




BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: First 5 Santa Barbara Count  
Children and Families  
Commission  
Department No.: 994  
Agenda Date: April 8, 2025  
Placement: Administrative Agenda  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: Yes  
If Yes, date from: October 8, 2024  
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Department Director(s): Wendy Sims-Moten   
Contact Info: Michelle Robertson, Assistant Director, (805) 339-4990  
SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Sector Relief and Recovery Initiative  
Mid-Year Report on, and First Amendment to, the Subrecipient Agreement for  
Services with United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. for FY 22–25

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence: CEO Office**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this mid-year report on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Sector Relief and Recovery Initiative Subrecipient Agreement for Services with United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. for FY 22–25;
- b) Provide direction to staff regarding the item presented as appropriate;
- c) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute, on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, a First Amendment to the ARPA Child Care Sector Relief and Recovery Initiative Subrecipient Agreement with United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. to extend the term of the Agreement from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025, with no change to the not-to-exceed maximum contract amount of \$1,000,000; and
- d) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5), finding that the actions are governmental funding mechanisms and/or administrative or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

As part of the \$2,000,000 allocation of ARPA funds towards the Childcare Sector Relief and Recovery, United Way of Santa Barbara, Inc. was awarded \$1,000,000 for the term of March 14, 2023 through June 30, 2025 to implement unique strategies that increased the number of infant-toddler childcare slots in the county, provide business support and technical assistance to a struggling sector post COVID, produce an Emergency Childcare Plan for COSB First Responders and EOC Deployed, and develop a revolving fund to stabilize the childcare sector for future disruption.

The current agreement for services is set to terminate on June 30, 2025. It is requested to extend the agreement through an amendment to terminate on December 31, 2025, thus allowing for additional time to implement the performance measures listed below. An extension is requested to accommodate quarterly payments of scholarships, close out and reporting of start-up grants, and close out and reporting on business training contract with UCSB. All other deliverables under the agreement have been met. The overall allocation of the agreement will not change, only the term timeline.

#### **Background:**

As a Subrecipient of the County of Santa Barbara American Rescue Plan Act allocation, United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. focuses on expanding childcare efforts within the employer sponsored/corporate space by increasing the number of licensed infant and toddler spaces, producing municipality-focused studies on childcare need, and holds an established a designated fund as an ongoing support for the childcare sector, which includes working with private, center-based programs to offset tuition costs for families ineligible for federal or state subsidies, thereby stabilizing the workforce and supporting the overall economy.

At the October 08, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting, staff was directed to provide a timeline on how the remaining dollars would be spent. United Way of Santa Barbara, Inc. will use the remaining dollars and contract term to complete the implementation of their Brighter Futures Scholarship initiative, which provides financial support to families in the “missing middle” who make too much to qualify for public assistance while still experiencing the financial impact of high childcare costs. This initiative fills a needed gap in access to affordable childcare for families living and working in Santa Barbara County and aims to strengthen the childcare sectors system.

#### **Performance Measures: On track to be met by final execution of the agreement**

1. Facilitate the development of feasible solutions to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare spaces for middle-income, working families and establish a list of recommendations that will be incorporated in a fund development plan.
2. Establish a revolving fund at United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. for businesses and individual donors to provide childcare scholarship funds for middle-income families.

#### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

ARPA funds for this effort will continue into FY 2025-2026, which is within the allocated timeline of the federal funds.

#### **Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY [2022-2023]	FY [2023-2024]	FY [2024-2025]	FY [2025-2026]	Total
ARPA	\$19,443	\$261,237	\$620,320	\$99,000	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

#### **FY 2025-2026 Projected Budget - \$99,000**

- \$55,000 in scholarships that have been pre-awarded and are being paid out through the calendar year.

- \$35,000 in reserved indirect and staffing costs to facilitate the administration of outstanding contracts and reporting.
- \$9,000 for continued coalition work.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email a copy of the minute order reflecting the Board's action – Attention: Sara Gonzalez.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Original Contract

**Attachment B** – First Amendment

**Attachment C** – Brighter Futures Scholarship Application

**Authored by:**

Michelle Robertson

Assistant Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission