

## Mariposa County Performance Incentives Plan

Critical community service needs have been identified by Mariposa County's Department of Human Services (DHS) program staff. These areas, as listed on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Category Legend, are shown below:

- (A) Community Based Family Services
  - Family Preservation
  - Parent Education
  - Home Visitation
- (J) Youth Programs
  - Summer Youth Employment
- (K) After School Youth Programs
- (L) Foster Children
  - Emancipated Youth
- (O) Housing (emergency/short-term)

DHS proposes to utilize Incentive Funds to provide services in each of these critical areas listed above, keeping TANF purposes and goals as the benchmark for outcomes. It is projected that this plan will take a minimum of two (2) years to complete. The following summary of proposed programs, funded wholly, or in part, with Incentive Funds, identifies the critical need area being addressed, describes the service need, delivery approach, and states the outcome goal.

### **I. Life-Skills Trainer (Counselor)**

This County contracted position would provide home visitation to vulnerable/at-risk needy and CalWORKs eligible families, incorporating both parent education and family preservation support and would also provide case management services to homeless families in Mariposa County. Referrals to the contractor would come from the Community Action Agency and Child Welfare Services. (Goal 1, 2, 4, categories A & O)

#### Need For Service

This rural County of 17,000 residents boasts 11 people per square mile. The terrain is mountainous and expansive. The greatest concentrations of poverty are located in the most remote parts of the County, resulting in isolated families who often lack the support system of family and friends that others enjoy. Isolation often place needy families in very vulnerable position. It is difficult to access special needs/at-risk children in these families, which can be an exacerbating factor in family dysfunction.

Mariposa County's vulnerable/at-risk needy families would benefit from a Life-Skills Trainer who can reach them in their homes. This professional would assess bio/psycho/social health, providing direct services and resource linkages. Homeless residents also have a demonstrated need for a Life-Skills Trainer to act as mentor and coach as they attempt to stabilize their lives.

#### Approach/Service Delivery

This position would report to the Community Action and Family Services Supervisor's, both housed within the Department of Human Services. Although referrals would be made by social service agencies for intervention, families/individuals would work with the Life Skills Trainer

effects of poverty and out-of-wedlock pregnancies due to a scarce, competitive low-wage job market and a lack of higher educational opportunities.

### Approach/Service Delivery

These monies would be used to support youth emancipating from the child welfare system in Mariposa County to establish permanent housing through transitional living placement, Job Corps enrollment, or local assistance such as Section 8. The monies would help the youth to purchase items such as clothing for work, furnishings or cookware for their new homes, or transportation assistance.

The outcome goal would be a reduction in the number of out-of-wedlock youth pregnancies receding onto system supports.

### Incentive Funds Proposed

\$20,000

## **II. Homeless Assistance Project**

This funding would help targeted needy homeless residents to establish permanent housing under the existing homeless assistance program in Community Action. (Goal 1, category O)

### Need for Service

Human Services intakes about 35 families per year that have used their lifetime CalWORKs Homeless Assistance, but are still struggling with homelessness. For these needy families, the Homeless Assistance Program is available. However, limited funding significantly impacts the success rate possible for these families. The current funding available can only assist about one half of the requests. Sometimes funding is completely exhausted, and all families are turned away.

Incentive Funds would be reserved for vulnerable needy families, particularly young parents, single parents, and families with at-risk children.

### Approach/Service Delivery

Homeless Assistance is dispersed through the Community Action Unit of DHS. Applicants are screened for eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, Community Action assists with locating temporary housing. Incentive funds are to be utilized as a supplement for no more than four (4) months per family. The Life Skills Trainer would compliment this program immensely by providing ongoing support to these families.

The outcome goal would be an improvement in family self-sufficiency as vulnerable needy families learn to maintain stable, affordable housing.

### Incentive Funds Proposed

\$14,980

### **III. Administration/After School Resource Project**

The possibility of a Boy's and Girl's Club or other after school resource programs. voluntarily, thereby increasing the likelihood of a significant response. It is estimated that the Life Skills Trainer would manage a caseload maximum of 10 families.

The outcome goals for this position would include: improved family functioning, identification of special needs children/parents, reduction in the amount of abuse reports and number of required foster care placements, successful transition from homelessness to stable housing, and linkages to community resources promoting self-sufficiency and family well-being.

#### Incentive Funds Proposed

\$92,000

### **IV. 2003 Summer Youth Employment Training Program**

This contracted program would benefit low-income/at-risk youth with paid summer employment training. Employment of the youth would provide necessary life skills as well as prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies. (Goal 3, category J)

#### Need for Service

Mariposa's One-Stop employment service has operated youth employment training programs in the past. However, the funding for this youth program was eliminated in 2000. Employment opportunities are scarce and competitive in Mariposa. Employment training is critical for low-income/at-risk teens, who may not have a mentor steering them towards self-sufficiency. This program not only provides teen with valuable experience, it has an inverse effect on their self-esteem as they begin to view themselves as competent, contributing members of their community.

#### Approach/Service Delivery

This contracted service would identify low-income/at-risk youth by referral. The youth are then invited to apply for the program. Priority will be given to the candidates demonstrating the greatest adversities. The program coordinator is responsible for working with government, nonprofit, and other local businesses to establish summer training positions. Wages are paid with Incentive Funds, thro with no cost to employers. The youth are responsible for fulfilling the obligations of their position. The program coordinator will provide mediation to employers and trainees.

The outcome goal would be a reduction in the number of at-risk youth and out-of-wedlock pregnancies cases continuing the cycle of poverty, now striving towards self-sufficiency.

#### Incentive Funds Proposed

\$60,000

### **V. New Beginnings**

This program serves emancipated youth by assisting them in their efforts toward independent living as they emancipate from the child welfare system. (Goal 3, category L)

#### Need for Service

Emancipated youth are an extremely vulnerable population, statistically demonstrating 75% dependency recidivism through incarceration, welfare reliance, and/or homelessness. Young adults emancipating from the child welfare system in Mariposa are especially vulnerable to the  
(Goal 3, category K)

The outcome goal would be reduced number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies through proper supervision.

Incentive Funds Proposed  
\$14,000

***Total Funds Proposed: \$200,980***