

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

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Date: May 11, 2022

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

From: Rocio Luna, Deputy County Executive

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Luna, Rocio 5/11/2022
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Subject: Off-Agenda Report Relating to Analysis of Self-Sufficiency Pilot Program in Collaboration with Community Solutions, and Funding Recommendation for Fiscal Year 22/23.

At the April 19, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting (Item No. 39), Supervisor Chavez directed Administration to partner with Community Solutions to analyze a self-sufficiency pilot program proposal for survivors of human trafficking and report to the Board during the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget process with funding recommendations. This report responds to this request.

Existing Support for Self-Sufficiency

The Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Division of Equity and Social Justice, provides subject matter expertise on trends and strategies to address the needs of gender-based violence survivors, including human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. The County's investment in FY 21/22 to address gender-based violence included \$12,617,622 in contracted services with community-based organizations of which \$2,347,850 was to support survivors of human trafficking. In FY21, there were 345 human trafficking survivors served in Santa Clara County. This included 202 unduplicated adult survivors, 102 at risk- and 41 confirmed- commercially sexually exploited (CSE) children and transitional-aged youth.

In FY22 the Division of Equity and Social Justice administered 17 contracts that provide direct services to gender-based violence survivors. Approximately, \$8,000,000 of these contracts provide and address self-sufficiency supports broadly. As we approach the close of FY22, over one million dollars is expected to be underspent by vendors for gender-based violence services and will be rolled over to meet FY23 service needs.

In FY22 there has also been an expansion of services including a pilot to address the Human Trafficking Commission's recommendation around survivors' self-sufficiency. At its March 22, 2022 meeting, the Board approved a one-year pilot with a contract amount of \$676,384 with the Young Women's Freedom Center to serve 40 at-risk, suspected, and confirmed survivors of human trafficking between the ages of 14 – 24 years old.

Community Solutions Pilot Proposals

Community Solutions (CS) submitted an original proposal, *Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot*, for a three-year pilot to identify 150 survivors of gender-based violence to receive support services moving their status from crisis/vulnerability to sustainability, according to their adapted Self-Sufficiency Matrix. 100 of the participants would enroll in a curriculum program, 70 could complete the curriculum, and 50 would remain in follow-up care and management services for one year. CS would implement cohorts in Spanish and English, and provide them with stipends, incentives for participation, and additional client assistance through the third year toward stabilization. The cost of this three-year *Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot* proposal is \$1,200,000.

After discussion with the Office of Gender-Based Violence, CS revised and submitted a two-year *Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot*. Year One would allow CS to develop the curriculum and create relationships with workforce agencies for survivor internship, volunteer, and apprenticeship opportunities while identifying 50 - 60 potential candidates for enrollment in Year Two. In Year Two, CS predicts that two cohorts (English, Spanish) of 70 survivors would be trained and participate in group meetings; and 40 will complete the program. Pilot participants will have access to financial assistance, incentives, and stipends. The modified proposal is a two-year pilot at a cost of \$778,500 with \$273,192 in Year One, and \$505,308 in Year Two.

Both versions of the *Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot* proposals would serve adult survivors of all gender-based violence, not exclusively Human Trafficking survivors. Both versions include a Year One to mainly fund CS salaries and a subcontract to Futures Without Violence for curriculum support and trainers.

Recommendations and Funding Options

Administration recommends the following options to addressing the need for additional self-sufficiency supports for survivors of gender-based violence:

1. Fund pilots as defined by County Board Policy on Procurement Processes (Board Policy 5.6.5.1.D.1.m) with set terms of a one-year duration and a maximum financial obligation of \$50,000.

Options for a pilot to test additional needs for self-sufficiency in adult survivors may include:

- a. A one-year, small-scale pilot of 10-15 adult survivors of human trafficking aged 25 and older that would allow the possible inclusion of adult males and females with the goal of documenting survivor needs and challenges and identifying the areas where most funding flexibility is needed relating to self-sufficiency supports.
 - b. The creation and finalization of a Self-Sufficiency training curriculum that is created with a trauma-informed, survivor-centered lens that would then be made available for free to providers serving survivor clients in Santa Clara County.
2. Embed the intent of CS's *Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot* to serve gender-based violence survivors through a multi-year cohort model journey from crisis/vulnerability to

sustainability in the next Request for Proposal (RFP) process set to launch in FY23. A competitive procurement process would allow for a multi-year agreement and raise the maximum financial obligation to support programmatic integrity.

Administration will continue to partner with both CS and the national agencies such as Futures Without Violence in securing federal and community grants to support survivors of human trafficking.

CC: Chief Board Aides
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