



Memorandum

TO:HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM:Councilmember Torres, Davis,
Ortiz, Doan & Foley

SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND YOUTH MASTER PLAN

DATE: April 5, 2024

Approved

Date: 4/5/2024

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendations with the following additional directions:

- Direct the City Manager to draft an MBA during the FY 24-25 budget process, exploring establishing an Office of Children and Youth and developing a comprehensive action plan to implement the long-term strategies outlined in the Children and Youth Services Master Plan. This plan should include, at a minimum:
 - Strategies for executing short and mid-term goals to support youth, categorized into four groups: 0 to 5 years, K – 5th grade, 6th – 12th grade, and post-high school to 24 years old, ensuring success in high school, college, or career and technical schools.
 - An outreach and engagement strategy involving efforts by the City Manager’s Office and other relevant City departments, such as the Library and PRNS, to collaborate with current and potential partner organizations, such as school districts and non-profits providing after-school and youth enrichment programs, skills-based job training, post-secondary supports, and college and career opportunities and resources.

DISCUSSION

We thank City Staff and the previous Council for their efforts in formulating the Children and Youth Services Master Plan, which serves as a blueprint for our city's future. Now is the time to translate these aspirations into tangible actions through a detailed execution plan for each outlined strategy.

An action plan must explicitly state actionable steps and establish partnerships such as, but not limited to, 10,000 Degrees, San José community colleges, YEAR UP, Trades, MetroED, and LEAF. This plan will inform the City Council about the financial resources and partner organizations required to advance the next stage effectively.

To achieve the long-term goals in the Master Plan by 2027, it's essential to establish short and mid-term goals and strategies for the best chance of success. Failing to expedite our efforts means neglecting our responsibility to empower our youth to become successful individuals, earning beyond \$40k annually. By not acting promptly, we become complicit in creating the next generation of poverty.

It is crucial to differentiate between young children's and adults' needs. Childcare, quality preschool, and early learning initiatives cater to the developmental milestones of young minds, supporting young adults to attain the necessary resources, simplifying complex systems, and providing assistance until they achieve their goals, whether through higher education or alternative career pathways. Funding should be identified to invest in the educational advancement of young people.

Investing funds in youth programs today yields significant benefits by mitigating future consequences and associated costs. By providing comprehensive support and resources to young people, including education, mentorship, and recreational activities, we can empower them to reach their full potential and become productive members of society. This proactive approach not only fosters personal development but also reduces the likelihood of negative outcomes such as delinquency, substance abuse, and unemployment in the future. By investing in our youth now, we can save on the substantial costs of addressing societal challenges later on, including criminal justice expenses, healthcare costs, homelessness, and lost productivity. Ultimately, prioritizing youth programs demonstrates a commitment to building a stronger, healthier community for generations to come.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.