



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: June 11, 2013
Board Meeting Date: June 18, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Measure A Report Back on Early Learning and Care

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct Staff to appropriate Measure A funding of \$5 million in the FY 2013-14, and an additional \$5 million in the FY 2014-15 Recommended Budget(s) to establish the San Mateo County Early Learning and Care Trust Fund. The expenditure of these funds is contingent upon (1) receipt of matching funds from other community resources; and (2) comprehensive expenditure and program plan recommended by the San Mateo County Office of Education and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

BACKGROUND:

This year alone the County of San Mateo received \$6.4million in First Five Tobacco Tax funding, approximately \$5.3 million in CalWorks childcare subsidies and expended \$4.7 million on our Pre-to-Three program. These funds are administered by Health System, Human Services Agency, and First Five. Other early care and education funding for low income children comes to the San Mateo County Office of Education (COE) and other county nonprofits, school districts and cities. Yet, this year alone over 3,300 San Mateo County children who qualify for subsidized preschool do not have a space.

DISCUSSION:

The County of San Mateo has a long history of investing in cost-effective prevention programs, recognizing the value of avoiding more costly remediation. The County has also has a long-term vision for its community health and children's well-being. Critical that well-being is the ability to read proficiently by the end of the third grade. Currently, only 58 percent of the County's third graders are proficient readers, with only 40 percent proficiency among Latino, African American and Pacific Islander children. Why is this critical? Because third grade is when children move from learning to read to reading to

learn. Children fall behind, tend to stay behind, thus growing the achievement gap with high costs to the community: significantly lower productivity, diminished ability to compete in a global-knowledge based economy, higher social costs in public benefit usage and ultimately higher health and criminal justice costs.

The Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council (PPLC) consisting of more than 50 community leaders, and growing, from government, education, philanthropy and business have launched an effort to significantly improve early learning and care and school success by:

- Making high-quality preschool universally accessible to all three and four year old children;
- Ensuring 80 percent of all children read at level by the third grade by 2020; and
- Improve quality and accessibility by streamlining the patch-work public child care subsidy system(s).

Recognizing limited resources, the PPLC initiative, will focus on eligible three and four year olds in quality preschools in those districts where third grade reading proficiency is at or below the county average: Bayshore, Brisbane, Cabrillo, Jefferson Elementary, La Honda Pescadero, Pacifica, Ravenswood, Redwood City, San Bruno Park, San Mateo/Foster City and South San Francisco. Estimates are \$40 million annually is needed to fund quality preschool in these districts. This will require optimizing resources, securing new funding and initiating strategies to increase access to affordable high-quality, subsidized childcare.

To initiate this effort \$5 million in each of the next two fiscal years, or \$10 million, will be required to generate the necessary matching funds from philanthropy, business and other government agency resources to begin to make universal quality preschool accessible for all three and four-year old San Mateo County children regardless of income.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected	FY 2014-15 Projected
Generate matching funds; develop and adopt expenditure and program plan that includes quality improvement for participating districts	Work group established	Bring expenditure and program plan to Board of Supervisors January 2014	Completed

Increase Access to quality child care in participating districts	Reduce by 25 percent number of eligible for subsidized child care in participating districts	Number to be determined	
3 rd grade reading achievement rises in participating districts	Current average		

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is recommended that \$10 million in Measure A funds be appropriated in the FY 2013-14 through FY 2014-15 budgets for this proposal to establish the San Mateo County Early Learning and Care Trust Fund. The funds cannot be expended until (1) matching funds have been secured in an equal or greater amount; and (2) a comprehensive expenditure and program plan has been developed by the County Office of Education and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. It is recommended that \$5 million be budgeted in FY 2013-14 and \$5 million be budgeted in FY 2014-15.

Measure A Funds recommended in this Report:

Proposal	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
Early Learning and Care Trust Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

Cumulative Measure A funds tentatively approved to date total \$8,767,388 in FY 2013-14 and \$3,043,567 in FY 2014-15 and are itemized on the following page.

Cumulative Measure A Funds tentatively approved to Date:

Proposal	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
Library Capital Needs	\$2,000,000	0
Pescadero Area Mobile Health Van	\$551,180	\$402,359
Core Agencies and Thrive One-time Computer software purchase and system development (one-time)	\$300,000	\$25,000
Homeless Outreach Teams (ongoing)	\$150,000	\$150,000
East Palo Alto Homeless Shelter Operating Expenses (ongoing)	\$500,000	\$700,000
Parks Department (Note – One-time capital projects not included in FY 14/15 funding)	\$1,766,208	\$1,766,208
Parks Department Capital Projects (one-time)	\$3,500,000	0
TOTAL	\$8,767,388	\$3,043,567