

contribution for system maintenance is estimated to be about \$12 million. This equates to annual General Fund savings of \$27.9 million compared to the cost of maintaining the existing system (\$78.9 million total, \$39.9 million General Fund).

Current System Offers Limited Functionality.

The current automated system does not fully support critical child welfare operations and CWS workers do not have the tools or access to all the information needed and available to do their jobs. The new system will automate existing manual tasks, provide CWS workers the capability and flexibility needed to effectively perform their duties, and provide improved

service delivery to the program's beneficiaries.

Analyst's Recommendations

We recommend approval of the Governor's proposal for \$2.7 million for OSI and \$1 million for DSS to support the CWS-NS project during the planning and procurement phase. The CWS-NS is designed to comply with state and federal law and incorporate critical business functionality to provide effective and efficient child welfare services. The approval of this request will provide the necessary resources for the planning and procurement phase of the CWS-NS project.

Contact Information

Mark C. Newton	Deputy Legislative Analyst	319-8323	Mark.Newton@lao.ca.gov
Shawn Martin	Managing Principal Analyst	319-8362	Shawn.Martin@lao.ca.gov
Ross Brown	Medi-Cal—Families/Children	319-8345	Ross.Brown@lao.ca.gov
Lishaun Francis	Mental Health Programs Developmental Services	319-8340	Lishaun.Francis@lao.ca.gov
Eric Harper	Child Welfare and Support Community Care Licensing	319-8342	Eric.Harper@lao.ca.gov
Rashi Kesarwani	In-Home Supportive Services	319-8354	Rashi.Kesarwani@lao.ca.gov
Lourdes Morales	Information Technology	319-8320	Lourdes.Morales@lao.ca.gov
Janne Olson	Public Health Healthy Families Local Health Programs Health Benefit Exchange	319-8327	Janne.Olson@lao.ca.gov
Felix Su	Medi-Cal—Aged/Disabled	319-8344	Felix.Su@lao.ca.gov
Ryan Woolsey	CalWORKs CalFresh	319-8356	Ryan.Woolsey@lao.ca.gov

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