



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Allyson Halverson

DATE: March 11, 2025

RE: Child and Family Well-being Task Force Healthy Children's Fund Report

Child and Family Well-being Task Force (Taskforce) representatives will present their annual report to Council on the Healthy Children's Fund (HCF) on March 25, 2025. Section 5.2 of Proposition 5 The Healthy Children's Fund calls upon the Taskforce with the support of the fund administrator to: "write and deliver an annual report to the public and the County Council. This shall include progress made towards agreed upon goals, outcomes, and metrics." The report's key highlights are described below:

- Improved Implementation: Since the 2024 report, there has been a significant acceleration in funding deployment, transparency in contract processes, and the release of new funding opportunities.
- Contract Development Progress: Out of 19 strategies in the original plan, 10 were set for early implementation. Initial slow progress has improved, with multiple new service provider contracts finalized and many more in the pipeline.
- Remaining Challenges:
 - Gift of Public Funds Doctrine: A restrictive interpretation of this law has delayed key initiatives, including child care workforce expansion.
 - Contracting Process: Some hurdles remain, including inefficient grant application procedures and approval delays.
 - External Evaluation: The comprehensive biannual evaluation is still not fully implemented as required by the HCF ordinance.

Recommendations:

1. Improve the Contracting Process – Increase efficiency, simplify applications, and provide clearer guidelines.
2. Clarify the Gift of Public Funds Issue – Encourage county officials to attend an informational session to ensure alignment on funding eligibility.
3. Enhance Public Communication – Raise awareness about HCF initiatives to counter misinformation.
4. Expand Child Care Capacity – Prioritize funding for increasing available child care slots.
5. Sustain Child Care Subsidies – Maintain local support for child care assistance, especially if state funding decreases.

Please call Allyson Halverson, WCHCS staff support to the Task Force, at (360) 410-4175 with any questions. Thank you.

