



# **NATHAN FLETCHER**

## **CHAIR**

**SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE: March 2, 2021**

**TO: Board of Supervisors**

#### **SUBJECT**

**INCREASING EDUCATION AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is a program established by the State of California that provides personal care assistance to people receiving Supplemental Security Income or who are low-income and need support in the home to remain independent. In San Diego, the Public Authority partners with the County of San Diego to provide these services. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors serves as the governing body of the Public Authority.

IHSS workers provide critical care to our county's most vulnerable residents, including low-income seniors and people with disabilities, allowing them to stay safely at home and out of nursing homes and hospitals. San Diego County is home to over 25,000 IHSS workers who provide these services on which so many San Diegans rely. However, these services are not being maximized by those who would most benefit because there is limited public awareness of the program. To ensure that this vital service is reaching the people who need it most and in recognition of the vital contributions of IHSS workers, I recommend that we create a robust education and communications campaign to explain more clearly the services available to potential clients, strategically recruit additional caregivers in areas of the county and communities where those services are needed and make information more easily accessible to the public who might be eligible for the program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to create an education campaign to share via County communications to highlight the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program and to clearly outline for the public eligibility requirements and how to obtain access to services.

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2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer in partnership with the Public Authority to strategically target future recruitment campaigns for IHSS caregivers to regions of the county and communities where additional caregivers are needed.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Office to ensure visibility and information about the IHSS program on the County website that is easily accessible, and which includes details of services available and the individuals who may be eligible.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is a program established by the State of California that provides personal care assistance to people receiving Supplemental Security Income or who have a low income and need support in the home to remain independent. In San Diego, the Public Authority partners with the County of San Diego to provide these services. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors serves as the governing body to the Public Authority.

IHSS workers provide critical care to our county's most vulnerable residents, including low-income seniors and people with disabilities, allowing them to stay safely at home. IHSS providers are frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19, keeping their clients safe at home and out of nursing homes and hospitals. IHSS caregivers are lifesavers, alleviating the negative impact of social isolation and preventing needless separation from family at a time when those relationships can make all the difference.

San Diego County is home to over 25,000 IHSS workers who provide these services on which so many San Diegans rely. However, these services are not being maximized by those who would most benefit because there is limited public awareness of the program.

To ensure that this vital service is reaching the people who need it most and in recognition of the vital contributions of IHSS workers, I recommend that we create a robust education and communications campaign to explain more clearly the services to potential clients, strategically recruit additional caregivers in areas of the county and communities where those services are needed and make information more easily accessible to the public who might be eligible for the program.

I urge your support for these proposals.

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**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This request supports the Health Families Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan by providing critical support and information to IHSS caregivers and individuals who may be eligible for the services they provide.

Respectfully submitted,



CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER  
Supervisor, Fourth District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**       Yes     No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**

Yes     No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**

N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Fourth Supervisorial District

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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