

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 7**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE CAREER PATHWAYS FOR FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took critical action in advancing support to vulnerable San Diego County residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by approving a framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. As part of this framework, under the Senior and Youth Services component, \$5 million of ARPA funding was allocated for the Youth Services Fund: Career Pathways for Foster Youth and the San Pasqual Academy Promise. Youth and young adults in foster care face disproportionate levels of unemployment and homelessness as adults. At age 21, almost half of youth in foster care are unemployed and of those who are employed, 70 percent live below the federal poverty level.

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) will pursue a subrecipient agreement with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to fund the Career Pathways for Foster Youth Program. The program will provide current and former foster youth with hands on individual employment services to support their vocational/career interests, skills, and talents and help youth transitioning out of the foster care system improve career outcomes. Funding is anticipated to cover three years of the program beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 through FY 2024-25. At any given time, the program is anticipated to serve approximately 170 current foster youth and nonminor dependents in foster care between ages 16 and 21 and former foster youth who exited the foster care system between ages 18 and 25 (transition age youth) who are residing in San Diego County.

If approved, today's actions will authorize the transfer of appropriations of \$5 million from the Finance Other, General Miscellaneous Expense, Other Charges, appropriated for the Youth Services Fund: Career Pathways for Foster Youth and the San Pasqual Academy Promise component of the ARPA funds, to HHSA, Services & Supplies for the Career Pathways for Foster Youth Program. In addition, today's actions will authorize the Agency Director, HHSA, upon successful negotiations, to execute a subrecipient agreement with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to fund employment support services to current and former youth in foster care ages 16 to 25 years; and authorize Agency Director, Health and human Services Agency, to apply for any additional funding opportunities, if available, to improve employment and career outcomes for current and former youth in foster care.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by providing increased opportunities and equitable access to employment and career support services to youth transitioning out of foster care.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, upon successful negotiations, to execute a subrecipient agreement with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to fund the Career Pathways for Foster Youth Program for current and former youth in foster care ages 16 to 25 years in San Diego County and to execute any subsequent amendments thereto.
2. Transfer appropriations of \$5,000,000 from the Finance Other, General Miscellaneous Expense, Other Charges, appropriated for the Career Pathways for Foster Youth and the San Pasqual Academy Promise component of the ARPA funds, to the Health and Human Services Agency, Services & Supplies for employment and career support services for current and former foster youth.
3. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to apply for any additional funding opportunities, if available, to improve employment and career outcomes for current and former youth in foster care.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a critical developmental stage as youth learn the skills needed to be healthy, self-sufficient, and productive adults. This process can be complex for youth with foster care experience. Surveys and administrative data show that young people with foster care experience are falling behind their peers who have not experienced foster care. This is particularly evident for youth of color, who are overrepresented in foster care and far more likely to face barriers to success and wellbeing. Youth in foster care face disproportionate levels of unemployment and homelessness as adults. By age 21, young people who experienced foster care reported significantly lower rates of high school completion and employment than young people in the general population. Research has shown that young people aging out of foster care have less stable employment, work fewer hours, and earn lower wages than their peers in the general population; and that these differences continue into early adulthood.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant impacts across the nation, causing high levels of unemployment and disconnection from work and school. Moreover, some communities were disproportionately impacted and are at higher risk for adverse outcomes due to the pandemic, including transition age foster youth (18 to 25 years old). Transition age foster youth report negative impacts on their employment, educational attainment, ability to meet basic needs, and connection to work and school.

Between November 2021 and March 2022, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (CWS) engaged the Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee of the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County and CWS staff with lived experience to gather input and proposals for a program design focused on providing youth in foster care with equitable access to services that help shape their career pathways. Proposed program goals were strategically developed to impact change and improve the quality of life and economic wellbeing for youth in the foster care system. CWS will continue to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable access to decision-making processes throughout the program and engage youth and the community on ideas for sustainability. CWS will also continue to identify and pursue opportunities to broaden community partnerships and increase access to available and complementary resources and funding.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementation of the Career Pathways for Foster Youth program will result in sustainability enrichments in the economy, and the social, health, and wellbeing aspects of the community. The Career Pathways for Foster Youth program will contribute to County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2 and positively impact the foster care community and transition age youth by providing just and equitable opportunities to improve career and educational outcomes. In partnership with the San Diego Workforce Partnership, this collaborative effort will invest in building resilience in one of our most vulnerable populations and bolster youth access to economic and social mobility leading to long-term success. This program will make employment and career services available to youth that are uniquely tailored to their career interests and will remove barriers that limit opportunities for long-term success.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-24 in the County of San Diego (County) Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of \$5,000,000 in FY 2022-23 through FY 2024-25. The funding source for this request is the American Rescue Plan Act funding allocated directly to the County. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter

