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**Katherine Douglas** *Public Comment, Health + Human Services*

**From:** Lisa Brabo <lbrabo@fsacares.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 11:43 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Arcelia Sencion  
**Subject:** Public Input - DSS Budget as part of BOS budget workshops  
**Attachments:** FSA - Budget Workshops - DSS Child Abuse Prevention.pdf

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Hello,  
Please see the attached public input on the DSS budget, as part of the Board of Supervisors budget workshops.  
Thank you,  
Lisa

**Lisa Brabo, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pronouns: she, her, hers  
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April 16, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

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105 Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Budget Workshops - Department of Social Services Budget Proposal for 2026-27**

Dear County Board of Supervisors:

This is a very difficult budget year, and we know the County is in the terrible position of having to make decisions about the utilization of significantly reduced resources. Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County (FSA) is the lead contractor for two Department of Social Services critical safety net programs:

1. TARGETED COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION SERVICE \$546,667
2. COMMUNITY PATHWAYS PROGRAM \$367,000

I am writing to discuss the potential impacts of the proposed 2026-27 budget reductions. The TARGETED COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION SERVICE PROGRAM supports families to provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for their children. These supports are critical to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment or neglect by mitigating risk factors such as exposure to violence, parental mental health concerns, substance abuse, or economic stressors that lead to limited access to services such as childcare. FSA leads a coordinated system of accessible Family Resource Centers (FRC) strategically located throughout Santa Barbara County. In addition to FSA, these FRC's include People Helping People, Carpinteria Children's Project, LEAP, and Cuyama Valley FRC. These FRCs are an extension of the county's safety net, offering access to healthcare, including behavioral health, and connecting families to social services such as CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

The COMMUNITY PATHWAYS PROGRAM enables families that have been referred to Child Welfare Services (CWS) to access voluntary community supports to reduce the likelihood of a formal CWS investigation. Our

partnership with CWS is essential to reducing the stigma of accessing community support through trusted organizations like FSA and CALM. Parents and caregivers take part in evidenced based home visitation programs, mental health services, and case management. FSA has worked closely with CWS leadership to develop a coordinated system of care and to review its effectiveness and adjust the program, when needed.

The proposed budget reductions will likely result in:

- **Reduced Services:** home visitation for parents with risk factors, limited hours of operation or staffing reduction resulting in increasing wait times to access services.
- **Safety Risks:** Increased child neglect investigations
- **Economic Consequences:** Reduced access to services for working families and increased demand on Department of Social Services

Thank you for considering funding for continuity of these services that protect the safety of children and families.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brabo, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer