

# SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

26022 Administration Center Drive

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Judy V. English, Director

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June 11, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson, Southampton County Administrator  
Members of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 400  
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson and Members of the Board:

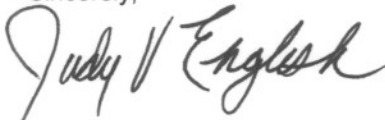
I am writing to request that the Department of Social Services (DSS) be allowed to "carry-over" a portion of the balance of local dollars allocated but not expected to be expended during this current budget year of 2009. Our agency had over \$20,000 in local funds returned to the county in FY 2006 and again in 2007. In FY 2008, we had unspent local dollars of over \$49,000 due to a new local match formula implemented by the Virginia Department of Social Services that greatly benefited Southampton County. I anticipate that we will have approximately \$35,000 in unspent local funds at the end of FY 2009, due to staff vacancies, conservative spending and utilization of federal and state funds whenever possible. I request that our agency be allowed to "carry-over" \$20,000 of that anticipated balance, which will allow us to draw down an additional \$101,500 in state and federal dollars, thereby maintaining services at the current level for citizens of Southampton County.

As I indicated to you in the memo accompanying the proposed FY 2010 budget, cutting 5% of local dollars from our budget required not only that administrative expenditures be reduced, but also that purchased services for clients be severely cut at a time when the economy is in a downturn and citizens need assistance more than ever. \$15,000 in local match money is needed to draw down federal and state funds to provide in-home services to our elderly and disabled so they can continue to live in their own homes and to pay for their care in adult care facilities when they are no longer able to live alone. It is needed to provide supportive services such as transportation, car repairs, uniforms and child care assistance for those clients who are able to find employment but need more to survive than their minimum wage paychecks, especially in the beginning. This match money is needed to re-instate the grants to the Courtland Community Center and the after-school tutoring and reading programs for at-risk children. This local match is necessary to re-instate our program to provide training, books, and educational toys to local family child care providers who help insure that our preschoolers learn the skills necessary to succeed when they enter school. An additional \$5,000 in local match dollars is needed because, in my zeal to cut our local budget, I failed to include sufficient funding for the agency portion of health insurance premium increases and to allow for potential payouts of staff leaving the agency.

In addition to maintaining services for our most vulnerable population, being allowed to carry over the requested portion of our 2009 allocation will bring that federal and state amount of \$101,500 into Southampton County, and it is estimated that these dollars will turn over four times. Lastly, we will prevent having some of our federal and state allocations cut in the future. Many of our budget lines are based on expenditures in the preceding year. If we do not have sufficient local match dollars to utilize the full amount allocated, then our allocations will be cut for next year and the following years, continuing a cycle of lack of resources to assist our needy citizens.

I understand how difficult it must be for you to make decisions that must provide the best results for all of the citizens of the county. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request, and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Judy V. English  
Director