

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Time: 05-19-26 09:00

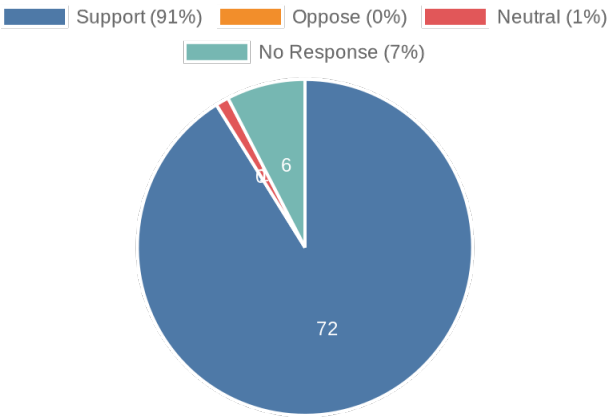
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Board of Supervisors	05-19-26 09:00	48	79	72	0	1

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

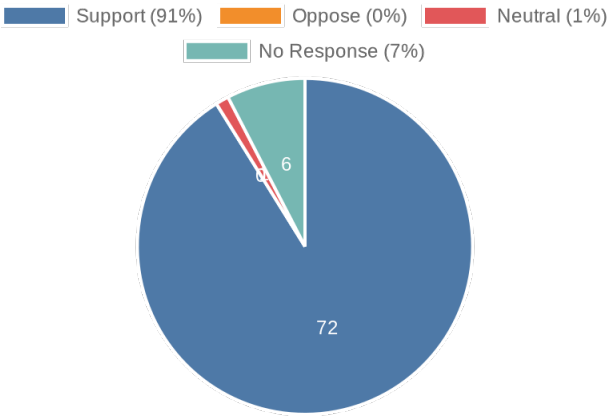


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
26. SUPPORTING SAN DIEGO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH BRIDGE FUNDING FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (4 VOTES)	79	72	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

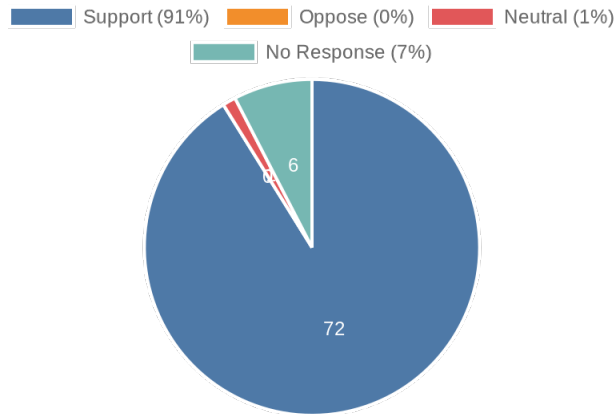
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 26. SUPPORTING SAN DIEGO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH BRIDGE FUNDING FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
(4 VOTES)

Overall Sentiment



Leslie Manriquez

Location: 92154, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:59am 05-19-26

My name is Leslie Manriquez Jimenez with ECS Para Las Familias and the Children First Collective. I respectfully ask the County Board of Supervisors to support Healthy Development Services (HDS) with bridge funding. This funding is vital as it supports HDS collaboration with Para Las Familias to serve families through attachment-based therapy - work that helps rebuild trust between children and caregivers, creating the safety children need to learn, grow, and heal.

We meet families at some of their most vulnerable moments - caregivers who deeply love their children but feel lost in how to help. Programs like HDS walk alongside them, offering not just support, but a new lens to understand and respond to their child's needs.

Because of this investment, parents strengthen co-parenting, grandparents step into unexpected roles with confidence, and children - some touched by foster care - begin to trust again. This funding changes trajectories, restoring connection where it matters most.

Pradeep Gidwani

Location: 92115, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:43am 05-19-26

My name is Pradeep Gidwani. I am a pediatrician who serves as the Medical Director for Healthy Development Services and live in District 4. I am writing in strong support of Agenda Item 26, the proposed bridge funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS). HDS provides essential developmental and behavioral therapies for families with children 0-5. These services are transformational for our youngest children and their families, with well-documented results - 95% of children who completed developmental treatment made improvements, and 99.7% of participating families reported they would recommend HDS to others. These gains continue across a child's lifespan, helping both their academic and life success. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. This bridge funding will keep this program running until the transition to the new integrated prevention and early intervention services model.

Breanna Gabriel

Location:

Submitted At: 10:22am 05-19-26

I am the occupational therapist at Healthy Development Services (HDS) North Inland Region serving families in districts 2 and 5. I am speaking in support of approval for the bridge funding for HDS (item #26). We know early identification and early intervention are crucial and affective in changing a child's developmental path, helping them achieve their full potential, and improving life outcomes, for not only the child but their families and communities as well. Through my professional and clinical experiences, I have unfortunately seen many cases where children are delayed or denied services due to long waitlists, insurance denials for evaluations and treatment, lack of locations to receive direct services, etc. That is why HDS is extremely special and essential in filling this gap! HDS delivers interdisciplinary development and behavioral services and utilizes a whole-child approach to assure that children are receiving high quality care during a crucial period of their development!

Kristin Montgomery

Location: 92106, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:18am 05-19-26

My name is Kristin Garrett Montgomery and I am in strong support of bridge funding for Healthy Developmental Services (HDS.) The Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative (SBHI) spent the last three years mapping and creating a policy framework for the children's behavioral health system of care in San Diego and one of their priority recommendations is to "Sustain and expand Healthy Developmental Services (HDS) system to ensure continued coordinated screening, assessment and treatment of behavioral health concerns for young children and their families." Supporting early intervention and healthy development of one of our most vulnerable populations will create the greatest impact toward healthy successful children and adults. Thank you for your consideration to continue this critical program.

Sue Leininger

Location: 92064, Poway

Submitted At: 9:54am 05-19-26

My name is Sue Ann Leininger, I reside in District 2. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. HDS is a perfect example of how early childhood intervention can make an enormous impact in a child's and family's lives. I am a former special education teacher and now grandmother of a grandchild recently diagnosed with Autism. With her early diagnosis, she and her parents are well underway learning about her development and how to best support their child in years to come.

Every child, regardless of income or family circumstances, deserves access to high-quality family centered strength based services. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue & services

Byron Chow

Location: 92025

Submitted At: 9:40am 05-19-26

I am Dr. Byron Chow, a practicing community pediatrician and medical director of Healthy Steps and Healthy Development Services in the N. Inland. Both programs provide tremendous support for our county's children, including and especially for those who have limited resources and access to care, and who are at-risk for severe developmental delays. Some type of developmental delay such as in speech, social-emotional, and learning is extremely common, as high as 1 in 6 children, and disproportionally affect children in low-income families. Poor early development commonly leads to deficits in school and self-esteem, with lifelong consequences. Thinking of this next generation of San Diegans, I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with this bridge funding to keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

Megan Caldwell

Location: 92117, San Diego
Submitted At: 9:32am 05-19-26

Hello, please vote to secure bridge funding for HDS. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. When considering mental health equity and well-being in San Diego, we have to choose to care for a true continuum - from young children to the adults who care for them. Thank you for your support.

Judith Granados

Location: 92254, MECCA
Submitted At: 8:58am 05-19-26

My name is Judith Granados with HDS and Children First Collective. I am currently a CF-SLP working in a school district. However, I completed my training under the supervision of a Speech pathologist at HDS. Even though I completed my practicum over a year ago, I continue to rely on the experience and lessons gained during that time. I worked with some of the more than 52,000 children, parents, caregivers and providers the program provides services for. I currently work in a community not supported by a program like this and I have encountered so many who would benefit from it.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

Marsha Spitzer

Location: 92110, San Diego
Submitted At: 8:28am 05-19-26

I am a pediatrician who has worked at Family Health Centers of San Diego for almost 25 years and who served on the Executive Board of the local chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAPCA3) for a decade. Most of my patients reside in the Logan Heights/Barrio Logan neighborhoods. Every day in my clinic I care for young patients with developmental and behavioral concerns, many of whom have benefitted from services through HDS. The screening and support provided through HDS is as important to my patients' health as are growth charts and immunizations.

My patients cannot speak for themselves and are counting on you to make decisions that allow bridge funding for programs vital to their health and wellbeing.

I strongly encourage the Board to vote YES to utilize the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to ensure young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Lance Leininger

Location: 92064, Poway
Submitted At: 8:03am 05-19-26

As a grandparent of an autistic child, I can speak firsthand to the need early childhood development support services. Fortunately, my grandchild has been diagnosed fairly early and has had some support which has made a HUGE difference in effectively managing her condition. We've found through our own journey that it's a constant struggle to locate those services that may be available and it would be a huge loss to limit or eliminate funding for a meaningful support group that not only helps the child at such a critical age, but also helps the family and caregivers with their treatment strategies.

Please consider the continued funding for a program that is providing support for so many at such a critical juncture in their lives. There just isn't enough support programs to help all those in need. We need to expand services like this and not limit them. We whole heartedly support the continued funding of this program!

Lance Leininger

Susan Arias

Location: 92108, San Diego
Submitted At: 7:51am 05-19-26

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. HDS has been an important resource for families at MAAC by offering parenting support, education, and early intervention therapies. Children have benefited from comprehensive speech and language evaluations, occupational therapy evaluations, and family support through

parenting education focused on behavioral strategies. When referrals are made to local LEAs, the process can often be lengthy, as school districts have up to 60 calendar days to complete assessments and schedule an IEP meeting. During this waiting period, HDS is able to provide services ensuring that students do not miss out on critical early intervention supports while the LEA completes the IEP process.

Lily CosicoBerge

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 8:24pm 05-18-26

I am a clinical psychologist who has worked alongside children ages 0–5 and Head Start families in SD since the early years of First 5. I strongly support bridge funding for First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services. In our classrooms, we see children who have experienced significant stress and transition. We have children who arrive after experiencing violence and displacement. Many struggle with regulation. Some families are adjusting to a new country while carrying grief and ongoing challenges. Our teachers show up every day—and they need support too.

HDS helps close that gap—This type of coordinated wraparound care is what helps our families move forward. Our families are already waiting. As waitlists grow and funding declines, access becomes more limited. Time on a waitlist is time we cannot recover in early development. Using the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund helps ensure young children receive their share of County resources. Please fund the bridge. Thank you!

SANDRA BRILLHART

Location: 91932, Imperial Beach
Submitted At: 7:25pm 05-18-26

Funding this program will not only benefit the impacted families now , but also provides a foundation for future learning and good behavioral, mental and physical health.

Richard Richardson

Location: 91914, Chula Vista
Submitted At: 6:39pm 05-18-26

My name is Rick Richardson, President and CEO of CDA, as well as a Commissioner for the First 5 San Diego. I am writing in strong support of Agenda Item 26, the proposed bridge funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS), a lifeline for county families. HDS provides essential 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, for example, 95% of children who complete developmental treatment make improvements and 99.7% of participating families report they would recommend HDS to others. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Nearly 9,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until the transition to the new integrated prevention and early intervention services model.

Anna Guzman

Location: 92116, San Diego
Submitted At: 5:52pm 05-18-26

You can submit I something like this

My name is Anna, and I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children and development of these children. Thank you for your consideration.

Lily Valmidiano

Location: 91911, CHULA VISTA
Submitted At: 5:48pm 05-18-26

My name is Lily Valmidiano, and I am a resident of District 1. I strongly support the proposed \$4.3 million bridge funding allocation to sustain Healthy Development Services through First 5 San Diego. As someone that has worked in the HDS system of care for over 20 years, I cannot stress what a profound impact it has made in my life. It has shaped me as a person, how I raised my children, and in my roles as a wife and daughter. The

principles of HDS and the concepts shared with families during services provide a foundation for life-long, strong, and positive relationships. Further, HDS has a proven return on investment, saving other systems of care (e.g., education, health care, child welfare, juvenile justice, etc.) millions of dollars annually. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge the current funding gap is a wise investment in San Diego and its future.

Rosie R

Location:

Submitted At: 5:48pm 05-18-26

Per this item, "Every year, thousands of San Diego children under five show early signs of developmental or behavioral delays". AND "about one in four children in California from birth to five years of age are at risk". Why are so many babies and young children at risk of these delays? Consider the childhood immunization schedule + the maternity vaccine recommendations + the poison injected into newborns on their date of birth. How many adults are willing to take these shots - most have nothing to do with childhood illnesses. Of course many issues occurring in healthy babies and children can be directly related to vaccines mandated by the government.

Note the words and terms used in this item. The prenatal stage through age five. Children ages 0 to 5.

Let me define "prenatal" for you: Before birth, during or relating to pregnancy. Why are these prenatal humans important and must be saved but other prenatal humans can be barbarically murdered by abortion? The reason: \$4,300,000

Andrea Durazo

Location: 92020, El Cajon

Submitted At: 5:30pm 05-18-26

You can submit I something like this

My name is Andrea Durazo and I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children. Thank you for your consideration.

Monica Bragg

Location: 92067, Rancho Santa Fe

Submitted At: 5:23pm 05-18-26

Dear Members of the Board,

My family lives in District 2 in Rancho Santa Fe, and as a parent whose child receives services through Healthy Development Services (HDS), I strongly support continued funding for this essential program.

As foster parents, navigating support systems and meeting our child's emotional and developmental needs has been both rewarding and challenging. The guidance and care we have received through HDS have made a meaningful difference in our family's life and helped us feel informed, supported, and empowered to care for our child.

The HDS staff have been compassionate, knowledgeable, and incredibly supportive throughout our time.

Programs like HDS are critical for families who face complex challenges.

I respectfully urge the Board to support this 4.3 million in bridge funding to ensure these services are not interrupted while other funding sources are identified.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of families like ours.

Sincerely,

Monica Bragg

Danyelle Fonseca

Location: 92104, San Diego

Submitted At: 5:20pm 05-18-26

You can submit I something like this

My name is Danyelle, and I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shauna Womack

Location: 92102, San diego
Submitted At: 5:08pm 05-18-26

I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children. Thank you for your consideration.

Reginald Womack

Location: 92102, San Diego
Submitted At: 4:56pm 05-18-26

Hello Board,

Please take a outside looking in view when voting on this. Hopefully you will see you how valuable this BRIDGE funding is.

I would like to read how the SDCBS came together?

And supported organizations deep in the fabric of San Diego communities.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Reginald J Womack 35+ yr Resident and Veteran.

Magdalena Ramirez

Location: 92105-5435, San Diego
Submitted At: 4:42pm 05-18-26

My name is Magdalena, and I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Mares

Location: 92115, San Diego
Submitted At: 4:38pm 05-18-26

My name is Jennifer Mares, and I am a resident of San Diego County. I am writing in support of healthy development services bridge funding for the year 2026 2027. The services are critical to our counties' youngest children. Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Flowers

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 4:20pm 05-18-26

My name is Kim Flowers, and I'm a licensed mental health therapist with 35+ years of experience in infant and early childhood mental health. I currently serve children and caregivers in Head Start programs in San Diego County. In 20 years, Healthy Development Services has served more than 370,000 children and families, w/95% of children improving developmentally and 99% of families gaining confidence in parenting. These outcomes reflect stronger relationships, healthier development, and better long-term trajectories. When children wait months for support, development does not pause—challenges intensify, stress increases, and families reach preventable crisis levels. HDS provides early, relationship-based care that changes outcomes when it matters most. Cutting or interrupting services does not save money—it shifts cost to more intensive systems later. Please support the \$4.3 million in bridge funding to ensure continuity of care for 10,000+ children who rely on HDS. Thank you!

Cheri Hausman

Location: 92113, San Diego
Submitted At: 3:22pm 05-18-26

My name is Cheri Hausman. I am have been an audiologist with Family Health Centers for over fifteen years. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services (HDS) with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. HDS stands out by not only identifying developmental and behavioral needs early but also offering treatment and coordinated care, which many programs lack. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Marisely Ramos

Location: 92029, Escondido
Submitted At: 12:07pm 05-18-26

Hello, I live in district 5. The HDS program has been very important for me and my child, as it has helped her improve her speech significantly and allowed her opportunities to engage with peers. I have also learned how to help her at home. Without this program, she would be entering kindergarten without any preparation, without exposure to a classroom routine, and with a bigger speech delay. Please protect funding for this program.

Alejandra Mendoza

Location: 92062, Pauma valley
Submitted At: 11:53am 05-18-26

My name is Alejandra Mendoza and we live in district 2. I am very happy with the help my twins and I are receiving from Palomar Health, Healthy Development Services. The program helped me so much thanks to the guidance and support I received from behavior and mental health specialist as well as from development specialist for baby steps and infant massage. I am so grateful for they have done! I ask you to please support the 4.3 million in bridge funding to ensure that these services are not interrupted while other funding sources are identified.

Jason VanDyke

Location: 92103, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:45am 05-18-26

My name is Jason Van Dyke, and I serve as VP of Specialty Services at Family Health Centers of San Diego. I respectfully urge the County Board of Supervisors to support the proposed \$4.3 million in bridge funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS). This funding is critical to maintaining continuity of care for thousands of children and families across San Diego County.

Without this bridge funding, a significant portion of these services would be reduced, directly impacting access for vulnerable families.

A reduction in HDS would not only disrupt individual care plans but also increase downstream strain on primary care, behavioral health, education systems, and specialty services. On behalf of the providers and families we serve, I strongly encourage your support of this funding request to protect access, sustain early intervention services, and uphold our shared commitment to children's health and development.

Larissa Bacon

Location: 91910, Chula Vista
Submitted At: 11:34am 05-18-26

On behalf of SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services), I want to thank the First 5 Commission for their on-going commitment and support of the HDS Program. For nearly twenty years we have provided thousands of children, throughout the County of San Diego, with the services necessary to achieve important milestones in their growth and development. Together, we have improved the lives of our community's youngest children, and prepared them to reach their fullest potential. We are in support of Chair Lawson-Remer's recommendation for bridge funding, and ask that you vote in favor of Supporting San Diego's Children and Families, and the continuation of the HDS program for FY26-27.

Diana Guerrero

Location: 92029, Escondido
Submitted At: 11:28am 05-18-26

Hello, my name is Diana Guerrero with Healthy Development Services and Children First Collective. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. The two-generational approach of HDS is equally as important to its impact and success. By including parent coaching alongside treatment, HDS is not only equipping a young child with what they need to be successful, but their caregivers as well. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services

Kayla Stone

Location:

Submitted At: 9:45am 05-18-26

Hello I am a therapist working with Healthy Development Services and I greatly encourage that bridge funding is provided as this program is a keystone in the community. There are not enough programs for children aged 0 to 5 and their caregivers, so families can't afford this program getting impacted. Families benefit from getting connected with community resources through our case management, learning about developmental milestones, developing co-regulation skills, and strengthening parent-child relationships. We support families in feeling seen, heard, and validated as they build skills to support them long-term.

Tania Pena

Location: 92026, Escondido

Submitted At: 9:08am 05-18-26

Hello my family lives in Escondido in district 2. As a parent whose children have received services through HDS North Inland, I want to express my strong support for continuing and protecting funding for this essential program. These services have made a meaningful difference in our family's life, especially in supporting my child's occupational therapy needs and social growth. Through the guidance and care we've received, we've felt empowered and better equipped to support my child's unique needs. Additionally, the support I have received one on one as a parent has been extremely helpful in providing resources for everyday life. I respectfully urge the Board to prioritize funding for First 5 San Diego and the HDS program.

Leticia Lopez

Location: 92027, Escondido

Submitted At: 8:56am 05-18-26

District 5 HDS north inland support. This program has helped both of my children; they have supported my children's development. they found areas of concerns, and they helped my children meet their milestones. The family centered care they provided is incomparable.

Wendy Pavlovich

Location: 92122, San Diego

Submitted At: 9:32pm 05-17-26

As a pediatrician working in San Diego for more than ten years, I have seen the difference that HDS makes in the lives of children and their parents and cannot imagine practicing pediatrics without this program.

This program provides developmental screening and behavioral support for children through promotion of healthy development, parenting skills, and therapeutic services for mild and moderate delay in a culturally responsive, evidence based, equitable manner. This program enables me to practice in alignment with the science of early childhood and with best practices identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We must continue to support what is working for children and families and invest in these critical early years.

I ask you to support this 4.3 million in bridge funding to ensure that these services are not interrupted while other funding sources are identified.

Thank you for your past support of HDS and the infants and children of San Diego.

Paula Dominguez

Location: 92065, RAMONA

Submitted At: 8:32pm 05-17-26

My name is Paula Dominguez with HDS North Inland and Children First Collective. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

I received free services for my 2 year old son. Both my advocate and speech therapist helped my family so much. My son loved going and learned so much. I also received resources from my advocate. She was very helpful and always there to listen to my concerns. This program is much needed. I know that a lot of families rely on this program, just like me.

HDS' values are centered around: Interdisciplinary delivery of high-quality, family-centered, and strengths-based

services, where treatment promotes parent's skill-building, works with community partners, and takes a whole-child approach.

Erin W

Location: 92065

Submitted At: 7:53pm 05-17-26

This program has helped my family gain knowledge and find resources to help our son. This program needs to stay around to allow other families to help their child early on in development. Taking away programs that help our children is not beneficial. North island HDS has helped us with occupational therapy for our son.

Caroline Loretan

Location: 92029, Escondido

Submitted At: 2:37pm 05-17-26

My name is Caroline Loretan, and for over 10 years I have served as a licensed mental health clinician and behavior specialist with Palomar Health, Healthy Development Services (District 2). I respectfully ask the County Board of Supervisors to support HDS with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. More than 10,000 children and families rely on these essential developmental and behavioral health services. This funding will ensure continuity of care while contracts catch up and additional revenue sources are identified. HDS has consistently provided critical support to children and families who might otherwise struggle to access these services. Through compassionate collaboration, culturally sensitive care, and a strong commitment to whole-family wellness, HDS continues to make a meaningful and lasting difference in our community.

Hannah Delgado

Location:

Submitted At: 3:45pm 05-15-26

I am writing to strongly urge the County Board of Supervisors to support Healthy Development Services with this bridge of funding to continue with providing that lifeline & support for so many children & their families. Through Healthy Development Services, children & their families have been able to build connection & strengthen their familial ties while also building the foundation for their development.

Sarai Avila

Location:

Submitted At: 3:11pm 05-15-26

Hello, my name is Sarai Avila and I am a Patient Service Representative for Healthy Development Services. I believe the services that are being provided to families are important due to the long-lasting results of improvement. 95% of children that complete HDS developmental treatments make improvements. Development and behavioral services create a greater impact than what is first seen during these sessions. Parents get educated on concepts that will help and prepare kids grow by sustaining teachings outside of these sessions and into their daily lives. There are children that receive services as babies, and we watch them grow through these services firsthand. Parents will talk to us about the progress that they make excitedly and express the gratitude and great quality of care that they experience. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services for positive results.

Justine Sitterly

Location: 92064, Poway

Submitted At: 2:35pm 05-15-26

My family lives in district 2 and my daughter recieved speech therapy through HDS North Inland. Receiving care through HDS allowed my daughter to develop lifelong communication skills that enabled her to thrive in TK this year. When I began looking for speech therapists, I was met with disappointment. Private practices would not accept my insurance & had a very long waiting lists. Then, I found First 5 San Diego and was introduced to HDS. I am forever thankful that HDS was able to support my daughter's goals by getting her in right away to conduct an assessment, weekly therapy sessions and parental coaching which helped me learn how to teach her speech strategies at home. I want to express my strong support in protecting this program. Please consider families like mine, who greatly benefitted from these services. I respectfully urge the Board to prioritize funding for First 5 San Diego and the HDS program by utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge the funding gap.

Alejandra Ramos

Location: 92070, Santa Ysabel
Submitted At: 11:46am 05-15-26

As a first time parent, it can be very overwhelming and challenging to adjust to the needs of another while yours have not been met.

I live in District 2 Santa Ysabel, CA. Despite my 1 hour commute, I choose to participate in Palomar Health, Healthy Development Services, because I believe the program has greatly benefited my family.

All first time parents should take advantage of the opportunities provided by HDS. Any attempts to defund any of the program's elements will be a catastrophic domino effect. There are far too many children in school who are currently struggling with speech, reading, writing as well as social emotional development.

I ask the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and the bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to children and families.

Ana Hernandez

Location: 92102, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:21am 05-15-26

I am a licensed professional clinical counselor who has been providing behavioral support services to families through the HDS program since 2024, and I believe it's crucial to continue to fund this program as it truly makes an impact on families and the whole community. Providing early intervention services for children in the ages 0-5 is very important to support our society and children to meet milestones and have a healthy and meaningful childhood alongside their caregivers and families

Arantxa Albert

Location: 92101, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:10am 05-15-26

Hello my name is Arantxa Albert, and I am a Coordinator for Patient Service Representative within Healthy Development Services. I strongly support HDS receiving the \$4.3 million in bridge funding to ensure these critical services continues without interruption for children and families throughout San Diego. Families rely on HDS for developmental screenings, early intervention resources, care coordination, and support that are essential to a child's long-term health and success. Every day, we work closely with families who depend on these services to access the care and information they need during some of the most important stages of their child's development. I see firsthand the positive impact these services have on our community and how important continued access to care is for families. This funding is vital to prevent disruptions in services and ensure children continue receiving the support they need to thrive.

Mayra Lopez

Location: 92029, Escondido
Submitted At: 10:18am 05-15-26

Hello my name is Mayra Lopez referral coordinator for HDS North Inland
Continued funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS) is critical for the health and well-being of San Diego children and families. HDS provides life-changing early intervention, treatment, and family support services that help children succeed and prevent bigger challenges later. Without continued funding, many families could lose access to essential care during the most important years of a child's development. Supporting HDS means investing in healthier children, stronger families, and a stronger community. These services are not luxuries; they are necessities for a healthy childhood development and community wellbeing.

Fabianna Lopez

Location: 92139
Submitted At: 10:04am 05-15-26

My name is Fabianna Lopez, and I strongly support the proposed \$4.3 million bridge funding allocation to sustain

Healthy Development Services through First 5 San Diego. As a Developmental Specialist, I have the pleasure of referring patients in need of services to HDS. I am very proud to be able to have their services at hand for the population I work with. With HDS we are able to assist with development screenings, behavioral, social-emotional, speech and physical therapies. HDS has is an asset to the families we serve! Thank you for supporting San Diego children and families!

Jose Vizcaino

Location: 92113, San Diego
Submitted At: 9:53am 05-15-26

My name is Jose Vizcaino, and I am a Patient Service Representative, Coordinator for the Pediatric Services Department within Family Health Centers of San Diego. Our department works very closely with the Healthy Developmental Services Department, and I have seen first hand the importance of having these services available for our children within the San Diego Community. I ask that the Board of Supervisors support HDS with the \$4.3 million in bridge funding, the services that HDS offers is critical in providing support, not only to our children, but to our parents. The first five years of a child's life is critical to their development, and HDS is a big support in providing our community members with an ease to access of care, and in providing services for our community members who may not be as fortunate as others and often find themselves in difficult financial situations. The benefits to funding HDS are numerous, and I kindly ask for your support.
Thank you.

Laura Ruiz

Location: 92081, Vista
Submitted At: 9:35am 05-15-26

My name is Laura Ruiz, and I work as the HDS Services Coordinator. I've noticed the high level of satisfaction among the families who receive free developmental and behavioral counseling services for their children. Our families appreciate, first and foremost, that there is no cost for our services, especially for families who would otherwise have to consider co-payments of \$50-\$150 per week for speech or occupational therapy. This is also true for families whose children have multiple needs, making it impossible to cover all the services simultaneously, and sometimes preventing them from qualifying for services at agencies like the San Diego Regional Center or the School District. The benefits are numerous, but we especially help our families support their children's success in school.
Thank you.

Ivonne Sotelo

Location: 92084, vista
Submitted At: 9:10am 05-15-26

My name is Ivonne Sotelo, and I am with Healthy Development Services (HDS) /Palomar Health and Development Services and Children First Collective. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support HDS with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. HDS program serves as a critical safety net for infants, toddlers, and young children across the county, ensuring that developmental, behavioral, and therapeutic needs are identified and supported as early as possible. HDS provides timely access to intervention services, parent support and specialized therapies- services that many children would otherwise with up to six months to receive. Please support the \$\$2 million in bridging funding to ensure HDS can continue protecting the developmental wellbeing of our county's children. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to children and families.

Magaly Colin

Location: 92028, Fallbrook
Submitted At: 5:27pm 05-14-26

I collaborate with Healthy Development Services/Palomar Health and Children First Collective. For the last 20 years, First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. In that time, HDS has served over 370,000 San Diego children, as well as their families and caregivers.

95% of children that complete HDS developmental treatment make improvements.
95% of families report that HDS services improved their relationship with their child.
99% of families report that Healthy Development Services improved their confidence in parenting.

Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Khawla Suleiman

Location: 92102, San Diego
Submitted At: 5:15pm 05-14-26

My name is Khawla Suleiman. I am a pediatrician at Family Health Centers of San Diego. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Thousands of kids rely on these services. Bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental services, treatment, and parent coaching with a life impact on children with a whole child- approach. By including parent coaching alongside treatment, HDS is not only equipping a young child with what they need to be successful, but their caregivers. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Karla Hajar

Location: 91911, Chula Vista
Submitted At: 5:12pm 05-14-26

I work at an agency that collaborates with Health Development Services and Children First Collective.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

HDS not only offers free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, but is able to support children and families with treatment and a coordinated care plan. I work mainly with children with ASD and I find myself referring the siblings of my clients to HDS as often families can't access services elsewhere or they have been in waiting list for close to a year.

"Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services."

Berenice Salas

Location: 91911, Chula Vista
Submitted At: 4:54pm 05-14-26

I'm with Healthy Development Services (HDS) /Palomar Health and Children First Collective.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support HDS with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

HDS services are crucial in identifying, treating & supporting young children and families during the most critical and vital years of a child's growth. HDS services changes the child's trajectory that in the long run can result in overall success and improved quality of life, thus, reducing the need for future services. HDS serves the children that fall between the cracks in our system, there's not much resources in our community with the capacity that HDS has for mild-moderate needs. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Sonia Menendez

Location:
Submitted At: 4:34pm 05-14-26

My name is Sonia Menendez, and in my work at Family Health Center of San Diego as a Developmental Specialist, I have personally seen the impact these services have on children and families in our community. Families who once felt overwhelmed, stressed, and unsure about where to turn are able to find support, guidance and hope through HDS. The help they receive not only supports a child's development, but also gives parents

confidence and reassurance that they are not alone.

Early intervention services truly make a difference. I have seen children grow, families feel empowered and parents gain the tools and support they need to better understand and support their children.

I respectfully ask the County Board of Supervisors to approve the \$4.3 million in Bridge funding to support Healthy Development Services, so families can continue receiving the care and support they depend on.

Susan Hedges

Location: 91977, Spring Valley
Submitted At: 4:13pm 05-14-26

Hello- I am the evaluation specialist for HDS in North Inland and I strongly support the HDS program. As the evaluation specialist for HDS since the program's inception, I have analyzed their data and written reports that show the positive and meaningful outcomes this program consistently provides. Families need a safety net for young children and their developmental and behavioral health and HDS is that net. The earlier developmental/behavioral delays are discovered and treatment is provided, the more likely the child has a chance for a successful future. The financial investment in young children 0-5 pays off in fewer and less costly resources needed as the child matures. Low income families will be especially hit hard by the decrease in HDS services and these families are already vulnerable and struggling. Please support additional funding for HDS to maintain its current service levels while the organization looks to secure additional sustainable funding. Thank you.

Enriqueta Villegas

Location: 92113, San Diego
Submitted At: 3:34pm 05-14-26

My name is Enriqueta Villegas with Family Health Center of San Diego. I kindly urge the County Board of Supervisors to support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids and their families rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children and their families are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. For the last 20 years, First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. Please make sure we give children and families the opportunity to thrive. Thank you!

Julian Nguyen

Location: 92101, San Diego
Submitted At: 3:22pm 05-14-26

My name is Julian Nguyen with Family Health Center of San Diego. As someone who works on the data side, I see the large number families that recognize the importance of this program provided by HDS. When I see the same child(ren) consistently show up for their appointments in the different types of services provided, it shows just how much support HDS provides to these families. A child's growth is very important especially in their early years and the families need all the support and resources available for their child(ren). Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. Thank you for your continued support.

Manuel Angeles

Location: 92101
Submitted At: 3:15pm 05-14-26

Hi, my name is Manuel Angeles and I work at Family Health Centers of San Diego.

I strongly support continuing to assist families in San Diego. Families have improved child developmental concerns, parent-child relationships, and self-efficacy in parenting.

Here are examples of client feedback:

- "I am so grateful. Initially I was so hesitant to bring him, but he is doing so much better. I am so happy. We both really enjoy it. Thank you for everything you've done. I recommend these services to everyone I met. You are all amazing."
- "This class helped my confidence as a mother and really helped my mental health..."

Please help to ensure families have the resources and support needed during these vital years in their children's

lives by voting to provide bridge funds.

Thanks.

Andrea Moriel

Location:

Submitted At: 3:02pm 05-14-26

My name is Andrea Moriel with Family Health Center of San Diego. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. As a developmental specialist, I see the significant impact that this program has on families. I recognize the importance of early detection of children's developmental and behavioral needs, not only to support the children themselves, but also to guide and support families. This fund will help us continue providing support to families and addressing their needs as a collaborative team.

Isabel Valdovinos

Location:

Submitted At: 2:41pm 05-14-26

My name is Isabel Valdovinos with Family Health Centers pediatric developmental services. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services (HDS) with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. HDS stands out by not only identifying developmental and behavioral needs early but also offering treatment and coordinated care, which many programs lack. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Velkis Vallejo

Location:

Submitted At: 2:41pm 05-14-26

I respectfully urge the County Board of Supervisors to approve \$4.3 million in bridge funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS). This critical investment will sustain essential services for more than 10,000 children, ensuring continuity of care while contracts are updated and additional revenue sources are secured. For over two decades, First 5 San Diego's HDS program has been a cornerstone of early childhood support, providing no-cost, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. These services enhance communication, behavioral, social-emotional, and academic outcomes, while also strengthening caregiver-child relationships and connecting families to ongoing supports as needed. Without sustained funding, many children's developmental needs may go unrecognized and severe to address.

Cassandra Delfino

Location: 91911, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 2:30pm 05-14-26

My name is Cassandra Delfino with Family Health Centers of San Diego and Children First Collective. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. Healthy Development Services' values are centered around: Interdisciplinary delivery of high-quality, family-centered, and strengths-based services, where treatment promotes parent's skill-building, mastery and transformation, that's nurturing to providers, works with community partners, and takes a whole-child approach. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Karla Garcia

Location:

Submitted At: 2:19pm 05-14-26

My name is Karla Garcia with Family Health Centers, and I respectfully ask that the County Board of supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. As a developmental specialist, I feel confident every time I refer a child to any of the developmental, behavioral, or specialties services that HDS offers. From children having the necessary support to achieve developmental

milestones, to parents learning how to better support their child at home, I have witnessed countless families make great progress thanks to HDS services.

Thank you for supporting the children and families of San Diego

Nadia Marquez

Location: 92021, EL Cajon

Submitted At: 1:56pm 05-14-26

My name is Nadia Marquez with Family Health Centers of San Diego. As a Developmental Specialist I see how Healthy development services are not optional — they are foundational. When funding interrupt care for children and families, the consequences can last a lifetime. Bridge funding ensures continuity, stability, and equitable access during the moments that matter most. By investing in these services today, San Diego is investing in healthier children, stronger families, and a more resilient community for the future.

Karen Alvarado

Location: 92082, Valley Center

Submitted At: 1:38pm 05-14-26

My name is Karen Alvarado, representing Healthy Development Services and Children First Collective. I respectfully urge the County Board of Supervisors to support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding.

The need for these services remains significant and ongoing. As a therapist and provider of behavioral services, I have personally witnessed the positive impact these programs have on children and their families. Early intervention and continued support not only strengthen family well-being, but also contribute to healthier, safer, and more resilient communities overall.

Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to address this funding gap would help ensure that young children continue to receive their fair share of County resources and support.

Thank you for your continued commitment to prioritizing the well-being of San Diego children and families.

Rachel Fayak

Location: 92027, Escondido

Submitted At: 1:14pm 05-14-26

Healthy Development Services provided speech therapy for my daughter for 8 weeks. They got her started and evaluated incredibly quickly while we waited for a more long term opportunity for her. They all provided such loving, quality of care! The opportunities they shared with me to support my daughter was so helpful. They even offered to help enroll her in those programs if I needed the help. I am so grateful to HDS, Ms. Heidi and Ms. Leticia for their assistance!

Karina Iribe

Location: 91910, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:40pm 05-14-26

My name is Karina Iribe with Family Health Centers of San Diego. I am writing to highlight the vital role Healthy Development Services (HDS) programs play in supporting children from birth to age 5. By focusing on early learning and development, health, and family well-being, HDS operates as an invaluable resource in our community.

The impact of these services is profound, offering significant health, social, and economic benefits to children, their families, and society at large. By ensuring that a child's developmental needs are met during these critical early years.

I believe in the continued necessity of these programs to support the holistic growth of our youngest citizens.

Nora Hernandez

Location: San Diego

Submitted At: 12:24pm 05-14-26

My name is Nora Hernandez with Family Health Centers of San Diego and Children First Collective

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge

funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

For the last 20 years, First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. As a father myself to a now six-year-old girl, I wish I knew about these services when she was born and can't imagine other families who would need it more than mine did having this taken away due to reduced funding.

Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. Families need this.

Romelia Valdez

Location: 92116, San Diego
Submitted At: 12:24pm 05-14-26

My name is Romelia Valdez, I am a Case Manager at Healthy Development Services.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

I have seen the impact that this program has in our families and children, supporting them in their early intervention journey and parenting skills. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Johanna Schnell

Location: 92109, San Diego
Submitted At: 12:12pm 05-14-26

My name is Johanna Schnell with Children First Collective.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

As a former daycare provider, I've seen firsthand how early support can change a child's life. When developmental or behavioral concerns are identified early, children are more likely to succeed socially, emotionally, and academically. I've also seen the stress families face when they encounter long waitlists or lack access to treatment.

Healthy Development Services provides not only screenings, but treatment, parent coaching, and coordinated care that strengthens the whole family. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. Thank you.

CHELSEY Grimes

Location: 92104, San Diego
Submitted At: 12:11pm 05-14-26

I strongly support the proposed \$4.3 million bridge funding allocation to sustain Healthy Development Services through First 5 San Diego.

As a speech-language pathologist providing HDS services, I see firsthand how critical this program is for young children and families. HDS provides early developmental screening, parent coaching, and intervention for children whose speech, language, and developmental needs may otherwise go unidentified. These services improve communication, behavioral, social-emotional, and academic outcomes while strengthening caregiver-child relationships and helping families access ongoing supports when needed. Without continued funding, more children's needs will go unidentified until delays become more significant and difficult to address. Thank you for supporting San Diego children and families.

Viridiana Herrera

Location:
Submitted At: 11:44am 05-14-26

My name is Viridiana Herrera with Family Health Centers of San Diego and Children First Collective. I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. There are many services across our region which fill the critical role of early detection and screening for mental and behavioral health needs, however few are able to meet those same needs with treatment. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Claudia Gastelum

Location: 92021, El Cajon
Submitted At: 11:30am 05-14-26

My name is Claudia Gastelum with Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Children First Collective. I respectfully ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. More than 10,000 kids (and their caregivers) rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified. For the last 20 years, First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. These services continue to be needed. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. Thank you for prioritizing the needs of San Diego children!

Maidel Torres

Location: 92025, Escondido
Submitted At: 10:37am 05-14-26

My name is Maidel Torres, and I am a San Diego resident. I urge the Board of Supervisors to approve \$4.3 million in bridge funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS). This funding ensures thousands of local families do not lose access to vital early childhood screenings and treatment plans. Early intervention is non-negotiable, and we cannot let our youngest neighbors suffer during administrative transitions. Please vote YES to protect this lifeline.

Mavy Soto

Location: 92084, Escondido
Submitted At: 8:12am 05-14-26

My name is Mavy Soto with Healthy Development Services and Children's First Collective.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

HDS not only offers free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, but is able to support children and families with treatment and a coordinated care plan. A child that was having issues with regulating his emotion found the needed treatment and as mom was feeling overwhelmed with handling the child's behavior found the needed support in advocating for her child through a coordinated care plan. Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services.

Paul Henkin

Location: 91902, Bonita
Submitted At: 5:53pm 05-13-26

You are proposing to use \$4.3 million of the Tobacco Securitization Special Revenue (TS Rev) for the Healthy Development Services (HDS) program within First 5 Commission group of programs to fill an anticipated budget gap. Yet the First 5's

2025-30 strategic plan suggests that it only needs about \$ 2 million to keep funding at the 2025 level.

The First 5's fiscal plan centers on a \$4 million annual partnership with the County's Child and Family Well-Being which, as Andrea Ebbing and Evelyn Lopez are seeing is still pushing ahead with failed policy and dividing families without a legitimate reason.

TS Rev is about \$15 or \$16 mil, so we are talking about using nearly 1/3 of it. This would leave \$10 or \$11 mil which should be enough for emergencies.

So is it worth it? I think that it is worth at least half of the money. First 5 does claim an 80 to 90% success rate, which is outstanding, but may not need the full \$4.8 million proposed.

Flavia Gastelum

Location: 92113, San Diego
Submitted At: 2:25pm 05-13-26

My name is Flavia Gastelum. I work for Family Health Centers of San Diego. HDS has been a source of support for many families who otherwise would not have access to developmental services. Parents are able to access parenting support from well trained and knowledgeable staff at no cost to them. I have been involved in the field of child development for a while and as a provider, I recall wishing that parents could have additional support withing the first year of the child's life. As HDS developed, it completely filled the niche that had been missing for many years. On behalf of the many families who benefit from HDS services, I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

Heidi Leininger

Location: 92069, San Marcos
Submitted At: 11:55am 05-13-26

My name is Heidi Leininger with HDS North Inland and Children First Collective. To invest in HDS is to invest in families who would otherwise go without necessary care. It is investing in our future generations. It is investing not only in children, but their whole families. Majority of my speech caseload at HDS is serving families who cannot get speech therapy other places due to long waitlists, delays in assessment, lack of insurance, high co-pays, insurance denial for evaluation or treatment, etc. HDS fills this gap. Investing in early intervention through HDS is an investment in the long-term success and well-being of these children, their families, and, ultimately, our community. For this reason, I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

Michael Thorn

Location:
Submitted At: 10:26am 05-13-26

My name is Michael Thorn with Family Health Centers of San Diego and Children First Collective.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Healthy Development Services with \$4.3 million in bridge funding. Over 10,000 kids rely on these services, and bridge funding will keep this program whole until contracts can catch up and additional revenue is identified.

For the last 20 years, First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS) has been a lifeline for families, offering free, high-quality developmental and behavioral screenings, treatment, and parent coaching. As a father myself to a now six-year-old girl, I wish I knew about these services when she was born and can't imagine other families who would need it more than mine did having this taken away due to reduced funding.

Utilizing the Tobacco Special Revenue Fund to bridge this funding gap helps ensure that young children are getting their fair share of County revenue and services. Families need this.