



**California Association of Public Authorities
for In-Home Supportive Services**

1029 J Street, Suite 120, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916.492.9111 Fax: 916.492.9444

June 3, 2009

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair
Budget Conference Committee
The Honorable Senator Denise Ducheny, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: REJECT PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE LINKAGES

Dear Assembly Member Evans and Senator Ducheny,

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) asks that you reject the Governor's proposal for complete elimination of the Linkages program.

We know that cutting the Linkages Program will not save the dollars the cuts are intended to save. With the loss of the program, many Linkages clients will need rescuing by more-expensive safety net programs. The cut are therefore both illogical and inhumane.

- The Linkages Program builds connections between older adults and persons with disabilities to community-based volunteer groups. The key is the mobilization of **community volunteer** services for clients. These **no-cost** services represent a major contribution to the array of care often required. Without such connections, clients will go without the assistance they need, and their health and well-being will **deteriorate**.
- Elimination of the program would force a substantial number of clients into **nursing homes**, a more costly alternative for care. Currently, 54% of Linkages clients are currently on Medi-Cal and an additional 22% meet the eligibility definition of "near Medi-Cal," i.e., eligible for Medi-Cal long-term care within six months of admission to a skilled nursing facility.

- The Linkages Program brings **federal dollars** into California through targeted case management (TCM) billing. Current estimates put the federal dollars obtained through Linkages TCM at \$1.5 million. That money disappears with the loss of the program.

Even so, the modest size of the program means that full elimination would yield short-term, illusory savings that would be trivial at best. Given what the program accomplishes against what it costs, Linkages is clearly more of Budget solution than a Budget problem. CAPA strongly urges you to leave this network of community connections in place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernadette Lynch
President



Trula M. LaCalle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc. Senator Bob Dutton
Senator Mark Leno
Senator Alan Lowenthal
Senator Mimi Walters
Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield
Assemblymember Kevin de León
Assemblymember Roger Niello
Assemblymember Jim Nielsen
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg