

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

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DATE: April 28, 2023

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Sarah Duffy, Chief Children's Officer

SUBJECT: Universal Access Pilot Close-out Report

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Sarah Duffy
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The Universal Access Pilot (UAP) was implemented at the direction of the Board of Supervisors (June 11, 2018, Item No. 63) and in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County (FIRST 5). The pilot utilized a cross-systems approach to facilitate families' access to prevention supports in the Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSD) and Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD). It offered culturally-responsive navigation services to support children and families along a developmental pathway toward third grade school achievement and family wellness, with linkage to six social determinants of health and well-being indicators: food security, housing security, connection to primary health care, developmental screenings for children, quality early education, and family engagement. This close-out report from the Office of Children and Families Policy (OCFP), Office of the County Executive, provides summaries of the key UAP service areas funded during the final extension year, Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023, including sustainability strategies.¹

The table below lists the pilot service areas funded during FY 2022-2023.

Table 1: FY 2022-2023 UAP Funding

Service Area		Amount
FMSD	School Social Workers (3)	\$330,000
ARUSD-SCCOE	Preschool Teacher (1) for Co-op Preschool classroom at Painter Elementary	\$95,000
ARUSD-FIRST 5	Family Resource Center at Painter Elementary through SOMOS Mayfair	\$256,915
FIRST 5	Health screenings (dental, hearing, and vision) at FMSD and ARUSD through Healthier Kids Foundation	\$118,000
FIRST 5	Infrastructure and evaluation	\$37,400
County	Housing supports for families in FMSD and ARUSD through Office of Supportive Housing	\$60,000
Total		\$897,315

¹ On August 16, 2022 (Item No. 32), at the request of Supervisor Ellenberg, the Board directed the Chief Children's Officer to return with a report before the end of the current academic year relating to the UAP close-out and sustainability plan. Subsequently, Supervisor Ellenberg removed the referral to agendaize the requested report at a Board meeting. This off-agenda report provides an alternative final update.

Franklin-McKinley School Social Workers

FMSD was intentional about leveraging the County UAP and other opportunities to expand socio-emotional resources for its students and their families. With UAP funding, the district added three school social workers to its workforce to address student and family needs. The district's service-delivery model includes a sophisticated system for taking incoming referrals and triaging them to internal and external resources. The UAP investment helped FMSD increase the breadth of those resources.

Sustainability Efforts

- FMSD is committed to sustaining its current workforce of 16 school social workers to meet the needs of students and their families. School social workers provide wrap-around services to students, including prevention and early intervention advising, threat assessments, wellness presentations, and other supports. During this unprecedented time, when mental health concerns have been hastened by the pandemic, public investment in youth mental health provides windows of opportunity for continuing to fund school social workers at the district. These include the California Community Schools Partnership Program for planning and implementation grants to integrate support services, family and community engagement, collaborative leadership, and extended learning time; continuing reimbursement from Medi-Cal; and private health insurance billing that is being developed by the state and supported by SCCOE.
- As the role of the County family navigators (i.e., Community Outreach Specialists) sunsets at the end of the fiscal year, students and families may receive supports through Family Resource Centers (FRCs), School Linked Services (SLS), school wellness centers, and FMSD's centralized service-delivery model, which includes contracted partners.
 - The district supports school-based or school-affiliated FRCs, operated by local non-profits and funded by FIRST 5. These FRCs help assure the family-school connection.
 - The district added school wellness centers at each of its campuses. The centers are places where students can go for drop-in support, quiet respite, or to receive preventive and therapeutic services.

FMSD will continue its robust service-delivery model. The referral process starts with an online link that is unique to each school in the district, which is accessible to the community at large. Any stakeholder, from parent to teacher to principal, can submit a referral for a student they are concerned about.

Alum Rock Union Co-op Preschool Classroom at Painter Elementary

ARUSD leveraged County UAP funding to build out their system of support for children and families in alignment with their Quality for All Strategic Plan, 2017-2025. The pilot supplemented the district's strategic plan by enhancing a service-delivery model that expanded supports for harder-to-reach families with assistance from County family navigators. Additionally, ARUSD reorganized their service-delivery model through four geographically-spaced FRC locations, each staffed by a SLS supervisor, to ensure that all families have local access to supports. The district also created a new Social and Emotional Learning Department to coordinate school counselors and related supports at every campus, as well as transformed their César Chávez Elementary School into a new Early Learning Center for children ages 0-5 years.

The reorganization and new services aim to ensure that families continue to have supports as UAP funding and family navigation concludes by the end of June 2023.

With County UAP funding and ARUSD’s allocation of a classroom at Painter Elementary School, FIRST 5, SCCOE, and SOMOS Mayfair worked together to install a licensed Co-op Preschool and an FRC. The preschool classroom was created to meet the needs of ‘gap’ families, who earn just above the eligibility cut-off for subsidized preschool. To provide family supports, using UAP funding through FY 2022-2023, SOMOS Mayfair operates the FIRST 5 FRC at Painter Elementary. The FRC engages families with educational programming (e.g., Triple P, Seeds of Learning) and other offerings.

Sustainability Efforts

- With OCFP, SCCOE, and FIRST 5, ARUSD has engaged in extensive exploration to identify viable opportunities to sustain the Co-op Preschool classroom at Painter Elementary. Due to strict childcare and early education state funding and licensing requirements, solutions have not yet been identified (as of March 21, 2023). However, the district is still exploring options with other partners for a preschool program to serve ‘gap’ families. In addition, ARUSD is exploring a promising opportunity to transform the Painter Elementary preschool classroom into a dual-immersion Vietnamese preschool program with funds from the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). In line with the district’s strategic priorities,² this would fill a much-needed and culturally-grounded early learning gap. For example, during the UAP-funded period, Painter Elementary was converted into a Vietnamese dual-immersion elementary school. A dual-immersion Vietnamese preschool program would therefore serve as a pipeline to the Painter Elementary Vietnamese dual-immersion elementary school program as well as ease the transition to elementary school for students and parents.
- FIRST 5 will continue to fund the FRC at Painter Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. The community will continue to benefit from early child development resources and supports offered through SOMOS Mayfair.
- An early goal of the County UAP was to link families to available quality childcare. This remained a pillar of County family navigators’ work with families when childcare was needed. In 2022, ARUSD continued to make progress toward its childcare accessibility goals for families by establishing the Early Learning Center at César Chávez Elementary in partnership with Kidango through a \$7 million CSPP funding award. The center provides early care and education services, including full-day infant, toddler, and preschool care. The Early Learning Center also provides afterschool care and summer school for children in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten.
- As the role of the County family navigators sunsets at the end of the fiscal year, ARUSD has made changes to their educational structure to enhance supports to students and their families, such as:

² As part of ARUSD’s Quality for All Strategic Plan, opening a dual-immersion Vietnamese preschool classroom would align with the vision of “Multicultural/Multilingual Education, Early and Expanded Learning, and Whole Child and Whole Family Development.”

- The district hired nine additional school counselors to increase capacity across its elementary schools and utilizes SLS supervisors to serve families across all schools through four FRCs. SLS supervisors report to the district's SLS coordinator.³
- During the UAP-funded period, the district created the Social and Emotional Learning Department to address socio-emotional needs of its students. The department recently received a Community Schools planning grant to consider a community school model for ARUSD schools to plan for the needs of students and their families.

FIRST 5 Family Resource Center and Health Screenings

In the last year of UAP funding, FIRST 5 continues to support the FRC at Painter Elementary School as well as health screenings (i.e., dental, vision, and hearing) for students and health education for parents and providers across both ARUSD and FMSD.

Sustainability Efforts

- The Painter Elementary FRC will be sustained through the 2023-2024 school year, with operational funding going to SOMOS Mayfair. Also, during the 2023-2024 school year, all FRC operators will need to re-apply for funding.
- FIRST 5 subcontracted with Healthier Kids Foundation (HKF) to provide health screenings to children in ARUSD. Student screenings in Santa Clara County have been longstanding, and funding will likely continue through contracts between HKF and County agencies for widespread efforts across ARUSD, FMSD, and other school districts.

County Housing Supports

Through the Office of Supportive Housing (OSH), the UAP program provided funding to assist families with housing security needs across both FMSD and ARUSD. Housing security became a key pillar of the family navigators' approach to serving families holistically. Families were connected with community-based housing supports for rental assistance, emergency housing, and other housing needs.

Sustainability Efforts

- OSH will continue to fund the Emergency Assistance Network (EAN), which consists of seven agencies across Santa Clara County. EAN will continue to provide short-term deposit and rental assistance, as well as other safety net services, to families who are at risk of homelessness. Additionally, the County's Homelessness Prevention System continues to operate through over 18 participating agencies.⁴ FMSD and ARUSD families have access to these prevention services.

Conclusion

FMSD and ARUSD implemented UAP-funded components to fidelity, as well as offered other services beyond what was funded by the County through leveraging community partners as integral parts of their service-delivery fabric. The weaving of funding and services helped create cohesive, sustainable models. While only eight schools (four in each district) had initially been targeted for UAP funding, both FMSD and ARUSD extended the resources and coordination structures to all schools in their jurisdictions. This web of support included school-based

³ SLS staff are co-funded through the Behavioral Health Services Department.

⁴ For more information on the County's Homelessness Prevention System and temporary financial assistance, legal support, case management, or other services, visit prevenhomelessness.org.

counselors, social workers, SLS (with funding from the Behavioral Health Services Department), and partnerships with the FIRST 5 FRCs. These efforts will continue through integration into existing systems of support. Further, FMSD and ARUSD, with community partners, will continue to actively seek funding opportunities to sustain and expand services to children and their families.

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