



Agenda Item

48

DATE: February 24, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Delfino E. Neira, Director, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Retroactive Revenue Agreement with the Stuart Foundation for the Education Equals Initiative

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a retroactive revenue Agreement with the Stuart Foundation for non-competitive grant funding to support participation in the Education Equals Initiative, effective December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 (\$330,000).

Approval of the recommended action will allow the County to accept a third year of funding from the Stuart Foundation to continue participation in a four-year initiative to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care, with no increase in net County cost.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

There is no viable alternative action.

RETROACTIVE AGREEMENT:

The recommended Agreement is retroactive to December 1, 2014 as the Agreement was received by the Department on December 16, 2014 which required additional Agenda Item processing time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in net County cost associated with the recommended action. If approved, the Agreement will provide revenue in the amount of \$330,000 to offset salary, benefits, travel, and data support costs. Sufficient appropriations and revenues are included in the FY 2014-2015 Adopted Budget as staffing activities are mandates under child welfare case management activities. Sufficient appropriations and revenues will be included in the FY 2015-2016 Requested Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW

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APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

Official Action of
Board of Supervisors
Deputy

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DISCUSSION:

In 2012, the Department was invited to submit a non-competitive grant application to participate in the Education Equals Initiative and was awarded the four year grant on August 1, 2012. The Stuart Foundation requires the Department to execute an Agreement annually, with the current recommended Agreement representing the third year of the four year project.

The Education Equals Initiative is an integrated vision to improve educational outcomes for children in foster care across the educational spectrum, from preschool through college. At the heart of the project is collaboration between local child welfare and education systems. If your Board approves the recommended Agreement, the project will continue its focus on three groups of foster children: preschool, elementary through high school, and college age youth.

Preschool age children are supported through home placements with the capacity to meet their education and development needs and are screened yearly in various areas of development. Elementary through high school youth are screened in various developmental areas and assisted with an individualized network to support their educational needs. Youth transitioning to college are linked with campus supports prior to dismissing their court dependency. Results from the second year of the initiative include an 11% increase in the percentage of high school students with high attendance rates (defined as 91% or greater). In 2013-2014, 70% of high school foster youth had a high attendance rate, compared with 59% of high school foster youth in 2012-2013.

Grant funds will partially offset child welfare costs for one Social Work Supervisor, two Social Work Practitioner, two Social Worker II, and one Social Worker Aide positions within the Department. Additionally, funds are designated for travel and data support, which are required components of the initiative.

Approval of the recommended revenue Agreement is necessary to accept funding from the Stuart Foundation. The Agreement is retroactive to December 1, 2014 and will expire November 30, 2015. The Agreement varies from standard County templates as it was drafted by the Stuart Foundation and includes reporting requirements which can be modified unilaterally by the Stuart Foundation. The Stuart Foundation reserves the right to postpone or decline to make payments under this Agreement for failure to meet reporting requirements.

DEN:sv