

Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Jane Light

SUBJECT: EARLY CARE & EDUCATION
FUNDING FOR STAFF POSITIONS

DATE: February 23, 2006

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee accept the Early Care and Education Update report continued from the February 9, 2005 meeting with this addendum regarding funding for Early Care and Education staff positions and the status of grant-funded positions.

BACKGROUND

The attached matrix of the Early Care and Education staff positions and funding sources is provided per the request of the Committee in preparation for the 2006-07 budget planning process. A few key points are as follows:

- In the 2003/04 fiscal year, the Manager, Office Specialist, Analyst and Youth Outreach Worker positions were all General Fund positions for Smart Start San Jose, a program in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department.
- All of these positions, except the Manager, were shifted to grant funding in 2004/05 and the Smart Start San Jose program was transferred to the Library Department and merged with the Books for Little Hands program as part of the Early Care and Education office.
- Funding for two critical positions, the Analyst and Office Specialist, which support the overall operations of the Early Care and Education office, the Early Care and Education Commission as well as the expansion of Smart Start San Jose child care facilities, will end on June 30, 2006.
- CDBG grant funds and Healthy Neighborhood Venture Funds support the Family Care Training Program staff and Books for Little Hands staff. While these grant terms end in 2006 and 2007, these funding sources continue to exist and applications are in process.

ANALYSIS

Of the 9.4 FTE staff positions in the Early Care and Education Services program, only one is supported by the General Fund. 1.5 FTE are funded by the Library Parcel Tax. The remaining 7.9 FTE are now grant funded. In the past, two of these, the Office Specialist and Analyst were general funded positions. In 2004/2005, as part of general fund, budget reductions, these two positions were switched to grant funding. These positions, while critical to the successful operations of the Early Care and Education Services programs, have no funding available through grants for the 2006/07 fiscal year. In addition, these positions are viewed by outside funders as core program operations, and therefore are not easy to support with grant funds. Without city commitment to funding these positions, it will be extremely difficult to coordinate the \$3 million Smart Start San Jose facilities expansion, the operations of the Early Care and Education Commission, and carry out the services provided by the ECE office to meet the Early Care and Education Strategic Plan.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost of supporting the two positions that will lose grant funding in 2006/07 would be \$164,017.

JANE LIGHT
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