

# Contra Costa County California Employment & Human Services

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Investment in Human Services Directly Stimulates Local Economies**

**Board of Supervisors to Hear Food Stamps and CalWORKs are Catalysts for Economy,  
Push for Policymakers to Preserve Funding for Safety Net Services**

(Martinez) – On Tuesday, April 21, the Board of Supervisors will hear from Joe Valentine, Director of the Employment and Human Services Department, on the findings from a new report that shows the effects of the unprecedented demand for human services due to the recession, how decreases in state funding are crippling county-administered human services programs, and why investment in these programs is critical to the state and local economies, and to their recoveries.

The report, by the County Welfare Directors Association of California and the California State Association of Counties, notes several key findings, including:

- Human services programs provide a major boost to the state's economy, with an estimated \$1.32 in economic activity generated for every dollar spent;
- Failure to fund these programs results in poor outcomes for children and families, creating an even greater long-term cost to the state;
- Counties are grappling with a long-term state disinvestment in human services, now totaling nearly \$2 billion annually;
- These deep cuts have resulted in reduced staffing levels, diminished access to and availability of services, and delayed benefits to eligible families who are struggling in the current economic downturn.

Similar presentations are being held across California's 58 counties during their Board of Supervisors meetings on April 21 and April 28. The report encourages policymakers to consider that any reductions in state spending and program eligibility come at a significant cost to individual families and children, as well as to the state and local economies; to consider the potential positive effects of drawing upon federal funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and to recognize that while federal funding is temporary, the benefits of human services programs are long-lasting. A report released today, April 20, by the research firm Beacon Economics further supports the findings of the associations' joint report.

**What:** "Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis: An examination of California's current safety-net programs and related risks and benefits for communities" – a presentation by Joe Valentine, Director of the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department

**When:** Tuesday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Contra Costa County Board of Supervisor Chambers

