

Department Name: Department of Human Assistance

Option 1: Reduce General Fund \$683,894 FTE: 25.0

Program Title: Mather Supportive Housing

Program Description: The Mather Community Campus (MCC) provides transitional housing and employment services to 50 families and 180 single adults who previously resided in emergency shelters and recovery programs throughout the County. The Mather Community Campus program targets qualified homeless families and single adults who believe employment is an essential part of building a new life. The MCC is a progressive and comprehensive employment training program, which also provides case management services, community support and a structured living environment for up to two years. The vast majority of Mather residents retain permanent housing and employment upon graduating from the Mather program.

Reduction: \$683,894 GF (Partial Year)

Total Budget	Annual Reduction	Revised Budget	% Reduced	Total Program FTEs	Reduction in FTEs	% Reduced
\$6,687,227	\$6,687,227	\$0	100%	25.0	25.0	100%

Program Impact: Complete Close Mather Community Campus

The closure of Mather Community Campus would eliminate 25.0 FTE county staff (including 9.0 FTE employment services staff previously submitted for reduction) and approximately 62.0 FTE contract staff

Loss of \$3,061,636 HUD grant, \$258,000 SETA funding, \$186,317 FSET reimbursement, \$165,440 CalWORKS reimbursement, \$100,000 CSBG funds and approximately \$750,000 resident fee revenue (all amounts are annualized).

Closure of Mather Community Campus would be accomplished by evicting residents and pursuing unlawful detainer actions against any who remained in housing subsequent to their eviction date. Significant unfunded legal costs may result from these actions. Approximately 320 individuals would be made homeless by this action, including 100 children.

Note that staffing patterns would be ramped down over a period of at least 3 months to account for the unlawful detainer process to proceed through the various required legal steps, and while staff continue to assist residents to move to safe housing.

During the 30 day eviction timeline, staff would make every effort to assist residents to secure housing, but given the short timeline, lack of employment, limited financial resources, poor credit histories and other barriers, few can be expected to find permanent housing. Another small portion could conceivably qualify for TANF ECF or HPRP rapid re-housing funds, both of which are short-term assistance, not a long-term solution. Some may be able to move in with family or friends, at least on a short-term basis. The remaining residents would undoubtedly attempt to

find housing at emergency shelters, which are already maintaining long waiting lists. As a result of these numerous barriers and limitations on mitigation strategies, there is little doubt that a large number of these residents will end up on the streets, living in cars or other places not suitable for human habitation.

Costs to the county would increase in other service areas; many MCC families are in the process of reunification, and the extreme disruption caused by eviction would likely result in some children needing additional services from Child Protective Services or returning to the foster care system. Homelessness is typically associated with increased crime, thereby affecting law enforcement agencies and the court system. Costs to the community through impacts to the health and mental health care systems, education system and other social services would also be expected to increase.

In addition, the elimination of the Mather program could jeopardize the County's existing lease for the MCC site, which in 1992 was conveyed to the County as a Public Benefit Conveyance (PBC) for the purposes of operating a transitional housing and skills development program for homeless persons under the Federal McKinney Act. As a result, the Federal Government could take over the MCC from the County.

If the site remains with the County, the County will retain responsibility for maintaining the Mather Community Campus property, including landscaping, HVAC, security, etc. These services are required to prevent vandalism and squatters, to prevent the site from becoming blighted and to protect the county's cumulative investment of nearly \$20,000,000 in renovation and site maintenance over the 14 years of program operation. Estimates for maintenance expenses are in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year range. This amount is currently unbudgeted General Fund.

In addition, in 1995 the County accepted \$400,000 in HUD funding for building rehabilitation under the condition that the County would operate a supportive housing program at Mather through 2015. Terminating the MCC program prior to 2015 may require full or partial repayment of these HUD funds.
