

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 14**

**SUBJECT: APPROVE AND RATIFY THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND THREE-YEAR FUNDING PROPOSAL (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken a strong leadership role in supporting efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. The efforts focus on strengthening families by identifying and addressing the needs of children and youth who are in the public charge as well as those whose safety and welfare may be at risk. On March 26, 2019 (11), the Board adopted Ordinance No. 10598 (N.S.) repealing and replacing provisions in the San Diego County Administrative Code to establish the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County (Advisory Board).

The Advisory Board is charged with recommending funding proposals for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families. The CTF consists of funding from birth certificate receipts, license plate fees, child maltreatment court restitution fines, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention funds and grants, and gifts or bequests from private sources. California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18966 directs the CTF to be used for child maltreatment prevention and intervention programs operated by private nonprofit organizations or public institutions of higher education with recognized expertise in fields related to child welfare.

On June 23, 2020 (6) the Board approved the CTF Funding Proposal for Fiscal Year 2019-20. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County (Advisory Board) CTF Funding Proposal process and delayed the development of a three-year funding proposal. However, the delay did not disrupt the service delivery of existing priorities funded by the CTF since the services are provided through current contracts with the exception of activities in support of carrying out the Advisory Board's duties and responsibilities. To ensure a plan for utilizing the CTF funding was created without further delay, an ad-hoc subcommittee of the Advisory Board was formed and tasked to develop recommendations for the CTF Three-Year Funding Proposal.

Today's action requests the Board to approve and ratify the Children's Trust Fund Three-Year Funding Proposal (CTF Funding Proposal) for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2022-23 and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to approve expenditures in accordance with the CTF Funding Proposal.

This item supports the County of San Diego'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 upholding sustainable practices to provide just and equitable access to prevention, intervention, and family strengthening services and opportunities for participation to ensure all children, families, and communities in the region flourish and thrive.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve and ratify the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County Children's Trust Fund Three-Year Funding Proposal for Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2022-23.
2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to approve expenditures in accordance with the Funding Proposal approved in Recommendation 1.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 CWS received 36,042 reports of abuse and neglect to the Child Abuse Hotline, representing 62,600 children. FY 2020-21 saw an 18% decrease in reports compared to FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 saw a 12% decrease in reports compared to FY 2018-19. The population distribution by ethnicity of children for referrals in FY 2020-21 includes 45% Hispanic, 26% White, 10% Black, 4% Asian, 1% Native American, and 11% Other. In the last five years, as a result of sweeping statutory changes focused on keeping children safely with their families and preventing child maltreatment, the County of San Diego (County), Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (CWS) experienced a 39% reduction in the number of youths in foster care.

The Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County (Advisory Board) was established on March 26, 2019 (11), to enhance the ability of the County to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. The Advisory Board absorbed the duties of the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council and consists of twenty-five voting members. The Advisory Board represents a broad cross-section of community and stakeholders including individuals with lived experience, resource parents, public and private child and family-serving systems, judicial, health, and education systems, and representation from Supervisorial districts and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board).

The Advisory Board serves as a platform for cross-sector collaboration and transparent monitoring and accountability of the San Diego County child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families. Monitoring activities include, but are not limited to, the review and evaluation of San Diego County's child welfare system such as needs, trends, programs, services, facilities, activities, outcomes, and other areas including priorities, to identify gaps, support the implementation of system-wide changes, advocate on behalf of children, youth and families, and encourage active participation by child welfare system partners. Some of the duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Board include:

- Recommend improvements in services to families and victims who are in the public charge, as well as children, youth, and families whose safety and welfare may be at risk;
- Serve as the designated child abuse prevention coordinating body and local Children's Trust Fund (CTF) body as set forth in California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 18982 et seq. and 18965 et seq. regarding proposals to be funded by the CTF; and
- Recommend to the Board proposals that the Advisory Board agrees merit funding.

Regional engagement and collaboration with private and public sectors, stakeholders, and the community create buy-in and collective investment in prevention and family strengthening and fosters inclusive and sustainable communities. Input on proposed services and activities were gathered from the

community at Advisory Board and subcommittee meetings and recommended by the Advisory Board for CTF funding to align with sustainability practices to promote equity, justice, and community with focused investment in underserved communities. Proposed services and activities are also complementary to existing services and supports that will provide an additional advantage to maximize positive impact on the County's racial equity work.

Through Advisory Board's recommendations for funding proposals and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors' strong commitment to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, CWS continues to deepen prevention and family strengthening efforts and uphold sustainable practices and services contributing to fewer youth entering into the child welfare system.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-23 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$900,000 in FY 2021-22 and estimated costs and revenue of \$1,300,000 in FY 2022-23. The three-year funding proposal for FY 2020-21 through FY 2022-23 is an estimated total costs and revenue of \$3,100,000. The funding source is the AB 2994 Children's Trust Fund. 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