



County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisory District 5
Supervisor S. Joseph Simitian

105836

DATE: May 12, 2021
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: S. Joseph Simitian, Supervisor
SUBJECT: Budget Inventory Item 36 – ELL Case Management

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Inventory Item No. 36 to provide a grant to Community Services Agency in the amount of \$250,000 relating to ELL Case Management Services in partnership with the Mountain View Los Altos High School District, and refer item for final consideration and approval on June 17, 2021. (Simitian)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a one-time cost of \$250,000 to fund ELL Case Management Services. This total cost shall be disbursed over 2-4 years beginning in 2021.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Mountain View Los Altos (MVLA) High School District currently serves 291 English Language Learners (ELL), including 129 Newcomers, defined as students that entered the United States within the last 3 years.

MVLA currently contracts with a social worker to provide social services to students and their families, but this individual focuses on students and families throughout the District, rather than specifically on ELL and Newcomer students.

Nearly half of MVLA's ELL and Newcomer students receive Free and Reduced Lunch, and could benefit significantly from additional support. Navigating the complex web of supportive resources and services within Santa Clara County poses a challenge even for individuals who speak English as a first language; doing so becomes even more difficult for

those who do not. These challenges are compounded even further for students who entered the U.S. recently and are also learning to navigate an entirely new country.

MVLA's district-wide social worker can provide limited support to these students, but there is clearly a need for more dedicated social work on site at MVLA directed specifically towards ELL and Newcomer students.

The proposed funding will enable Community Services Agency (CSA) to provide a staff member on site at MVLA's schools several days per week. This staff member will work closely with MVLA's supportive services team (which includes a bilingual liaison, counselors, and a district-wide social worker) to provide targeted support and social services to MVLA's ELL population, with a particular focus on Newcomer students and their families.

This support will include but not be limited to: checking in regularly with these students and their families; connecting them to resources and services through the County and community, such as legal services, food and nutrition resources, and rental assistance; assisting with any necessary applications for these resources; and providing other case management services to address any individualized needs for these students and their families.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will improve students' and their families' ability to access community and County resources and services.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors who live with MVLA's ELL and Newcomer students and are able to access needed services as a result of this program.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

Community Services Agency (CSA) is a non-profit organization that has been providing vital social services for residents of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills since 1957. Services include emergency financial (rent and utility) assistance, a food and nutrition center, senior case management, a senior lunch and nutrition program, homeless services, a Challenge Diabetes Program, and a community resource navigator program that trains trusted

leaders within the community to help their neighbors navigate services in the areas of immigration, domestic violence, tenant rights and other CSA resources.

Serving the communities of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, the Mountain View Los Altos (MVLA) district is comprised of two comprehensive high schools, an alternative high school, an adult education center, the Freestyle Academy for Arts & Technology, and Middle College. MVLA is committed to providing learning and growth opportunities so each of its 4,394 students can reach their full potential.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Remit funds to Community Services Agency subject to necessary and appropriate documentation of use.