

First 5 Commission of San Diego
 November 17, 2022
Healthy Development Services/ KidSTART Center
Funding Allocation FY2022/23 to FY 2024/25

Request

The request before the Commission is to approve a restoration of funding to the Healthy Development Services (HDS) program and KidSTART Center for over three fiscal years, 2022/23 to 2024/25.

On October 13, 2022, the Commission received a presentation from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) regarding the HDS program. Upon direction from Chair Fletcher, the Executive Director was asked to prepare a proposal for a funding increase recommendation to restore funding to HDS. HDS and KidSTART represent a large part of the continuum of care that is supported by the Commission. The following is an inclusive overview of this request for an increase of allocation for both programs in the amount of \$3M annually, over 3 fiscal years, retro to July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 the end of the current 5 year fiscal cycle. Total allocation will increase by \$9M over this three year period.

Background

First 5 San Diego created HDS in 2005 and over the years has served over 330,000 children, identified with mild to moderate developmental and behavioral needs, and their families. And in 2012, the Commission funded the KidSTART Center to meet the need of more complex developmental and behavioral needs identified in children birth to 5 years. HDS and KidSTART form the countywide system of care that is made possible by our four contracted providers: 1) Palomar Health; 2) Family Health Centers of San Diego; 3) Rady Children’s Hospital; and 4) SBCS. Additionally, countywide coordination is led by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP-CA3).

Together, HDS and KidSTART have been the primary referral source for pediatricians, early care and education programs, CWS via DSEP and parents also self-referring for support. They have become a critical safety net program to our region. Without HDS and KidSTART there is no other program that is available to meet the needs of our children that are presenting mild to moderate developmental and/or behavioral needs.

In Fiscal Year 2020/21, the Commission was faced with budget reductions and HDS and KidSTART were reduced by an average of 26%. The following demonstrates the reductions to each of the contracted partners operating HDS and KidSTART countywide:

Organization	Amount Reduced
AAP CA 3 Countywide Coordination	\$ (28,905)
Family Health Centers of San Diego HDS	\$ (1,425,000)
Palomar Health Inc. HDS	\$ (361,626)
Rady Children’s Hospital HDS	\$ (680,000)
Rady Children’s Hospital KidSTART	\$ (358,845)
SBCS HDS	\$ (320,000)
Total	\$ (3,174,376)

At the October 13, 2022 Commission meeting, the American Academy of Pediatrics presented that our children and families throughout the County have been impacted significantly by COVID and research continues to surface regarding the impact of the pandemic on children’s development. We know that children learn within the context of relationships and during the pandemic, children haven’t had optimal opportunities to socialize with their peers and caring adults like grandparents and ECE providers. We are now seeing delays in their communication skills and social-emotional development, which leads to behavioral concerns and ultimately mental health problems later in life. These disruptions of social-emotional development have created an overwhelming need for our behavior services.

Additionally, COVID has exacerbated the challenges and barriers that already existed for families. We've heard about job loss, domestic violence, parents' inability to manage their emotions and meet their children's' needs. When parents and caregivers are stressed, our youngest children feel the impact. The full impact of the pandemic on parents, parenting, and the workforce is still unknown.

While the pandemic may move to an endemic phase at some point, the effects of COVID on children are only beginning and will be lifelong.

The system of care leaned into the pandemic and provided increased support while adapting to teleservices. There was also a strong focus on supporting our contracted providers. There has been an increase in the frequency of countywide coordination meetings, as well as increasing family engagement time. This has increased families' willingness to engage in services and maintain participation. Often, our providers were the only external support for many families who were isolated. Our providers connected families to concrete supports in times of need, which is one of the protective factors from the Strengthening Families framework.

The following are the major impacts to the overall system of care countywide:

1. Increased developmental and behavioral needs among our children AND at a greater intensity which is especially true for the behavior Services (increase in behavior needs) uncovered by COVID and needs related to the social determinants of health among families.
2. Decreased funding
3. Increased costs
 - a. To hire and maintain professional level staff and other staff that have the expertise in working with young children
 - b. Due to inflation

Link to the Strategic Plan

The services support the following Strategic Plan Objective:

- Objective 4 – Decrease the percentage of children entering kindergarten with undetected and/or untreated developmental, social emotional, or behavioral delays or concerns
- Objective 6 – Increase parents' and primary caregivers' knowledge and capacity to promote the healthy development of children ages 0 through 5.
- Objective 7 – Increase parents' and caregivers' access to needed services for their children.

Link to *Live Well San Diego*

These services support the County's *Live Well San Diego* plan to provide healthy, safe and thriving communities as they promote healthy well-being for young children ages birth to 5 years of age by ensuring they have access to prevention and early intervention developmental and/or behavioral supports.

Staff Recommendation

- 1) Approve a funding increase of \$3M annually (\$9M over the three-year period) for the Healthy Development Services and KidSTART programs countywide (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025).
- 2) Increase allocations and authorize the Executive Director, or her designee, to amend the contracts and add funding to contracted providers as follows:

Agency	Contract #	Program	Recommended Allocation	Recommended Allocation	Recommended Allocation
			FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
American Academy of Pediatrics	534750	HDS / KidSTART Coordination	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Family Health Ctr SD	534755	HDS Central	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
	534757	HDS East	\$580,000	\$580,000	\$580,000
Palomar Health	546245	HDS No Inland	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000
Rady Children's Hospital	534759	HDS No. Central	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
	534775	HDS No. Coastal	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$440,000
SBCS	565170	HDS South	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$280,000
Rady Children's Hospital	551954	KidSTART	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total			\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

Fiscal Impact

Up to \$3M annually over 3 fiscal years, FY2022/23 – 2024/25 for a total impact of \$9M.