



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

December 13, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

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DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER
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Children & Family Services

ELAINE MARTINEZ
Deputy Director
Community Services

Subject: Ratification of the Submission of an Application for Funding to the California Department of Social Services for a Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Grant in the Amount of \$1,500,000 to Provide Assistance to Approximately 150 Young Adults with Low Incomes Who Have Recently Exited Extended Foster Care; and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director to Accept Grant Funding and Sign Any Related Agreement Documents.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the submission of an application for funding to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for a Guaranteed Income Pilot Program grant in the amount of \$1,500,000, to provide assistance to approximately 150 young adults with low incomes who have recently exited the extended foster care program at or after 21 years of age.
2. Authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) Director, or designee, to accept grant funding and sign any documents related to this opportunity, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

Reason for Ratification:

CDSS announced its request for applications on July 25, 2022, with applications due to CDSS on September 6, 2022. Due to the short time to prepare the application documents and your Board's meeting schedule, HSA was unable to come to your Board for approval prior to submission of the application. HSA received approval from the County Executive Office to apply for this grant opportunity and subsequently provided the County Executive Office with all final application documents. The grant application was submitted on September 6, 2022. On October 11, 2022, your Board approved allocating \$1,500,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to support such a pilot given that former foster youth are among our County's residents most in need of a strong and equitable recovery. On November 21, 2022, CDSS notified HSA of a grant award of \$1,500,000 in State funding. We are before your Board now in coordination with the timing for related funding decisions requesting ratification of the submission of the grant application as well as authority to accept State funding to be

matched with allocated SLFRF and a small amount of private funding currently available to HSA.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No
 Source of Funding: State and private donation
 Funding Match Required: Yes, 1:1 match required; source is State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
 Impact on other Departments: None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue:		
Direct	\$120,000	\$1,890,000
Total Revenue	\$120,000	\$1,890,000
Costs:		
Direct	\$120,000	\$1,890,000
Indirect	Minimal	\$Minimal
Total Costs	\$120,000	\$1,890,000
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget for Program Operations – BU 3410				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$206,984,752	\$211,419,641	\$211,419,641	\$0
Revenue	\$178,000,155	\$178,000,155	\$178,000,155	\$0
Net Cost	\$28,984,597	\$33,419,486	\$33,419,486	\$0

There is no Net County Cost associated with this funding opportunity. The source of the 1:1 match will be SLFRF. The above summary of revenue and costs reflects the cost of the program including the matching funds. There are sufficient revenue and appropriations in the HSA Adopted Budget for FY 2022-2023. In addition to the amounts displayed above, it is estimated that the remaining revenue and appropriations of \$990,000, including matching funds, will be realized in FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-2026.

Discussion

Funded by \$35 million in the FY 2021-22 State budget, the CDSS Guaranteed Income Pilot Program is a new program that supports the payment of unconditional stipends to eligible participants. CDSS indicated that each pilot budget should total \$2 to \$5 million including State dollars and local funding, and should be sufficient to serve at least 150 participants.

Guaranteed Income programs are premised on the concept that people with low incomes know best how to spend their limited resources, and that, when they have access to additional financial resources, they typically make decisions that advance their goals. Indeed, studies of similar programs in the City of Stockton and New York City support this concept. Results show that program participants largely spend their stipends on necessities including food, utilities and transportation, that they pursue education and employment opportunities, and that the influx of additional resources measurably improves participants' ability to work full time, as well as their financial stability and overall well-being.

The Ventura County Foster Youth Transitional Stipend Pilot proposes an 18-month guaranteed income for approximately 150 young adults with low incomes who have recently exited the extended foster care program. The program is expected to operate for three years including planning and wind-down periods. HSA will release a competitive Request for Proposals to secure agreements with one or more partners to operate the pilot in a manner that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

Approximately 188 former foster youth between the ages 19-26 currently receive Medi-Cal in Ventura County, with those who are required to submit income documentation reporting a median income of \$741 per month. Even though foster youth are offered services aimed at preparing them to manage life after age 21, many who age out unfortunately do not fare as well – with respect to housing stability, college attendance, health and other key outcomes – as their peers who receive ongoing support from their families. Pilot stipends of \$1,000 per month that supplement participants' income for 18 months will improve the quality of life for former foster youth.

To become and remain eligible for the pilot, individuals must provide proof and/or self-attestations during initial and any additional reviews that they (a) have a low income, (b) have aged out of the foster care system, (c) are between the ages of 21 and 26, and (d) are a resident of Ventura County.

CDSS intends to award funding for seven pilots statewide, including the Ventura County Foster Youth Transitional Stipend Pilot. Among CDSS' primary learning goals is to understand the effectiveness of guaranteed income pilots in improving the well-being, financial security and stability of participants and their families. Pilot participants will be encouraged to partake in a State-administered evaluation process that collects data about outcomes achieved through the program in an effort to advance research on guaranteed income programs that may influence policy. There is a potential for future State policy recommendations to include options that reduce administrative costs associated with distributing public assistance benefits in favor of more streamlined systems that allow a greater proportion of public funding to flow to direct client assistance.

We request that your Board ratify submission of the grant application to CDSS for the Ventura County Foster Youth Transitional Stipend Pilot, and authorize the HSA Director to accept grant funding and sign any related documents, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

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This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or Jennie Pittman, HSA Deputy Director, at 805-477-5340.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Livingston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Livingston".

Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Ventura County Foster Youth Transitional Stipend Pilot Grant Application