

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive



County Government Center, East Wing
Eleventh Floor – East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110

DATE: November 2, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Betty Duong, Manager, Division of Equity and Social Justice
Protima Pandey, Manager, Officer of Women’s Policy

SUBJECT: “When Young Moms Thrive” Project

On September 22, 2020 (Item No. 19), the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a referral by President Chavez directing the Administration to report back with options for consideration relating to the implementation of the pilot program, “When Young Moms Thrive,” at a potential cost of \$399,914 in Fiscal Year 20-21.

This off-agenda report will also be attached and included in the November budget discussions.

The pilot program, “When Young Moms Thrive,” will engage 110 young moms (ages 12-26) from low income and disproportionately impacted communities, particularly in East San Jose and Gilroy. Participating young moms will carry out youth lead participatory action research and advocacy projects, using their collective and personal experiences to inform policy affecting similarly situated young moms. The young moms will do so by identifying gaps in support services and barriers they have experienced when accessing social support, wrap around services, childcare, and providing recommendations to enhance service outcomes and remove such barriers.

Participating young moms will receive job training, leadership development, project management skills, instruction in research and advocacy skills, and compensation for their participation. Childcare and technical resources such as laptops and wi-fi will also be provided to ensure the success of participating young moms. Through the completion of this program, participants will be part of a young moms network trained and committed to affecting systems change for themselves and those similarly situated, having come out of the program with concrete policy proposals supported by qualitative and quantitative data. Young moms will return to their families and communities with new sets of skills, work experience, and a professional network.

In turn, County leadership, policy makers, service providers and community based organizations serving vulnerable young moms will be informed by participants’ research findings, community engagement outcomes, and experiences to improve accessibility and services that are critical to young moms, and make meaningful strides toward ending cycles of poverty and early pregnancy.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

Essentially, the pilot will allow service providers and policy makers to center services for young moms around the experiences and expertise of systems impacted young moms.

The referral's proposed funding level of \$339,914 will cover the costs of stipends for participating young moms, childcare, technical supplies, and program operations. The County would enter into agreements with the Alliance for Girls and the Young Women's Freedom Center to operate the pilot program.

In preparation for the November budget discussions, staff will engage with the potential partners agencies to explore the possibility and potential benefits of an employment relationship with participating young moms as opposed to a stipend arrangement. Staff will also conduct additional research as to whether federal funds (e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training – SNAP E&T) can be used to support some portion or all parts of the pilot. Findings made by staff will be provided as an addendum to this off agenda report.

The Administration does not have any current, unspent funds to allocate for the "When Young Moms Thrive" pilot program. Currently, Administration has yet to identify an external or internal funding source for the "When Young Moms Thrive" pilot program. Approval of the pilot program would require the use of discretionary resources and necessitate a transfer from the General Fund Contingency Reserve.

cc: Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board
Chief Board Aides
Erica Kelly, OBA Analyst
Agenda Review Coordinators