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County Supervisors Association of California

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TRANSMISSION TO: Jimmy c/o Supervisor Leon Williams

FAX NO: 619 557-4025

FROM: Judie Fertig ACCOUNT NO. _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: I Also have a little booklet on the federal child care & development block grant - I'll mail if you don't receive from Child Development Programs Advisory Committee.

PLEASE CONTACT _____ AT (916) 327-7500 IF FAX IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE.

DIRECT LINE FOR RETURN FAX TRANSMISSION: (916) 441-5507

State of California

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
915 Capitol Mall, Room 250
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 322-8181

May 22, 1991

Dear Friends:

As you know, the new Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant provides California with funding to expand its child care and development services. The Advisory Committee is continuing to work with the Department of Education, the Department of Social Services and the Secretary of Child Development and Education in preparation of local guidelines for the Federal Block Grant funding. It is our understanding that they will be sending formal notification to counties within the next week. In the meantime, here is an update and additional information on the local planning process.

We expect that a local planning process will be used to identify the priorities. The planning process will require two central activities: establishing countywide Child Care Planning Councils and developing local priorities.

1. Child Care Planning Councils

County Boards of Supervisors and County Offices of Education who wish to participate will cooperatively establish a broad planning group which would including but not limited to:

- County and city government officials with an understanding of child care, local planning, recreation, child and family services.
- County Office of Education and School Districts.
- One or more representatives of GAIN, TCC, Community Care Licensing, and Children's Protective Services.
- Local child care resource and referral agencies.
- City/county child care coordinators.
- Representatives of child development training programs.
- Providers and child development experts, including those serving children with exceptional needs.
- Parents of subsidized and nonsubsidized care.

- Employers, representatives of labor and community organizations knowledgeable about child care.

Many counties already have child care or children's services councils. If the existing council has similar representation, it may be designated as the Local Planning Council.

2. Local Priorities

The letter which you will soon be receiving from the state will provide you with specific instructions for identifying local priorities, and will outline the allocation of funding to each county.

The distribution of funds by the lead agency will be based on priorities identified by the local planning council. Funding will not be distributed directly to counties, but to providers of child care services.

The allocation of funding amounts for each county will be determined by a formula based on indicators of need for care, existing supply, and other county data. Counties will be notified of their proportional amounts in order to prioritize their local needs and plan realistic services. The Federal Block Grant requires that the funding supplement, rather than supplant existing Federal, State, or local government funding.

If a county chooses not to participate in the local planning process, federal funding within the county will be determined by the state lead agency in accordance with available needs data.

A deadline date has not been designated, however, we encourage the County Boards of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools to initiate or continue discussions and to encourage widespread involvement in the planning process.

Attached is a list of questions currently being asked, and the responses we are currently giving, based on the information we have at this time. Remember that there are still several unknowns and that this is only preliminary information.

We will keep you informed as information becomes available. If you have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (916) 322-8181.

Sincerely,

Giovanna Stark

Giovanna Stark
Executive Director

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME, AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Q. "Will counties be mandated to participate in the program?"

A. No, counties will not be mandated to participate. However, it is in the counties best interest to be part of the planning process. If a county chooses not to develop priorities, federal funding within the county will be determined by the state lead agency in accordance with available needs data.

Q. "Does the funding go directly to the counties?"

A. No. Funding will be distributed by the lead agency based on priorities identified by local planning councils. If a county's plan is acceptable, the state will issue competitive requests for applications in accordance with proposed priorities. Funding will be awarded to child care providers based on the RFA Process.

Q. "We are concerned with the added staff and financial burden to the counties. Will counties receive additional administrative funding?"

A. At this time, there have been no funds directed to the counties for planning and administrative costs in either of the two bills that address local involvement. Neither Assembly Bill 2141 (Speier) which directs the local procedures on the implementation of the Federal Block Grant, nor SB 500 (Morgan) which is the general implementation bill for the Grant and includes a break down of the federal funding at the state level.

Q. "We represent a community organization that provides child care, including before and after school care, and feel the information we have collected is critical for our county's local priorities. How can we be assured of broad-based representation in our local planning?"

A. The Council composition will include a broad representation. Counties will be encouraged to publicize the formation of the planning council and to solicit nominations.

However, the best way to be certain your concerns are considered in the priorities is to become involved right away. If you feel it is important for you to participate, contact your County Superintendent of Schools and the County Board of Supervisors. Perhaps you could make yourself available to be on the council or to make your needs known to the local planning council. As with any state or

local decision-making process it is ultimately up to you to make your concerns

Q. "We work in a very large county. How can we ensure that all areas of this large county are included in setting the priorities?"

A. Planning councils will be urged to consider the needs of the entire county. Given current law, the lead agency is planning to divide the geographic area into specific areas. The lead agency will keep you advised as information becomes available.

Q. "What happens after the priorities are reviewed?"

Once your priorities have been submitted to the Lead Agency, they will go through a review process. A county's plan will be acceptable if its established priorities are documented, and if it meets applicable federal and state guidelines. When a county's plan is accepted, the state will issue competitive requests for applications, based on the designated priorities.