

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

SUBJECT: DISTRICT ATTORNEY - AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM AND DEDICATE CRIMINAL FINES TO SERVICES FOR K-12 YOUTH (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The District Attorney's Office continues to support the development of strong, sustainable partnerships with community-based organizations. Through these collaborations, the Office advances crime prevention and early intervention strategies, reduces recidivism, and promotes community wellness while maintaining public safety for all residents.

On September 23, 2014 (8), the Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized the District Attorney's Office to administer the State of California's Community Recidivism Reduction Grant program (CRRG), through the District Attorney Community Crime Reduction Grant Program, focused on reducing crime and recidivism through community-based service providers.

Then, on August 17, 2021 (5), the Board authorized creation of an interest-bearing trust fund to receive fines imposed by the court associated with the prosecution of a charter school fraud case, one of the largest education fraud cases in the nation. Defendants were ordered to pay over \$200 million, of which \$37 million in criminal fines were retained locally and deposited with the County to support community programs that benefit K-12 youth. On November 16, 2021 (1), the Board authorized continuation and expansion of the District Attorney's Community Grant Program (CGP), previously titled the Community Crime Reduction Grant Program. This expansion incorporated the newly established Charter School Fraud trust fund as a funding source and expanded the scope of the CGP for K-12 community grants supporting education, prevention, and equity to community-based organizations serving children and families across the region.

To guide the use of the court-ordered Charter School Fraud funds, a stakeholder workgroup was convened with representation from the District Attorney's Office, Behavioral Health Services (BHS), the Department of Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB), and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ) to ensure alignment with the Court's intent that funds support community serving programs that benefit K-12 youth.

Since the CGP's inception, partnerships with over 300 service providers have been established. Additionally, since the creation of the Charter School Fraud trust fund, there have been 47 grants awarded totaling \$6.4 million to community serving programs that benefit the K-12 population with consideration of opportunities for a longer-term regional strategy. The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) has proposed a seven-year, countywide plan to strengthen and expand access to mental health, safety and wellness, and equity supports for K-12 students and families through sustainable, regionally responsive approaches. The stakeholder workgroup reviewed the SDCOE proposal and has recommended its approval, finding it consistent with the Court's intent and supportive of a coordinated, regional use of the trust fund.

If approved, today's actions would authorize the District Attorney to continue administering the CGP and increase the maximum individual grant award to \$750,000 annually to organizations providing crime prevention and intervention services. Approval would also authorize the District Attorney to award a \$25 million grant to the SDCOE, and to administer the SDCOE program funding, at the direction of the District Attorney or her designee(s), by County staff over a seven-year grant period beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ending in Fiscal Year 2032-33. The allocation of grant funds to SDCOE will be disbursed in annual installments and will be contingent upon achievement of negotiated milestones and performance outcomes, with annual progress reports required to support each payment. In addition, approval would authorize execution of all required grant-related documents in the current and subsequent years, and allocation of funds to support the educational needs of K-12 youth across the region.

RECOMMENDATION(S) DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1. Authorize the District Attorney's Office to continue administering the Community Grant Program and to award up to \$5 million annually in grants to organizations providing crime prevention and intervention services that support public safety strategies, with maximum individual grant awards of up to \$750,000, based on funding availability.
2. Authorize the District Attorney, or her designee(s), to review and execute all required grants and grant related documents for the Community Grant Program in the current fiscal year and in subsequent fiscal years provided funds are budgeted in future Operational Plans including any extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereof.
3. Authorize the allocation of \$25,000,000 to the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) to implement its proposed seven-year countywide K-12 plan funded by fines imposed by the Court related to the Charter School Fraud case. The allocation will be disbursed from the Charter School Fraud trust fund in annual installments over a seven-year term, contingent upon achievement of agreed-upon milestones and performance outcomes.
4. Authorize the District Attorney, or her designee(s), to negotiate and, upon successful negotiations, execute an agreement or agreements with SDCOE to implement its proposed seven-year countywide plan to support K-12 youth.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The District Attorney's Office is committed to public safety and equitable access to information and services for all San Diego communities. Today's action reflects the desire to support partnerships that are dedicated to delivering culturally competent and trauma informed services. The District Attorney's Community Grant Program helps build the business and service capacity of local non-profit, grassroots community organizations that serve the area. Additionally, allocation of funds to the needs of K-12 youth through an equity focused lens will serve to center support for the most marginalized communities, including youth in juvenile court and community schools, unhoused youth, low-income families, and underserved rural districts.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to services and resources in support of sustainable communities and focus investment in vulnerable and chronically underserved populations. The recommendations promote economic growth through investments which support building resilience and strengthening community engagement among vulnerable populations through collaborative partnerships. The recommendations also allocate resources to support sustainable and regionally responsive structures that prioritize the most marginalized students.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recommendations 1 & 2: Continue Administration of District Attorney's Office Community Grant Program

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Years 2025-26 Operational Plan for the District Attorney's Office. If approved, this request will result in anticipated costs and revenue of \$5 million for the Community Grant Program. The funding source is Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount. Subsequent year appropriation requests will be included in future year Operational Plans for the District Attorney's Office. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Recommendations 3 & 4: Negotiate Agreement to Implement SDCOE Proposal

The grant award would allocate \$25 million to SDCOE to implement its proposed countywide, seven-year plan supporting K-12 programs and services consistent with the Court's intent. The funding source is criminal fines imposed by the Court related to the Charter School Fraud case earmarked for services in support of K-12 youth. The \$25 million allocation will be disbursed from the Charter School Fraud trust fund over a 7-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ending in Fiscal Year 2032-33, contingent upon achievement of agreed-upon milestones and performance outcomes. Each annual payment will require submission of a progress report demonstrating compliance with the negotiated terms. 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 Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent

AYES: Aguirre, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

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

