a single 24-hour period) in Solano County was 1,232, an increase of 14 percent (or by 150 individuals) when compared to the 2015 findings. Additionally, more than half of the homeless population living in Solano County reported that their current episode of homelessness has lasted for more than a year (59 percent) and that 91 percent of those surveyed said they would be interested in moving into a safe, affordable, permanent housing solution should something become available.

Budget subcommittees in both the Senate and Assembly approved funding to go directly to the Big 13 Cities, but not directly to counties. Under the Governor's FY 20109/20 May Revision proposal overall funding for the Homeless Aid for Planning and Shelter Program, would increase to \$650 million and provide a direct allocation of \$275 million to counties.

Solano County supports the Governor's the FY 2019/20 May Revision proposal to allocate funding directly to counties to provide the flexibility to address the needs of our homeless population with targeted, specific responses to local needs. This includes the expansion of rapid housing, prevention, permanent supportive housing, innovative job programs and innovative housing projects. We believe that funding direct-to-counties is an investment in system-level, collaborative, regional approaches to meaningfully address the homelessness crisis in our communities.

The Honorable Holly Mitchell and the Honorable Phil Ting

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For these reasons, Solano County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support the Homeless Aid for Planning and Shelter Program proposal and urge the Budget Conference Committee to approve the Governor's FY 2019/20 May Revision proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Hannigan".

Erin Hannigan, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Members, Budget Conference Committee

Chris Woods, Office of the Speaker Pro Tem

Jason Sisney, Office of the Assembly Speaker

Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance

Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance

Jennifer Kent, Acting Director, Department of Health Care Services

Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

CMSP Governing Board

Solano County State Legislative Delegation

Solano County Board of Supervisors

Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwhi