

From: [JAMES MCADLER](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Priorities
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 12:34:54 PM

Dear Mayor Rogers and Members of City Council,

Thank you for the City's continuing support of the Southeast Greenway project, which will include a new City park of 29 acres, over two miles of walking and biking trails, an 18-acre addition to Spring Lake Regional Park, and almost 10 acres zoned for housing development. The Southeast Greenway Partnership has reached a critical milestone and we respectfully request your help for the Partnership's progress to continue.

Since the City approved a General Plan amendment, zone change and EIR for this two-mile long corridor from Farmers Lane to Spring Lake Park, City staff, the Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Water and other Greenway partners have been working together on the activities needed to acquire the land from Caltrans. These activities have included obtaining deeds, leases and other information from Caltrans, preparing detailed parcel maps, assessing property values, and reviewing purchase agreement terms.

Additional City staff time will continue to be needed for the completion of the items listed above as well as the total acquisition process. In the coming months, property appraisals will be completed, agreement terms will be negotiated, and a purchase agreement will be approved by both Caltrans and the City. **Therefore, we respectfully request that the FY 2021-22 Operating Budget provide sufficient funds for these activities by the Real Estate Division, City Attorney and other City staff and for the costs of property appraisals and other acquisition work.**

Caltrans wants to sell the whole 57-acre property to the City in one transaction, including both the 9.7 acres zoned for development and the 47 acres planned for City and County parks. We have secured the grants and donations to acquire the parkland, but no funding has yet been determined for the purchase of the developable parcels.

We are therefore also requesting that the Council consider using some of the PG&E settlement or other funds to help purchase from Caltrans the 9.7 acres of the Southeast Greenway property, which is zoned for 244 housing units at medium-high and medium densities. The subsequent sale and transfer of this land from the City to housing developers will give the Council the ability to control the per-unit land costs and help new affordable housing to be built, responding to the City's adopted housing goals and the need to replace the many housing units lost in the fires.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to our continued work with the City and our other partners as the acquisition process moves ahead.

Sincerely,

Jim McAdler



Santa Rosa, California 95405

From: [Denise Hill](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2021-22
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 11:44:03 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

In regards to the upcoming 2021-22 budget discussion, we're hoping you will include funding for the following which would be a significant help for our neighborhood:

1. **Parking District Enforcement:** please make sure the department that oversees neighborhood parking districts is staffed adequately to respond quickly to residents' calls informing them someone is parked illegally in their district.
2. **Security Cameras:** please budget for the purchase of security cameras and associated required storage capacity (similar to Courthouse Square cameras) to be placed at the Hwy. 101 under crossings at 9th Street, 6th Street and the Prince Memorial Greenway.
3. **Homeless Response:** Use a % of any funding dedicated to the homeless crisis towards adding beds in facilities that address mental health and addiction.

Denise Hill

St. Rose Historic District

www.strosedistrict.org



From: [Renee Riggs](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Southeast Greenway-Budget
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:34:11 PM

May 15, 2021

TO: Mayor Rogers and Councilmembers

Subject: Budget Funding for the Southeast Greenway Acquisition

As a member of the Southeast Greenway Campaign, I want to thank you for the City's continuing support of this unique 57-acre project that will include a City park of 29 acres, over two miles of walking and biking trails, an 18-acre addition to Spring Lake Regional Park, and almost 10 acres zoned for housing development.

The City approved a General Plan amendment, zone change and EIR for this two-mile long corridor from Farmers Lane to Spring Lake Park. That allowed us to work with City staff, the Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Water and other Greenway partners on the activities needed to acquire the land from Caltrans, including:

- obtaining deeds, leases and other information from Caltrans
- preparing detailed parcel maps
- assessing property values
- reviewing purchase agreement terms

We know additional City staff time will continue to be needed for the completion of the items listed above as well as the total acquisition process. In the coming months, property appraisals will be completed, agreement terms will be negotiated, and a purchase agreement will be approved by both Caltrans and the City. **Therefore, we request that the FY 2021-22 operating budget provide sufficient funds for these activities by the Real Estate Division, City Attorney and other City staff and for the costs of property appraisals and other acquisition work.**

Caltrans wants to sell the whole 57-acre property to the City in one transaction, including both the 9.7 acres zoned for development and the 47 acres planned for City and County parks. We have secured grants and donations to acquire the parkland, but not for the purchase of the developable parcels.

So we are also requesting that the Council consider using some of the PG&E settlement or other funds to help purchase from Caltrans the 9.7 acres of the Southeast Greenway property zoned for 244 housing units at medium-high and medium densities. The subsequent sale and transfer of this land from the City to housing developers will give the Council the ability to control the per-unit land costs and help new affordable housing to be built, responding to the City's adopted housing goals and the need to replace the many housing units lost in the fires.

Thank you for your consideration.

Renee Riggs

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Sarah Seitz](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless Solutions
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:11:24 PM

As a retired family physician, I am outraged by the homeless sweeps taking place frequently in Santa Rosa. The money spent for the sweeps should be used to pay for safe parking programs and a safe place to camp. Every time there is a sweep, people's possessions are trashed and advocacy groups have to ask us for more donations of tents and sleeping bags, etc which is not an environmentally healthy policy.

Please consider designating \$1,000,000 for homeless solutions. I would also like to see pilot programs for safe parking (again) and mental health response teams.

Thank you,

Sarah A. Seitz (M.D.)

From: [Kathryn Jurik](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:29:45 PM

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for taking on the job of budgeting for a city that works for all of us. To that end, the working for everyone part, unsheltered people need to have a place to go. The constant Whack-a-Mole attacks on people living outdoors do not solve anything. Insanity is defined by repeating the same thing and hoping it will work. In this case, it's also a drain on morale, funds, and environment.

Can we try something new yet? How many more homeless advocacy ad hoc groups need to form in the community before you elected leaders hear the message? WE want all humans (not just the ones with money, homes, education, and racial privilege) treated with respect and dignity and justice (a form of love). WE want the environment kept beautiful and sanitary. What new things (that are tried and true in other places) can Santa Rosa take on? How about setting aside a million dollars \$\$ for NEW homeless solutions? NEW...like multiple safe parking pilot programs. NEW...like toilets, water, and trash service everywhere needed. NEW...like coordinated food service. NEW...like temporary villages/camps made from containers/cob housing. BOLD and NEW...like condemning 'sweeps' as human rights violations and dedicating sweep funds to service workers and mental health care and a place to go for all. Can we try something new now? This year. Before the fires. Before the rains. Before another (swear words not allowed) sweep.

Allocate a lot of money to relieve the issues we all face in a community that doesn't care for our own.

Again, thank you,

Kathryn Jurik

Santa Rosa, CA

From: [Scott](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:38:04 PM

Safe parking! Incredibly inexpensive, and skews toward helping more women and more elderly, two sub-populations we should be targeting for protection and consolidation to efficiently apply well-targeted services. Both CC and SAVS have good track records at managing these programs- please allocate generous funding.

J. Scott Wagner

(phone)

From: [cypoten](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming Budget Discussions
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:38:40 PM

The Unsheltered and Transitional Housing

I appreciate the extent to which Santa Rosa is investing in permanent housing for its unsheltered residents. But until permanent housing is fully available for the estimated 300 individuals currently unhoused in Santa Rosa, it is imperative that the City Council address the need for transitional housing. A Sam Jones Annex, for example, may serve some of those individuals, but shelters remain a stop-gap solution, one often rejected by unhoused individuals because of the limits placed on personal freedom and on personal belongings. There is also the problem of the 6-month time limit for people sheltering at Sam Jones.

Please recognize the very real need for transitional housing solutions that accommodate personal freedom and privacy, that foster self-respect, and that are responsive to the time-consuming processes of 1) building/securing permanent affordable housing for all who need it, 2) rehabilitating the mentally ill and addicted individuals who represent the majority of Santa Rosa's unhoused people. The proposed \$1,100,000 Mental Health Response Team Pilot Program is a commendable response to the latter problem.

Of equal importance is a commitment to provide transitional housing that is secure for the time frame needed before permanent housing is available. There are multiple tiny-house projects across the country that address the transitional housing need. Non-profit organizations in Sonoma County are developing proposals and structures that target this need as well. Examples include the Sonoma Applied Village Services Village Proposal (tinyvillages@sonomavillages.org) and structures being designed and implemented by Homes 4 the Homeless (alex@homes4thehomeless.org). Both offer significantly lower cost solutions than market rates allow.

Please allocate the funding needed to provide Santa Rosa's unsheltered residents with transitional housing villages that provide cooking, dining, bath and toilet facilities, heating, light, and waste disposal. An added benefit of these villages is the opportunity to deliver ongoing health services.

Cynthia Poten
Sebastopol, CA


From: [Katie Ring](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City council meeting budget early childhood educators
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:38:59 PM

As an early childhood educator and preschool teacher in Santa Rosa, I am advocating to see the use of federal funds to support myself and our fellow teachers who did not receive essential hazard pay or additional funding.

Thank you

Katie

From: [Ruth Barnhart](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:51:58 PM

As a resident, living in Sonoma County since 1989, I am concerned by our lack of solutions for our growing homeless community. Instead of spending our money on sweeps and cleanups, I ask that you please set money aside for simple services. They deserve to be treated as the humans they are, can we not rise up and meet them in a humane way. They are a reflection of us, and caring solutions would serve and uplift our entire community. Thank you for your service and good hearts. Ruth Barnhart.

From: [Jolynn J. Lauer](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council meeting agenda 5/17/21
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:54:30 PM

Dear Council:

Please set aside money in your budget for homeless projects such as the ones below:

\$1,000,000 in coming year for new homeless solutions

\$315,000 for Safe Parking Pilot Program

\$1,100,000 for Mental Health Response Team – Pilot Program

\$713,000 for the Sam Jones Annex

The weekly sweeps are not helpful. People need a safe, legal place to sleep. The money spent on Sweeps could fund safe parking and safe camping sites.

Thank you,

Jo Lauer
Santa Rosa resident

From: [Old Elm CDC](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARP funds for child care providers
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:55:37 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that the council will be discussing the “First 5 Million for the First 5 Years” American Rescue Plan Local Coronavirus Recovery Funds request, including a one-million dollars in payment to child care providers that have worked directly with children during the pandemic.

I would like to advocate for these funds to reach teachers directly through stipends. The pandemic has been a very stressful time for all, especially for frontline essential workers. 4Cs continued to support families during the months that our centers were closed. Teachers called families each week during this time to provide concrete support, community resource information (food, housing, clothes, etc.) and also sent classroom materials home (art supplies, calm down kit, etc.). Teachers continued to provide all this support during a time that they were also under stress (their own children were distance learning, spouses lost employment, not being able to see loved ones, mental health struggles in a time of uncertainty).

When our centers opened again in July, there was a great amount of planning and preparation to ensure everyone’s safety, and the least amount of stress on the children as possible. However, we were all very scared and nervous. We knew that our work with children is very close; children need hugs and human connection, they need us to speak with them closely down at their level. We knew that if, for example, a child had a potty accident, they would need our help and we would not be socially distanced to provide that help. The children needed a sense of normalcy, and love and care, and we knew we needed to be prepared to provide that. We have taken as many steps as possible to teach about face masks and social distancing, but we have definitely been at high risk working in a capacity that does not always allow for social distancing. When we care for a child, we are not only exposing ourselves to that child, but also to everyone in that child’s household and social bubble.

Teachers have risked their health to provide excellent care to children experiencing trauma, all while the teachers are experiencing the same trauma along with them. Some occupations allowed for hazard pay, but unfortunately teachers did not receive any hazard pay. 4Cs as an agency has supported us through job security and emergency sick leave, but State funds can be restricting and they could only provide so much. I believe the teachers deserve more for all this time that they have dedicated to the families we serve while risking their own health and the health of their families.

I truly appreciate you all taking this into consideration when making your decision for allocating these funds.

Andrea Estupiñan
Site Supervisor
4Cs Old Elm Child Development Center

305 W Payran St. Suite C
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-782-0408

Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs)
131-A Stony Circle, Suite 300
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-544-3077
Fax: 707-544-2625
www.sonoma4cs.org

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be a violation of law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of the original message. Thank you!

The 4Cs Sonoma office and all preschools are currently closed to the public. We are working in a limited capacity during this time and my response may be delayed, but I will get back to you at my earliest convenience. Please check our Facebook page and website at www.sonoma4cs.org for more information and updates. Don't forget to complete your census! <https://my2020census.gov/>

La oficina de 4Cs Sonoma y todos los centros preescolares están actualmente cerrados al público. Estamos trabajando en una capacidad limitada durante este tiempo y mi respuesta puede demorarse, pero me pondré en contacto con usted lo antes posible. Consulte nuestra página de Facebook y nuestra página al www.sonoma4cs.org para obtener más información y actualizaciones.
¡No te olvides de completar tu censo! <https://my2020census.gov/>

From: [Tess Mellor](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stipend consideration for ECE community
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:56:36 PM

I work at a private, non-profit, preschool here in Sonoma County. We have been opened since June 8, 2020 after being forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 15, 2020. The director and myself completed a soft opening summer school program to test run the guidelines and regulations provided to safely reopen the program. We felt that the importance of reopening the program for the children as well as their families was greater than waiting until the staff could be vaccinated. We prayed everyday for the vaccine to become available for teachers. I have seen first hand how the pandemic has effected the children and their families as well as schools and other preschool programs like the one I teach at. Due to the guidelines through Community Care Licensing we have had to decrease the number of children we have in our program. Following the stable cohort regulations, the program had to increase the number of full time staff members from one to two to help limit the mixing between the separate cohorts. Once we announced we were reopening the parents were excited. While I enjoy working in this field I am not in it for the money, that being said I do it because it is my calling. With Sonoma county being so expensive to live in, a stipend will be tremendously appropriated. Thank you for your consideration and taking the time to read this email.

Tess Mellor

From: [Jessica Foertsch](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ECE support
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:56:45 PM

Good Afternoon Council Members,

I am a teacher at a small, private, non profit preschool in Santa Rosa. We have remained open since June of 2020, working unvaccinated full time. There were many times where I feared for my health as well as the people closest to me. I knew that it was extremely important for families to have a place to send their child while they worked and strived to keep up financially during this incredibly hard time. I value the importance of a child's social emotional development, getting back into a routine, and socializing with other children who have the same feelings as one another. Sonoma County children have been through so much these past few years including the fires, a pandemic, and the home stresses that comes along with these tragedies; ensuring that our communities children have a strong foundation is important to me. I am not in this field for the money, but yes, I could use some as the cost of living in Sonoma County is outrageous. I ask the council to please consider using the funds to give stipends to the much deserving teachers and child care providers. It would be tremendously appreciated and valued by all of us. Thank you.

Jessica

From: [A. Linn](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:58:58 PM

Santa Rosa City Council,

Please

- set aside \$1,000,000 in the coming year for new homeless solutions.
- Fund \$315,000 for an Overnight Safe Parking Pilot Program.

I also support:

- \$1,100,000 for a Mental Health Response Team - Pilot Program
- \$150,000 for a Community Engagement Program - ongoing
- \$713,000 for the Sam Jones Annex (2021 - '22 paid for by CDBG: future years by General Fund)
- The Homeless Services Requests For Projects - Timeline

Under international law, even convicted murderers must be provided a sheltered, secure cell, food, water, and hygiene facilities.

Under U.N. rules for humanitarian response to refugees of war, famine, or natural disaster, all refugees are to be provided with at least:

- a secure site,
- tent,
- food,
- water, and
- cooking and hygiene facilities.

Every city and county in the U.S, including Santa Rosa, should have a policy requiring the same here for all unhoused people. Every person must be provided a safe, and reasonable accommodation alternative to living on the street. Non-congregate shelters are best for this purpose.

The emphasis should be on separate, private, non-congregate shelter rooms or tents, for

- safety,
- dignity,
- privacy,
- privacy and autonomy at one's bed or in one's room to take care of one's health, and
- to prevent enormously costly, devastating kickouts of sheltered people.

(Congregate shelters result in staff and residents being in everybody else's private business, down to the manner of cutting one's toenails; resulting in a greater number of costly, wasteful, devastating kickouts.)

Regarding "sweeps," please bear in mind:

- The police actions to evict homeless campers from their sites are weekly now. They do not help homeless people. Every camp site eviction adds to the trauma of people on the street.
- Evictions interfere with campers making progress toward getting housed.
- Evicted campers must spend days or weeks finding a new location, new tent, bedding, supplies, toilet options, access to food and water, etc. All while on foot. Only to be evicted again.
- This is a terrible abuse of penniless people.
- It increases the likelihood of criminal activities and sexual exploitation to pay for their necessities.

We need solutions that keep people safe and give them a legal place to sleep.

- The money we spend on these evictions would better fund safe parking and safe camping sites.
- Homeless people are our neighbors. To ignore them and torture them with camping evictions is inhumane.

Please **urgently plan, with people with lived experience of homelessness**, a safe parking and camping pilot site in every district, NOW!

Please contact me to participate in this planning. I have many recommendations to significantly reduce costs and lengths of homelessness through better physical and system design of homeless shelters and services.

Sincerely,
Alice Linn



Santa Rosa

We must live our lives as if the fragile web of life and future generations depend upon us, because they do.

From: [Hidden Valley Community Preschool](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Providing for Children during the pandemic
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:00:40 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been a preschool teacher, educated and employed in Sonoma County for 15 years, and without a doubt this year was the hardest, and the most rewarding. After discussing with my family first, I chose to go back to work wearing gloves, an apron, and a mask to protect myself, my family, and the children in my care. The fear of the unknown weighed heavy on my shoulders, never knowing if my precautions would be frightening to the innocent eyes of 2 to 5 year olds. But I knew that being here could be enough. Throughout this past school year I have endured closures due to fears of illness, sheltering in my home even when restrictions were lifted so as to keep my preschool open and the children and families safe, all without knowing if I was making the best decision for myself and my family. My school, Hidden Valley Community Preschool, opened to just 12 families, giving children a space away from the fear society set in, and giving parents peace of my mind. This was not without cost. As adults we took on the worries of children, yet witnessed the anxiety rise in some.

The close knit community that came together to be at this school is one I will never forget, that during tragedy around us we banded together to create a safe space for growing minds. I hold a positive memory of this within my heart, but I will also remember the risk I took as an educator, knowing it is what the children needed.

Sincerely,

Olivia (Oly) King
Site Supervisor, Hidden Valley Community Preschool

From: [Gloria Naisbitt](#)
To: [Sawyer, John](#)
Cc: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RV's and Homeless
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:01:18 PM

Dear Councilman Sawyer et al,

Re.: RV Parking and Homeless

Please help!!!

As a tax paying voting citizen (John Sawyer District), I am completely fed up with the RV parking and Homeless situation in our lovely city. I am a Senior citizen who lives alone, and I do not feel safe in my own home when unauthorized RV's are parked 100' away or Homeless are camping in the area.

Give SRPD the tools they need to keep our City safe! Please enforce all our Parking Laws. Please enforce all our No Camping Laws. Please enforce our drug laws and public urination laws. Please create a safe space for RVs to park and Homeless to camp that is completely away from our family parks, family neighborhoods, and businesses. Creating these spaces will be a huge start for Santa Rosa residents.

On other Homeless issues:

If Homeless will not avail themselves of help when offered, we need to respectfully ask them to leave the County instead of burdening the rest of us with their toxic destructive lifestyle.

Why does Santa Rosa bear the brunt of all the Sonoma County Homeless problems? Where are the Homeless populations In Healdsburg? Sebastopol? Petaluma? Windsor? Resources need to be allocated fairly. Why are we also financially responsible for any Homeless that are here from out-of-state?

I'm in the minority, but I support higher taxes if it will solve the Homeless situation. We certainly need Treatment on Demand, Mental Health facilities, and housing (including dogs of Homeless population)—what we don't need is an attractive enabling environment that brings even more Homeless to our beautiful City and/or only serves as bandaids on a bleeding wound. Ask any recovering addict or alcoholic—if we to allow Homeless to continue destructive behavior, we are killing them.

As long as Homeless advocates want to help the Homeless more than the Homeless want to help themselves, we will be gerbils spinning a wheel endlessly.

On another note, with Fire Season upon us, we cannot allow illegal parking and camping that could inadvertently start another massive fire like Tubbs.

Thank you for any help in solving these problems.

Sincerely,

Gloria Naisbitt


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Humboldt Community Preschool](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Approve a Stipend For Child Care Workers
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:03:48 PM

Hello,

I have been working in the field of childcare for the past twenty five years and I can truthfully say that this year was the most challenging in the face of the pandemic. While our work is essential for children's development and for families to have the opportunity to work and sustain themselves, childcare providers receive the lowest wages of any type of work. We were asked to work through a pandemic for our normal pay while others working in the service industry received hazard pay for also risking their overall health. Therefore, these providers deserve a stipend for the lack of support they received while working the front lines all of this school year.

Please allocate the federal funds to support these workers who do not get signs made for them calling them heroes and do not get paid a living wage, yet continue to do this work for the love they feel they can offer young children to help them grow into socially and emotionally balanced individuals.

It is due time that childcare workers receive compensation and speaking as a professional in this field for twenty five years with a Master's Degree, I still get paid less than individuals in any other field. Help restore the equity to a field that will soon find it difficult to recruit young people into a career with so much hard work and so little opportunity to compete in this world financially.

Thank you so much for your time.
Joe LeBlanc MA.

--



Humboldt Community Preschool
Phone Number: [\(707\) 521-9959](tel:(707)521-9959)
Website: <https://humboldtpreschool.com>
[Child Family Community Facebook](#)

From: [Angie Dillon Shore](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Angie Dillon Shore](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for City Council re: Study Session Item 3.1
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:10:52 PM
Attachments: [SoCo_0-5_ARP_REQUEST_FINAL.pdf](#)

Public Comment on Item 3.1 Study Session on 5/18/21 from Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director of First 5 Sonoma County

Good afternoon Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Rogers and Council Members Fleming, Schwedhelm, Alvarez, Sawyer and Tibbets,

First, I'd like to acknowledge and extend my deep gratitude for the Council's commitment of \$2 million of CARES Act funding earlier in the pandemic to mitigating the crisis in our child care sector. This was a down payment on the future that continues to stabilize and make a substantial impact on an essential part of our local economic infrastructure and has helped dozens of child care providers to stay afloat, as well as begin to rebuild our supply of family child care so that our community can truly re-open.

Today, as the Council studies the needs and potential opportunities during your Budget Study Session, I urge you to consider the joint request of leaders across the cradle to career continuum for the "First 5 Million for the First 5 Years". This combined request to the cities and towns across our county and the Board of Supervisors is to dedicate one-time funds, a small, but impactful percentage of the American Rescue Plan Local Coronavirus Recovery funding, to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the youngest residents of Santa Rosa and their parents.

Many Santa Rosa families are in crisis. By making a one-time investment to bolster safety net navigation and community based resources for early childhood and maternal mental health, the City will help strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and promote positive interactions within families and caregivers to help children develop their potential and equitably recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Our community's families have been through so much, with recurring disasters since 2017 and the isolation, fear and emotional and financial stress of the pandemic. Trauma and toxic stress in a young child's life can impact how that child develops and functions. It is critical to invest now in positive early childhood mental health and to stabilize our network of community-based, child-serving organizations to help ensure the success of children and families as we emerge from this crisis.

The need to continue to support the child care sector is more critical now than ever. In spite of local, state and federal efforts, our community HAS lost a significant number of child care slots, which as you know, will cripple parents' ability to return to work and will slow down our local economic recovery. Many frontline child care providers worked throughout the pandemic, putting their own health and lives on the line in order to provide safe and nurturing care for children so parents were able to work. It is

critical that we fortify our struggling child care workforce so that we can ensure that our community's children have a strong foundation - this is key in the development of our future workforce.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration. First 5 Sonoma is grateful for our ongoing partnership with the City of Santa Rosa and remain at your service as a resource to support children and families..

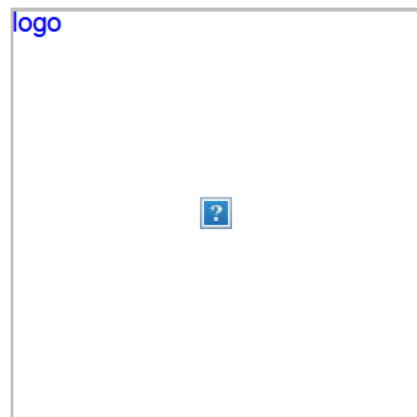
Angie Dillon-Shore

(she, her, hers)

Executive Director

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it *all the time.*"

~ Angela Davis



t: 707.522.2019

e: adillonshore@first5sonomacounty.org



American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding and Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County’s Children & Families:

First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years

Early Childhood Mental Health	\$1,000,000
Family Safety-net Navigation	\$500,000
Home Visiting for High-Need Families	\$1,000,000
Direct Supports to Essential Workers: Child Care Providers	\$1,000,000
Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems	\$1,500,000

Sonoma County Families are in Crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a huge strain on families with young children due to health concerns, stress, isolation and income loss. In the past year, many families have been pushed into poverty, particularly Latinx families who have suffered disproportionately greater economic and health impacts¹. Most concerning are the proven long-term impacts of childhood poverty and adversity on physical and mental health, brain development, and school readiness and the risk that shorter-term pandemic impacts will deepen racial disparities in access to affordable housing, healthcare, and education.²

As parents return to work and children to child care and school, experts predict trauma and toxic stress to surface. Data from the *Family, Youth and Children Division* of the Sonoma County Human Services Department reflects that in 2020, a significantly greater percentage of child abuse reports required *immediate intervention* due to the *high acuity and severity* of the cases, as well as related spikes in parental substance misuse, opioid overdose, suicidality, and incidents of domestic violence where were children present.³

The pandemic comes atop the trauma and economic impacts that families have endured from recurring disasters since 2017. The compounding impact of ongoing and recurring traumas on

¹ Parent Support and COVID-19: Summary of Survey Results, October 2020, First 5 Sonoma County: https://drive.google.com/file/d/15r_EPRj7kKHijHe67BqSU-a87mXwGNl0/view?usp=sharing

² Children’s Defense Fund, *Child Poverty data*: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-poverty/>

³ Unpublished data presented by Nick Honey, FYC Director, to the Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma County Steering Committee, 3/17/21

children's social-emotional development has resulted in chronic stress and anxiety for many children and a corresponding decline in countywide school readiness scores, as well as an ever-widening, extreme disparity between the school readiness of white and Latinx children⁴. Young children with special needs, dual language learners and those lacking adequate access to virtual learning have experienced serious disruption in learning, as well as the critical nutrition, counseling and other supports that many children normally receive at child care or school.

The pre-existing crisis in our community's child care sector has been significantly worsened by the pandemic. With permanent closure of dozens of child care providers, our communities have lost thousands of child care slots which will cripple parents' ability to return to work and slow down our local economic recovery.⁵

Across the state, pediatric well-child visits were down an estimated 24% from pre-pandemic baselines in December 2020 and the number of childhood vaccination doses administered to California children dropped by more than 40% at the start of the pandemic.^{6 7} This has especially impacted children covered by MediCal and is a huge blow to critical preventive care and early identification of developmental and social-emotional issues for young children.

The good news is that the County of Sonoma and our City/Town Councils of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Windsor, Healdsburg, Sonoma, Sebastopol and Cotati have an opportunity to buffer these impacts on young children and families by strategically investing the *American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding*, a highly flexible funding stream intended to address COVID-19 impacts at a local level⁸.

To ensure that the needs of children and families are prioritized, we request \$5 million in combined funding across County and municipalities (3% of the ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Funding to our county) to ensure that children have supports to be healthy, safe, and ready to learn, as we emerge out of COVID-19. First 5 Sonoma and community-based partners have actively supported families and children during the COVID-19 crisis and we remain committed to ongoing recovery efforts. However, First 5 funds (Proposition 10, 1998) alone cannot meet the needs of our youngest children and their families. Additional local and flexible funds are critical to ensure meet young

⁴ READY Report 2016-2019: Sonoma County Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, <https://first5sonomacounty.org/2020/12/21/local-study-shows-persistent-kindergarten-readiness-gap-between-latinx-and-white-children/>

⁵ Sonoma County Economic Perspective, 2021: Panel on Child Care, Sonoma County Development Board, 1/28/21

⁶ Ateev Mehrotra et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Outpatient Visits in 2020: Visits Remained Stable, Despite a Late Surge in Cases* (Commonwealth Fund, February, 2021). <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2021/feb/impact-covid-19-outpatient-visits-2020-visits-stable-despite-late-surge>

⁷ California Department of Public Health, *Staying Safe & Getting Vaccinated During the Pandemic*, Press Release:NR20-090 (May 18, 2020). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-090.aspx#YourActionsSavesLives>

⁸ *The Cradle-To-Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond COVID-19*, Children's Funding Project, March, 2021, <https://www.childrensfundingproject.org/>


children's needs today, as well as stabilize systems of care for future crises and ongoing support. A proactive approach will address current needs, stabilize the 0-5 serving sector, mitigate exposure to toxic stress, and intervene as early as possible to support families who are struggling.

Together, we can meet the current crisis moment, while also building resilience among families and communities for years to come.

In partnership,



Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director
First 5 Sonoma County
Chair, Cradle to Career Sonoma
County Advocacy Committee



Daniel Schurman (Apr 2, 2021 15:24 PDT)

Daniel Schurman, Manager
Community Health Investment,
Providence



Melanie Dodson, Executive Director
Community Child Care Council of
Sonoma County



kimberly bender (Apr 5, 2021 08:57 PDT)

Kimberly Bender, Executive Director
Healthcare Foundation of Northern
Sonoma County



Jenni Klose (Apr 4, 2021 09:59 PDT)

Jenni Klose, Executive Director
Generation Housing



Glaydon de Freitas Filho, CEO
Corazón Healdsburg



Erin Hawkins (Apr 5, 2021 09:43 PDT)

Erin Hawkins, Co-Director
Hanna Institute



Peter Rumble (Apr 2, 2021 13:35 PDT)

Peter Rumble, CEO
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber



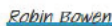
Tony Crabb, Founder & Board
Member
CTE Foundation



Elece Hempel, Executive Director
Petaluma People Services Center



Susan Cooper, Executive Director
Community Action Partnership of
Sonoma County



Robin Bowen (Apr 4, 2021 14:39 PDT)

Robin Bowen, Executive Director
Child Parent Institute



Sarah Rock (Apr 5, 2021 00:24 PDT)

Sarah Rock, Consulting Director
Sonoma Connect



Herman J. Hernandez (Apr 4, 2021 09:43 PDT)

Herman J. Hernandez, Founder
& Board Member
Los Cien



Diann Kitamura (Apr 2, 2021 15:13 PDT)

Dr. Diann Kitamura,
Superintendent
Santa Rosa City Schools



Michele Rogers, Executive Director
Early Learning Institute



Susan Gilmore (Apr 5, 2021 09:10 PDT)

Susan Gilmore, CEO
North Bay Children's Center



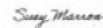
Veronica Vences (Apr 5, 2021 11:55 PDT)

Veronica Vences, Director of
Development
La Luz

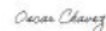


Nick Dalton (Apr 5, 2021 09:59 PDT)

Nick Dalton, Co-Director
Hanna Institute



Susy Marron, Coordinator
Child Care Planning Council



Oscar Chavez, Chair
First 5 Sonoma County
Commission

Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County's Children & Families: First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years: Expenditure Plan

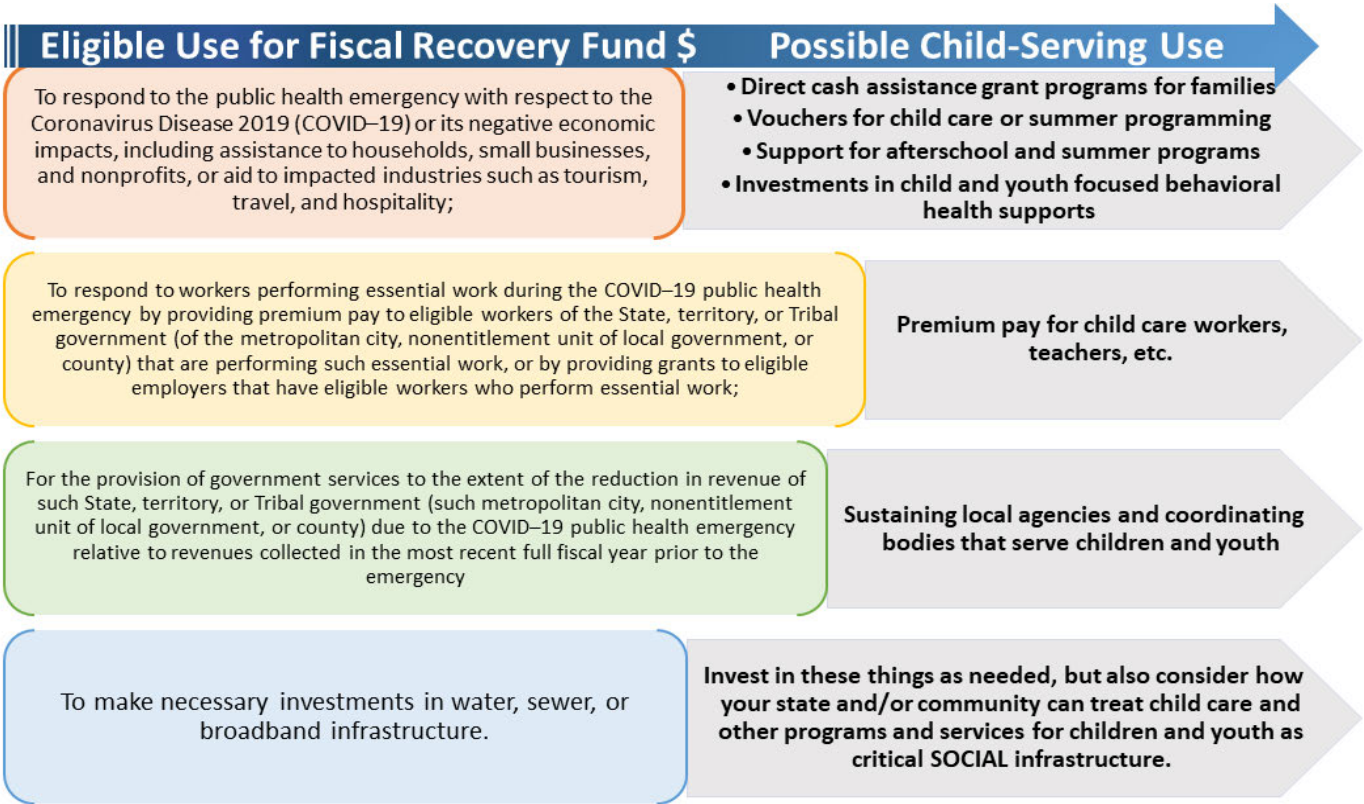
Strategy	Description	Funding Amount	Funding Mechanism
Early Childhood Mental Health	Funding will ensure robust community-based resources for early childhood and perinatal mental health to strengthen parenting and resilience in families to improve social, emotional and behavioral health. A state funding stream (MHSA-PEI) for 0-5 administered by County Behavioral Health has been recently reduced by 35% since 2018, undermining our community's capacity to provide critical supports to families and children during this challenging time.	\$1,000,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will provide direct funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELI • PPSC • CPI
Safety-net Navigation	COVID has dealt a huge blow to child development. Monitoring children's developmental milestones and ensuring access to the early intervention has been greatly undermined by the pandemic. Community-based organizations are essential for identifying children with developmental delays and ensuring families are connected to developmental supports and other critical safety-net services, including housing assistance, mental health services, health insurance, food assistance and parenting education.	\$500,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will provide direct funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELI • CAP Sonoma • La Luz • Corazón Healdsburg
Home Visiting Services	Home visiting eases family isolation, strengthens families, and improves health and other outcomes. Home visitors connect families to a broad range of supportive resources, reduce parental stress, and improve child health and development. Nurse Family Partnership serves the highest risk moms and babies. Funding for this critical program is unstable.	\$1,000,000	County of Sonoma direct funding to Department of Health Services to ensure full funding for <i>Nurse Family Partnership</i> program for FY 21/22
Direct Supports to Child Care Providers	Safe and stable child care is critical to keeping kids learning, parents earning, and our economy thriving. Additional economic support is needed for our essential child care workforce, which underpins our economic recovery. Stipends of \$1,250-1,500 for approximately 715 frontline child care workers, actively caring for children during pandemic in public and private settings	\$1,000,000	Municipalities and County transfer directly to <i>Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County*</i> to distribute to essential workers
Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize and support sustainability for 0-5 programs by reimbursing expenditures specifically allocated to pandemic response from First 5 Sonoma County Prop. 10 reserves • Stabilize and sustain programs by ensuring community-based partners earn full administrative cost on program contracts. • Support a countywide public will building campaign around needs of children and youth to build momentum for a citizen-driven initiative to ensure long term sustainability of critical programs for children and youth. 	\$1,500,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will distribute funding to ensure all FY 20/21 contracted administrative costs capture by currently funded partners
	TOTAL	\$5,000,000	

Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County's Children & Families: First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years
Requested Contributions by County and Cities/Towns

Jurisdiction	ARP \$ in Millions	Requested %age of \$5m	Total Request
County of Sonoma	\$95.87	68%	\$3,400,000
City of Santa Rosa	\$36.4	18%	\$880,000
City of Petaluma	\$8.75	5%	\$240,000
City of Rohnert Park	\$8.15	4%	\$200,000
Town of Windsor	\$5.1	2%	\$120,000
City of Sebastopol	\$1.4	1%	\$40,000
City of Sonoma	\$2	1%	\$40,000
City of Healdsburg	\$2.2	1%	\$40,000
City of Cotati	\$1.39	1%	\$40,000

	Early Childhood Mental Health	Safety-net Navigation	Home Visiting Services	Direct Supports to Child Care Providers	Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems	Total Request
County of Sonoma	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	\$900,000	\$3,400,000
Santa Rosa	\$230,000	\$110,000	\$0	\$220,000	\$330,000	\$880,000
Petaluma	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$240,000
Rohnert Park	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$200,000
Windsor	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$120,000
Sebastopol, Sonoma, Healdsburg & Cotati	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$40,000 each
TOTALS	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$5,000,000

Eligible Uses of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds⁹



⁹ The Cradle-To-Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond COVID-19, Children's Funding Project, March, 2021, <https://www.childrensfundingproject.org/>


From: [Victoria Yanez](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:17:17 PM

Honorable City Council Members:

I am writing this letter to urge the City Council to set aside at least one million dollars to find alternatives to police sweeps of homeless encampments.

As a member of Homeless Action! we have been fighting against this inhumane response to the societal problem of homelessness for years now and nothing has improved except for the efficient manner in which these sweeps are being conducted.

Thus in the interest of human rights please set aside funding for safe parking and other alternatives to Police Sweeps. History is watching!

Victoria Yanez


From: [Gregory Fearon](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Lauby](#); [Marion Weinreb](#); [Arlie Haig](#); [Victoria Yanez](#); [Patrick O'Loughlin](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:28:37 PM

Greetings!

Many thanks for including the topic and funding (\$315,000) of Safe Parking in your proposed budget for your Tuesday Study Session. SAVS has seen the value of stabilizing our unhoused who cannot utilize our shelters, and is committed to bringing about these resources for their betterment.

Overnight vs 24/7? During the budget hearings earlier this year, we encouraged you to consider spreading the responsibility for safe parking around to the entire City. You agreed, and the plan was to try to have a parking site in every district. Your staff reviewed the available city underutilized land, and presented options to you.

I don't think there was any doubt that we did not succeed in finding good sites. Until we can, my fear is that this funding, like the original \$20,000 which started the CHAP Program, will languish in search of the perfect political implementation.

We also must remind you that SAVS did not support safe parking in an "Overnight" design. We did that for years on our own site on McBride Ave, and supported it elsewhere in the City. What did not work about it was its inability to connect wraparound services from nonprofit and county services to clients whose only onsite availability was after dinner and before bed each night. It was not very easy to get these services workers to spend time away from their families in the evenings with our clients.

Nor was it productive to have to require our clients to drive around all day avoiding detection for driving vehicles which sometimes had registration or maintenance problems, and usually carried pets and all other possessions.

SAVS was then, and is even more now, interested in safe parking operated 24/7, and what was referred to as an "alternate site". A single site, capable of being designed to accommodate multiple housing uses. Neither a shelter, nor a permanent housing complex, it fills the largest need of our unhoused. More flexible than cabins, far less expensive than housing, we proposed a site which can accommodate cars, RVs, and modular units.

In order for the City to undertake this innovative approach, it will need to know that its resources include funding which could be sufficient. We are requesting that \$1 million be allocated from the any source at the City's disposal to whichever department or separate entity chosen by the City to administer homeless funding for FY 21-22. We are simultaneously asking the County of Sonoma to take the same action. We are aware that the County, City, and other governing bodies are attempting to coordinate and act regionally in the development of homeless housing and services. The Sonoma County System Continuum of Care, and the Renewal Enterprise District are both being discussed as central coordination and planning entities.

Your budget allocation adoption does not require those decisions now. What we are asking you to do is to decide that our City is committed to actively exploring collaborative planning and operation of alternate housing such as what we have proposed. The pathways from streets to permanent supportive housing and beyond are not a one-lane highway. And until we find the routes they can take, our clients will be lost, and we will not succeed.

Sincerely,

Gregory Fearon

[REDACTED]
Santa Rosa, CA
[REDACTED]

From: [Adrienne](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:30:57 PM

Dear City Council Members,

Please set aside \$1,000,000 (1 million dollars) in the coming year for new homeless solutions. This will cover the Safe Parking options you've agreed to do and there will be some left for other solutions like tiny home villages, 24 hour R.V. parking and other immediate safe shelter for homeless people. Please put a healthy amount in your homeless solutions fund so you can be flexible in the coming year.

I support funding the Mental Response Team because it will help homeless people who are going through a crisis.

I also support your continued Community Engagement Program and some money for the Sam Jones Annex.

Finally, please approve the Homeless Services Request for Proposals Timeline.

Thank you, as always, for your hard work in support of the homeless people who live in Santa Rosa.

Adrienne
Co-Founder, Homeless Action!
[REDACTED] cell

From: [wrightstart](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Agenda item 3.1
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:40:52 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to express my support of funds going to child care teachers who have worked throughout this pandemic. Many of my teachers have worked on the frontline throughout the pandemic, putting their own health and lives on the line in order to provide safe and nurturing care for children so parents were able to work. Studies have shown that investments in early education set the foundation for learning, ensure school readiness, and narrow the persistent achievement gap for the region's most vulnerable children. My preschool serves the highest need population in our county. Thank you for your consideration.

Corrie Pabros
Site Supervisor
Wright Start Preschool
950 S. Wright Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-542-1813

Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs)
131-A Stony Circle, Suite 300
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-522-1413 x186
707-544-3077
Fax: 707-544-2625
www.sonoma4cs.org

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be a violation of law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of the original message. Thank you!

Celebrating 45 Years of Service to Sonoma County! 1972-2017

From: [Childkind Preschool](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:07:16 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I hear that the counsel is considering the possibility of providing a stipend to childcare providers who stayed open during the pandemic. I would like to strongly encourage this plan of action.

I have been in the childcare profession for 30 years and this has been by far, the most difficult year of my career. The amount of stressors between concern of the pandemic itself and following the guidelines of safety set forth by the county while still trying to keep our school running was immense. After 35 years of serving families, Childkind where I am currently the director, was in jeopardy of closing. We persevered, but only because I was able to retain and hire dedicated staff who were willing and able to be on the front lines with me and provide a safe and nurturing space for young children to come, so their parents could work. The financial and emotional toll it is taking on all in the field is huge and although many are feeling safer going to work these days, our youngest children are still a ways away from getting vaccinated. Therefore, we are continuing to put our own and our families health on the line by coming to work every day. As you probably know, there is no such thing as social distancing with toddlers, and mask are being worn, but are a little bit of a misnomer for young children as they are often needing to be replaced and fixed and put on by our caring staff.

A stipend would be a token of gratitude to these very dedicated staff. I hear word of other centers who are trying and being unable to hire staff in this climate and I am worried every day that I will loose a teacher to a higher paying field and be unable to fill their spot, leaving families without care. Financial stability equals staff stability equals quality teaching and care for young children equals a healthy workforce of working families.

I truly hope you make the choice to do what you can to show these under appreciated, and underpaid essential workers, that they are needed and valued.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Aphrodite Bellochio
Director
Childkind Preschool

From: [Amy Appleton](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:15:27 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-SHARE Sono.png](#)

To the Santa Rosa City Council,

Please

- set aside \$1,000,000 in the coming year for new homeless solutions.
- Fund \$315,000 for an Overnight Safe Parking Pilot Program.

I also support:

- \$1,100,000 for a Mental Health Response Team - Pilot Program
- \$150,000 for a Community Engagement Program - ongoing
- \$713,000 for the Sam Jones Annex (2021 - '22 paid for by CDBG: future years by General Fund)
- The Homeless Services Requests For Projects - Timeline

Under international law, even convicted murderers must be provided a sheltered, secure cell, food, water, and hygiene facilities.

Under U.N. rules for humanitarian response to refugees of war, famine, or natural disaster, all refugees are to be provided with at least:

- a secure site,
- tent,
- food,
- water, and
- cooking and hygiene facilities.

Every city and county in the U.S, including Santa Rosa, should have a policy requiring the same here for all unhoused people. Every person must be provided a safe, and reasonable accommodation alternative, as needed, to living on the street. Non-congregate shelters are best for this purpose.

The emphasis should be on separate, private, non-congregate shelter rooms or tents, for

- safety,
- dignity,
- privacy,
- privacy and autonomy at one's bed or in one's room to take care of one's health, and
- to prevent enormously costly, devastating kickouts of sheltered people.

(Congregate shelters result in staff and residents being in everybody else's private business, down to the manner of cutting one's toenails; resulting in a greater number of costly, wasteful, devastating kickouts.)

Regarding "sweeps," please bear in mind:

- The police actions to evict homeless campers from their sites are weekly now. They do not help homeless people. Every camp site eviction adds to the trauma of people on the street.
- Evictions interfere with campers making progress toward getting housed.
- Evicted campers must spend days or weeks finding a new location, new tent, bedding, supplies, toilet options, access to food and water, etc. All while on foot. Only to be evicted again.
- This is a terrible abuse of penniless people.
- It increases the likelihood of criminal activities and sexual exploitation to pay for their necessities.
- We need solutions that keep people safe and give them a legal place to sleep.

- The money we spend on these evictions would better fund safe parking and safe camping sites.
- Homeless people are our neighbors. To ignore them and torture them with camping evictions is inhumane.

Please **urgently plan, with people with lived experience of homelessness**, a safe parking and camping pilot site in every district, NOW!

-amy



Amy Appleton
Executive Director
Direct Tel: (707) 566-4499
Cell: (707) 772-7262

OFFICE (By Appointment Only):
411 Russell Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
main tel. 707.766.8800
fax. 707.766.8899
<https://sharesonomacounty.org/>

From: [Callie Katapski](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] First 5 Million for the First 5 Years
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:17:21 PM

Hello,

I am in my fourth year in my dream job as a preschool teacher at Hidden Valley Community Preschool in Santa Rosa. These four years have not only been a wonderful journey for me in my life, but they have also brought forth many challenges for me as I explore this field of early childhood education. Since I began working in this field, our community has been hard hit with things like fire, smoke, school closures, and finally COVID-19. These conditions have made our jobs as teachers even more difficult than they were before. We've been working hard every day to ensure that the trauma these young children have endured has a healthy outlet and that the children can find ways to adjust to their new realities. The pandemic really threw in a new kind of curve ball, however. Parents needed child care and child care was nowhere to be found. When our school re-opened after the COVID closure, the families that came back were immensely grateful. They were happy to have a bit of a break to get their own work done, but also they knew how much their children needed to be in school. The return to some sort of normalcy proved to be hugely important for these children and their growth and development. We were here, providing a safe and nurturing environment for those in our community who needed it the most - the children. We gladly came back, and have received thanks from the community, but not from officials who consistently rely on our important work for the community to thrive. The teachers and childcare providers here have gone above and beyond the call of duty during such a tumultuous time, putting themselves and their families at risk in order for society to function again. It is about time that some action is taken to show our teachers how much they really mean to our community and society as a whole.

Thank you,
Callie McKenzie

From: [Kathleen Finigan](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BUDGET HEARINGS: HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:19:04 PM

Honorable Council Members:

I'm writing to implore you to take to heart the miserable plight of our homeless neighbors in Santa Rosa. They are trapped in a revolving door of perpetual misery comprising endless encampment sweeps that leave them with no legal options to rest. The sweeps are very costly and there's no end in sight for the foreseeable future.

We know that it will be many years more before permanent supportive housing will be available for those who have lost their homes.

I'm asking you to consider the fastest and least expensive option that can put an end to this heartless whack-a-mole tragedy.

Transitional villages comprising safe parking, tents, pre-fab units in any combination can provide the desperately needed stability, hygiene, medical and behavioral health services and other wraparound services such as job retraining that can well serve residents and prepare them for permanent housing.

Please designate \$1million for homeless housing and services with a call for matching funds from the County.

These are our neighbors and they need a helping hand.

Housing is a human right!

Please be part of the solutions we need right now.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Finigan
Santa Rosa

--

Be kind whenever possible.

It is always poss

HH Dalai Lama

--

Be kind whenever possible.

It is always possible.

HH Dalai Lama

From: [Marion Weinreb](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment for 5/17 City Council Meeting Item 3.1 City Budgets
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:21:59 PM


Santa Rosa City Council,

Please

- set aside at least \$1,000,000 in the coming year for new and innovative homeless solutions.
- Fund \$315,000 for a Safe Parking Pilot Program where wrap-around services can be provided and the program can be 24/7.

- Topic 1: Safe Parking - \$315,000 for a Safe Parking Pilot Program (Overnight)
 - We are pleased to see safe parking recommended as a homeless services program funded by the city.
 - However, overnight safe parking is not enough; the program must be 24/7 Safe parking . Overnight parking services a tiny subset of the unsheltered population with working vehicles, but this type of program limits access to homeless services that would result in transitional housing and ultimately permanent housing. This type of program is very disruptive, with cars coming in every night, leaving every morning. It puts a lot of stress on an already stressed population.
 - 24/7 safe parking is a cost effect solution - it uses existing "housing" such as cars and RV's and is quick to implement. Safe parking programs require very little infrastructure - some portable bathrooms, showers, and security fencing to become operational. Residents can help operate the program.
 - The initial recommendation to the board was for up to 7 sites to be created with the funding. It is our recommendation that 1-2 sites be created - and that the site not be put in public parks or near schools. There are many private and public parking lots in commercial / industrial lots that are good places to open safe parking sites.
 - Safe parking is also a smart starting point for a more complete village - safe parking is expandable and can morph into a village as public or private funding becomes available.

- Topic 2: Sam Jones Annex - \$713,000 for the Sam Jones Annex (21-22 paid for by CDBG, future years by General Fund)
 - What are the city's plans for the Sam Jones Annex? It has put large sums of money into expanding the Annex, but replicating the shelter bed model does not seem like a great use of the site - as many unsheltered people do not choose shelter beds as a housing solution.
 - We would like to see a new concept for the site - as well as opening up the services contract to new innovative service providers like SAVS or equivalent.

Regards, Marion
 cell

“When we refrain from giving, with a scarcity mentality, the little we have will becomes less. When we give generously, with an abundance mentality, what we give away will multiply.” Henri Nouwen

From: [Sharry Caesare](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stipends for ECE Providers
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:29:19 PM

Dear Council Members:

I am asking you to please consider using federal funds to support our childcare providers and early childhood educators who worked without hazard pay or safety of vaccination during the start of the pandemic.

Studies have shown that investments in early education set the foundation for learning, ensure school readiness and narrow the persistent achievement gap. I would like to make the case for the importance of investing in those professionals who are out in the field, doing the work and making the difference for these children and families. Those in the field are often undervalued and underpaid for the services they provide. These services are critical, we need to be asking ourselves how we can better support this workforce.

When everything shut down in March, centers and programs closed, leaving parents in an almost impossible position of trying to work from home, with young children at their side. Essential workers had no option to work from home and had to scramble to try to find alternative care. Many centers and programs in Sonoma County closed, due to the fear of the virus, or because they simply could not afford to operate their programs with a fraction of enrollment along with the costs of additional PPE equipment and cleaning supplies. Others, after careful consideration and review of recommendations placed by The Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health decided to open their doors, understanding the need to get our local workforce up and running, and to keep our economy thriving. Those in the field also realized the importance of the social emotional development of the children, these children needed to have some return to normalcy and get back to learning and playing.

The ECE workforce was scared to go back, they worried for their health, they worried about their families health, yet they showed up. They got children back into programs and parents back to work. These are heroic efforts that deserve some recognition.

While a stipend of \$1,250 may not seem like a lot of money to many individuals living in Sonoma County, I know it would make a world of difference for many of our hard working, professional teachers and providers. The money would be appreciated, but more so the recognition that we, as a county support and value them as the professionals they are.

Please support these individuals who did such important work during such scary and uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Sharon Caesare

From: [A. Linn](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] <200 words: Budget Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:30:47 PM

City Council,

Please support:

- \$1,000,000 for new homeless solutions.
- \$315,000 for Safe Parking
- \$1,100,000 for a Mental Health Response Team
- \$150,000 for Community Engagement
- \$713,000 for Sam Jones Annex
- The Homeless Services Requests For Projects Timeline

U.N. rules for war/famine/disaster refugees provide everyone:

- a secure camp,
- tent,
- food/water,
- cooking and hygiene facilities.

Santa Rosa policy should provide the same for everyone unhoused.

Non-congregate shelter rooms/tents/parking work best for:

- safety,
- dignity,

- privacy and autonomy, for health self-care at one's bed, and
- to prevent costly, devastating kickouts.

(Staff at congregate dorm shelters are in everyone's business, down to toenail cutting; resulting in absurd, costly, devastating kickouts.)

Police "sweeps":

- Abuse.
- Waste money
- Add trauma.
- Prolong homelessness.
- Waste weeks of campers' time finding a new location, supplies, toilets, food, water, etc. On foot.
- Increase likelihood of crime and sexual exploitation to pay for their necessities.


We need:

- Safe, legal sleep solutions.
- To better use funds for safe parking and camping.
- To **urgently plan, with people with lived experience**, safe parking and camping in each district.

Please contact me. I have recommendations to reduce homelessness cost and length through better physical and system design of shelters and services.

Alice Linn

Santa Rosa



We must live our lives as if the fragile web of life and future generations depend upon us, because they do.

From: [Renee Whitlock](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "First 5 Million for the First 5 Years" American Rescue Plan Local Coronavirus Recovery Funds request
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:44:07 PM

I would like to thank the Santa Rosa City Council for your continued support of Early Childhood and Child Care programs. During the pandemic my company employed 12 educators and 19 staff members during the pandemic at our 3 preschools. Hidden Valley, Humboldt community preschools and Fulton Community School & Farm have supported 80 families by providing stable childcare and early education. Without the dedicated educators we would not have a been able to do so. We are operating with 100% more expenses and 50% prepandemic capacity. The educators have not received any hazard pay or pay increases because of the dire circumstances of our budgets. Please support and vote for additional funding for these educators to receive much needed stipends They did not have to show up for our community but they did and they deserve every support we can provide.

Again thank you. Please vote in-favor of this needed allocation.

Sincerely
Renee Whitlock-Hemsouvanh
Child Family Community inc

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Felila](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:46:51 PM

Aloha! My name is Felila Ako and I am employed by Fulton Community School and Farm in Santa Rosa. I have been working as an essential worker through out the pandemic, despite my hesitation due to my personal autoimmune health issues. Why place myself at risk during such a tumultuous time? Because when I wake up each morning, I know that job directly impacts the well being of these children. Their mental health and social emotional skills are being fostered each day by their peers and teachers. We lay the foundation for the future members of society. Our county faces a huge child care crisis as there are not enough qualified teachers and centers for the number of children needed. Parents need to go back to work but cannot afford to pay more out of pocket for tuition to a high quality preschool, teachers are burnt out yet can't afford to live in Sonoma County based in their wages alone; we need help. Our children deserve the best from all of us. Please help us to get there. Mahalo for your time. Sincerely, Felila Ako

Sent from my iPhone

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:51:11 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Alice Linn submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.1 REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET Session intended to provide City Council the opportunity to receive information, and to ask questions related to the City's overall financial stability and the proposed Fiscal Year (FY), 2021-22 Operations and Maintenance Budget and the Capital Improvement Program budget. No action is required.

eComment: City Council, Please support: · \$1,000,000 for new homeless solutions. · \$315,000 for Safe Parking · \$1,100,000 for a Mental Health Response Team · \$150,000 for Community Engagement · \$713,000 for Sam Jones Annex · The Homeless Services Requests For Projects Timeline U.N. rules for war/famine/disaster refugees provide everyone: · a secure camp, · tent, · food/water, · cooking and hygiene facilities. Santa Rosa policy should provide the same for everyone unhoused. Non-congregate shelter rooms/tents/parking work best for: · safety, · dignity, · privacy and autonomy, for health self-care at one's bed, and · to prevent costly, devastating kickouts. (Staff at congregate dorm shelters are in everyone's business, down to toenail cutting; resulting in absurd, costly, devastating kickouts.) Police "sweeps": · Abuse. · Waste money · Add trauma. · Prolong homelessness. · Waste weeks of campers' time finding a new location, supplies, toilets, food, water, etc. On foot. · Increase likelihood of crime and sexual exploitation to pay for their necessities. We need: · Safe, legal sleep solutions. · To better use funds for safe parking and camping. · To urgently plan, with people with lived experience, safe parking and camping in each district. Please contact me. I have recommendations to reduce homelessness cost and length through better physical and system design of shelters and services. Alice Linn

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:52:43 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Patrick OLoughlin submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.1 REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET Session intended to provide City Council the opportunity to receive information, and to ask questions related to the City's overall financial stability and the proposed Fiscal Year (FY), 2021-22 Operations and Maintenance Budget and the Capital Improvement Program budget. No action is required.

eComment: This is a comment on item 3.1 Comment for 5/17 City Council Meeting Item 3.1 City Budgets. I am writing to voice my support for a city funded safe parking program, but with two key changes to the initial recommendation. The initial description of the program emphasized overnight parking in seven spots across the city. Overnight parking is not a good solution for Santa Rosa because safe parking only allows moveable vehicles to pull in at night and leave in the morning. The significantly lowers the number of people that can receive services and the services that could be offered to the people using the safe parking program. Without the stability of a place to stay and supportive service, those in overnight parking have a slim chance of gaining stability and progressing towards permanent housing. I also do not think that seven spots spread out across the city is an efficient design. It would be better to have 1 or 2 24/7 safe parking sites - serving more than could be served among 7 sites more efficiently. So, please, yes lets do safe parking!! But lets make it 24/7 with wrap around services and in 1 or 2 locations where services can be delivered efficiently.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: [Melanie Bledsoe](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARP funds for child care providers
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:55:40 PM

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that the council will be discussing the "first 5 Million for the first 5 years" American Rescue plan local Coronavirus Recovery funds request, including a one-million dollars in payment to child care providers that have worked directly with children during the pandemic.

I would like to advocate for these funds to reach teachers directly through stipends. The pandemic has been a very stressful time for all. Centers were closed and the teachers still needed to call each family every week or more to see what they needed. Food clothes support or anything else we could help with. I know for sure this helped because I was one of those teachers that made calls all the time each teacher had a group of children to do. Teachers risked their own lives during this time. When our centers reopened everyone was at risk. Has been very difficult to keep our distance while taking care of children. We had lots of planning and preparation. Our community's families have been through crisis after crisis. I truly appreciate you all taking this into consideration when making your decision for allocation of these funds.

Melanie Bledsoe
Teacher
4Cs Old Elm
305 W Payran St. Suite C
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-782-0408

From: [colleen oneal](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment - Homeless
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:58:09 PM

Hello Council members I want to support the safe parking program but want to also say that this should be a 24/7 program in order to effectively address the needs of folks living in their vehicles. Specifically, to provide the opportunity for these folks to coordinate with other city/county services.

Additionally, I implore you to stop the inhumane sweeps of people living on the street. Rather than spend the money on the sweeps, provide safe parking and safe camping opportunities so people are not forced to live on the street in squalid conditions with no access to bathrooms, running water or garbage services.

Colleen S. O'Neal
Attorney at Law
988 Kenmore Ln.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 696-8514

From: [Sandra Evangelista](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID Funding
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:58:54 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

When the idea of advocating for myself and my coworkers came about I was unsure, especially not knowing how or why. After hearing it was about COVID and everything you had to do, I had to try. During this past year as many of you know, it was hard. The preschool I worked at closed for 5 months causing anxiety and fear not only for my health but financially. Already, we don't make the most money, and especially during this time, there was nothing to fall back on anymore. I missed seeing my children and knowing how they were doing. Some of the families couldn't stay home or others had multiple children who were now at home causing them to struggle with childcare and their jobs. After we came back, I was uneasy, always feeling like there could be an outbreak, but I was there for them. I will continue to be there for the children because they matter most. They need me, just like I need them.

thank you!

Sandra.

From: [Barbara Renzullo](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Hearings, Public Comment,Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:59:26 PM

Santa Rosa City Council,

As the budget is formed for the coming year, the need is to look as much for the political will as to the delineating the possible projects that will help the many in our community who are without shelter. But do set aside \$1,000,000-or more- for the solutions.

Budget at least \$315,000 for 24/7 Safe Parking. There was talk and reports about safe parking throughout Santa Rosa last year but it did not happen. It does not give stability if someone must move their vehicle every 8 or 10 hours nor does it provide needed services for sanitation or other support services.

I look forward to more discussion of solutions including Tiny Homes. But there is a time deadline for getting this to you.

Thank you for your attention to helping.

Sincerely,

Barbara Renzullo

,000,

From: [Vera Zaro](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Hearings, Public Comment, Homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:59:49 PM

Dear City Council Members:

I am asking you to:

- 1) Set aside **\$1,000,000** in the coming year to provide **new effective homeless solutions**
- 2) Fund **\$315,000** for a **Safe Parking (Overnight) Pilot Program**.

Additionally:

- 3) **\$1,100,000** for a **Mental Health Response Team**–Pilot Program
- 4) **\$150,000** for a **Community Engagement Program**
- 5) **The Homeless Services Requests for Projects–Timeline**

The sweeps are happening weekly now. Shunting the homeless from place to place does absolutely nothing to help solve the problem. It only serves to re-traumatize the homeless, who often are already suffering from PTSD. It is also dehumanizing.

The sweeps also raise the ire of the general population as they highlight the ineptitude of government entities to implement meaningful change using taxpayer funding.

We need solutions to keep people safe and give them a legal place to sleep. Money spent on sweeps could be used to fund safe parking.

Do the right thing. Act to effect progressive positive change to fight homelessness.

Vera Zaro