



Our mission is to empower and promote the well-being of families, child care providers, and the greater community through financial and support services.

May 20, 2025

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 310  
San Diego, CA 92101

Meeting Date: May 20, 2025  
Agenda Item No. 15  
Distribution Date: May 16, 2025  
Batch No. 01

RE: Supporting San Diego Children and Families Through Supplemental Funding for Healthy Development Services

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Rick Richardson, and I have the privilege of serving as the President and CEO of CDA, as well as a Commissioner for First 5 San Diego. I am submitting this comment in strong support of the proposed supplemental funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS), a lifeline for thousands of young children and families across San Diego County.

HDS is one of our region's most critical early childhood initiatives, providing developmental screenings, speech and behavioral therapies, and parent education for families with children from birth to five years old. As a Commissioner for First 5 San Diego, I've seen firsthand the transformative impact these services have—not only on individual children, but on entire families and communities.

As the President and CEO of CDA, we deeply engage in supporting families and child care providers through various programs and services, I hear from families every day who rely on HDS to ensure their children are able to start school healthy, engaged, and ready to learn. The need for these services continues to grow, and without this supplemental funding, far too many children will go without timely support—placing them at a lifelong disadvantage.

I urge the Board to approve this critical funding and continue San Diego's leadership in supporting young children and families. Investing in healthy development during the early years is not only the right thing to do—it is one of the smartest public investments we can make.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to the wellbeing of San Diego's youngest residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Richardson'.

Rick Richardson  
President and CEO  
CDA