



24-4958

**DATE:** April 16, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Daniel Little, Director, Social Services Agency

**SUBJECT:** Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - Wendy's Wonderful Kids Grant

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 180 - \$84,000 increasing estimated revenue and expenditure appropriations in the Social Services Agency budget, relating to Wendy's Wonderful Kids Grant. (4/5 Vote) (LA-1)

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no negative impact to the County General Fund resulting from the approval of the Recommended Action. The Social Services Agency (SSA) was notified of the Dave Thomas Foundation Grant fund in the amount of \$84,000 for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. SSA is requesting to increase the revenue and expenditure appropriation for the Grant Agreement.

### **CONTRACT HISTORY**

On January 17, 2024, the County Executive approved the Grant Agreement for \$84,000 for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND**

Upon approval from the Board of Supervisors (Board), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) will continue to use these funds to provide ongoing support for one Social Worker III or Social Worker II position within the DFCS Family and Permanency Bureau. The position will continue to support children who are legally freed for adoption, as well as those in Permanent Planned Living Arrangements.

The mission of SSA is to provide resources and opportunities in a culturally responsive manner to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting, educating, and empowering individuals and families. The Dave Thomas Foundation Grant Agreement provides financial resources to the DFCS for a Social Worker to provide enhanced targeted foster care, adoption, and recruitment to increase permanency for children and youth who are in foster care.

Pursuant to the Board Policy 5.6.5.1(B)(3), the County Executive has the authority to execute

grant agreements following review and approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, provided that the grant agreement has a value of \$250,000 or less.

The goal of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - Wendy's Wonderful Kids Grant is to support and strengthen efforts to address the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and youth in foster care by implementing the following efforts:

1. Enhanced foster care recruitment; and
2. Targeted recruitment to overcome the scarcity of adoptive family homes for older youth.

This will be done through education of prospective families to ameliorate fears of losing financial benefits available to youth in foster care.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, citing multiple research sources, found that despite national policy advancements for children in the child welfare system, the number of older youth aging out of foster care continues to rise, leaving more youth without families of their own. Permanency provides children and youth with a supportive and loving family, and such investments represent a cost savings to taxpayers, in that each dollar spent on the adoption of a child yields three dollars in benefits to society.

From 2014 through 2023, DFCS utilized the funding to offset the cost of one Social Worker III position within the DFCS Family and Permanency Bureau. The Social Worker III was responsible for developing and implementing recruitment plans for children needing adoptive parents. The position expired on December 31, 2023.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on the Safe and Stable Families indicator by improving permanency outcomes for children and youth freed for adoption and/or residing in long-term foster care.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The use of funds from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - 2024 Wendy's Wonderful Kids Grant to provide continued support for one Social Worker III or Social Worker II position within the DFCS Family and Permanency Bureau will not be approved as a consequence of negative action.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors will notify Daniel Crick, Jorge Montes, Alana Rainville, Chad Keele and Thao Hoang from the SSA upon completion.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- F85 No 180

- CY24 Dave Thomas Foundation – WWK Agreement