**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the Department of Public Social Services, in consultation with relevant County departments and key community stakeholders, to develop an integrated, comprehensive homeless prevention program for families which draws on the Homeless Family Solutions System (HFSS) model and builds upon current available County homeless prevention funding sources to address rental/housing subsidies, case management and employment services, and legal services.

**DESCRIPTION**

Los Angeles County has an opportunity to build on current programs and services to develop an integrated, comprehensive system to assist families on the verge of homelessness.

DPSS provides homeless prevention assistance to certain CalWORKs families in the form of eviction prevention, temporary rental subsidies and other financial services, but provides limited case management services and no legal services. First 5 LA funds home visitation programs which could play a role in identifying families who are at risk of homelessness. The County and City of Los Angeles fund the HRSS to expedite the delivery of housing and other supportive services to families experiencing homelessness, but has provided very limited homeless prevention services. The Board recently allocated $2 million to HFSS for prevention purposes that could be useful to learn from and build upon.

LAHSA should develop, in collaboration with County agencies and family system partners, a comprehensive strategy to effectively identify, assess, and prevent families from becoming homeless, and to divert families in a housing crisis from homelessness. The strategy should consist of a multi-faceted approach to maximize and leverage existing funding and resources, evaluate and potentially modify policies that govern existing prevention resources to allow greater flexibility, prioritize resources for the most vulnerable populations, and create an outreach and engagement strategy to identify access points for families at risk of homelessness. The major areas critical to developing a homeless prevention system in Los Angeles County involve identifying additional and targeting current resources from multiple systems to focus on homeless prevention.
DESCRIPTION continued

Such a strategy would need to:

A. Develop an approach to homelessness prevention across multiple systems, supportive services, and homeless services that address rental/housing assistance, case management and employment services, and legal services.

B. Identify and review potential administrative barriers to better target and allocate homeless prevention interventions and programs.

C. Review and evaluate the creation of a universal assessment to identify families who are at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

D. Develop program thresholds for rental assistance that would prioritize families with the greatest potential to stay housed after one-time or short-term assistance.

E. Provide an opt-in mechanism for cities who wish to contribute to the program.

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATION

Families on the verge of homelessness, subject to the eligibility requirements for the available funding streams.

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

- Increase in the number of families receiving homeless prevention services
- Increase in employment and income among potentially homeless families
- Number and percentage of families receiving services through this program who avoid eviction
- Percent of assisted families still in permanent housing at 6, 12, and 24 months following assistance

FUNDING

- $5 Million in One-Time CalWORKs Fraud Incentive Funding
- Ongoing CalWORKs Single Allocation Funding currently used for Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families
- Ongoing CalWORKs Single Allocation Funding currently used for temporary rental subsidies for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families who receive Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction

CONNECTION TO CITIES

SAME

✓ COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could contribute to the program to enhance prevention services for families in their cities.