

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 30, 2014

FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

As anticipated, before recessing at the end of last week to resume campaigning for the November elections, the House and Senate both approved a short term Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the Federal government open into the new Fiscal Year. The FY 2015 CR provides the authority for Federal agencies and programs to continue operating at FY 2014 levels until December 11. During the Lame Duck session following the elections, Congress will have to determine whether to resume working on individual appropriations bills that would then most likely be packaged in an omnibus spending measure, to extend the CR into the new calendar year, either for the entire Federal Fiscal Year 2015, or to be dealt with by the new Congress. The Lame Duck session will begin November 12. While the CR was relatively "clean" and absent of policy items, House and Senate Leadership did include language that extends the existing authority for the TANF (CalWORKS) program beyond its September 30 expiration.

IMMIGRATION IMPACTS - SCAAP

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently announced funding levels under the FY 2014 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to reimburse State and local jurisdictions for costs associated with the incarceration of illegal alien criminals. We were informed by BJA that the County of Santa Barbara will receive \$207,527 in FY 2014 funding under the program. The decrease in the County's reimbursement as compared to FY 2013 is consistent with the overall funding cut that SCAAP suffered for the year.

HEALTH CARE FUNDING

On September 12 Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced \$295 million in FY 2014 funding under the Affordable Care Act for grants to enable health centers across the country to increase access to comprehensive primary health care

services. We were informed that the County of Santa Barbara will receive a grant of \$302,776 under the program. Funding provided by these grants may be used to hire new staff including new health care providers, to keep clinics open for longer hours, and to expand the care provided to include new services such as oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision services.

FEDERAL CHILD CARE FUNDING

We advocated on behalf of S. 1086, the *Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act*, in anticipation of floor action on the measure, emphasizing the critical importance of adequate funding for child care to the County's ability to help low income families transition to self-sufficiency. S. 1086 was approved last spring by the Senate by a vote of 96-2, and the version being considered by the full House represented a bipartisan, bicameral compromise of the original legislation, which would reauthorize CCDBG for the first time in 17 years. It was approved unanimously by voice vote, and the measure now returns to the Senate, where it must once again be voted on since there were changes to the previously-approved version.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

We continue to work with NACo and other County stakeholders to advocate for full funding authority for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. NACo recently held a fly-in to emphasize the importance of PILT, including a Hill briefing on the issue, and county-specific issue papers. As follow-up, we asked Congresswoman Capps to sign onto a bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter to the House Leadership calling for action on full funding for PILT during the Lame Duck session. The House version of the *FY 2015 Interior Appropriations* bill would extend the authorization for another year. The County received \$1.82 million from PILT for FY 2014.

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