

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Human Services Division**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Linda Patterson, Director of Human Services

DATE: August 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Contract Amendment with Legal Services of Northern California for Advocacy Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve first amendment to contract CN005667 with Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) to increase the contract amount by \$33,206 for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, for a total contract amount of \$134,406 for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the amendment and subsequent amendments not to exceed 10 percent of the contract amount, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this agreement is to provide legal advocacy to clients to assist them in applying for and receiving eligibility for the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP). In addition to benefiting the client, this contract has been a successful tool in reducing the cost of the General Relief program, and in enhancing revenues, through retroactive reimbursement for services provided by Placer County Health and Human Services, including the cost of county funded programs such as General Relief.

Placer County HHS has contracted with Legal Services of Northern California for advocacy services since 1999. Prior to this contract, the County was only able to provide a limited amount of advocacy. The working relationship between Legal Services of Northern California and the County has been very successful over the years of operation, resulting in reimbursement to Placer County sufficient to offset costs of the contract. These reimbursements are generated through the successful advocacy on the part of LSNC in obtaining Social Security for residents receiving county funded programs.

This is the first contract increase since this partnership began in 1999. The cost to retain sufficient legal and administrative staff for the advocacy program has increased over the years, and this contract amendment will ensure that LSNC has sufficient funding to continue this highly successful partnership.

During FY 2013-14, LSNC provided advocacy services for more than 42 program participants. In FY 2014-15, LSNC assisted 39 program participants. At the present time, LSNC is working with an additional 58 residents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Of the \$134,406 total contract expenditure, \$50,600 was included in the Department's FY 2014-15 approved budget. The remaining \$83,806, which includes the \$33,206 increase, is included in the Department's FY 2015-16 proposed budget. This contract is 100 percent funded through the Department's Client and Program Aid Budget with County General Funds; however, the reimbursements received through the successful client advocacy exceed the cost of this contract.

A copy of the amendment is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

