

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.32
(ID # 26325)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, November 05, 2024

FROM : HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

SUBJECT: HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (HWS/WDD): Approve the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to implement the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program; District 2. [\$200,000 - 100% ARPA Funds] (CEQA Exempt per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3))

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that project is exempt from the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
2. Authorize the Director of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) to accept American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and implement the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program, with a total funding of \$200,000 in previously allocated Second Supervisorial District ARPA Funds, for the program years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026;
3. Authorize the Director of HWS, or designee, to take all steps necessary to execute the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program including, but not limited to, signing subsequent essential agreements and relevant documents, and executing any amendments, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel;
4. Authorize the use of up to 3% of allocated ARPA funds to pay direct County staff related and delivery costs for the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program; and
5. Direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse at the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) within five (5) business days of approval.

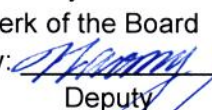
ACTION:Policy


Heidi Marshall, Director 10/24/2024

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: November 5, 2024
xc: HWS/WDD

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% ARPA Funds			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2024-2025, 2025-2026	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting economic crisis have significantly impacted the health and financial stability of American workers, including those in Riverside County. To address these challenges, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was enacted, providing \$130 billion in local funding to cities and counties across the nation. Of this, \$65 billion was allocated specifically for counties, distributed based on population size. Riverside County has received a portion of these funds, which are obligated to seven key areas: Infrastructure, Housing and Homelessness, Economic Recovery, County Department Response, Nonprofit Assistance, Childcare, and Revenue Backfill. On August 29, 2023 (Minute Order 3.3), the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$1,000,000 in ARPA funds from District 2 of Riverside County to Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS)/Workforce Development Division (WDD) to support three programs: Youth Employment, Youth Community Corps, and the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) Early Childhood Education Certificate Program.

In response to the widespread financial instability caused by the pandemic, the County of Riverside Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions/Workforce Development (HWS/WDD) proposes a partner with RCCD to offer additional support to students residing in Supervisorial District 2 who are currently enrolled or seeking enrollment in RCCD's Early Childhood Development Program. Students in this program are expected to complete it within two years, but many face challenges that extend their completion time to 3 to 6 years due to the necessity of working multiple jobs while pursuing their education. By offering eligible students support through this stipend program, the number of graduates in Early Childhood Development will increase, helping to address the shortage of childcare providers and meet the growing demand in this field. The practicum, which is vital for hands-on teaching experience, adds further difficulty, as many students cannot afford the time or costs associated with long commutes for their practicum sessions. Additional barriers such as the lack of affordable childcare, housing instability, and limited access to basic needs like food and healthcare further complicate their ability to balance work, family, and academic responsibilities, ultimately delaying program completion.

These ARPA funds will provide critical support to students by offering a stipend to help cover essential costs such as childcare, transportation, and housing. These funds will allow students

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to focus more on their studies and practicum requirements, reducing the time it takes to complete their degree.

Program Overview

The Early Childhood Development Program at Riverside Community College offers a comprehensive education that combines both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, preparing students for careers working with children from infancy to third grade. The program provides students the opportunity to earn various credentials, including an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Development and the Child Development Permit (CDP) at the Teacher Level. By completing the degree and 16 units of general education, students become eligible to apply for the CDP, expanding their career options. This permit enables them to provide care, development, and instruction for children, as well as supervise CDP Associate Teachers, Assistants, and aides. Additionally, the program includes a practicum component that offers hands-on experience, ensuring students are well-prepared for employment in the field.

Parameters of the Stipend Program

The Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program will provide eligible students with a financial assistance stipend of up to \$6,000 per student per academic calendar year with stipend payments not to exceed \$1,000 per month until maximum stipend amount is reached. With a maximum stipend amount of \$6,000 per student annually, the program aims to support at least 16 students per academic year, totaling a minimum of 32 students over two academic years. If some students do not utilize the full \$6,000, any remaining funds could be rolled over to support additional students.

To qualify, students must reside in District 2 of Riverside County, be currently enrolled or seeking enrollment in the Early Childhood Development Program and participate in the practicum portion of the program. The stipends can be used for a variety of expenses, including but not limited to childcare, fingerprinting, gas, rent, and other educational costs as reviewed and approved by HWS.

The budget for the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program is broken down as follows:

Project Costs	Funding Allocation
WDD Admin Cost	\$6,000
Student Stipends (32)	\$194,000
Total	\$200,000

The proposed Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development Stipend Program has been reviewed and determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), Common Sense, and General Rule Exemption. This determination is based on the fact that the program provides financial assistance to students in the RCCD Early Childhood Development Program, with no potential to impact the environment. Since the program

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solely involves financial and administrative support, there is no possibility of any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental effects. See the attached Notice of Exemption for additional details.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Approving the use of ARPA funds to provide additional financial assistance to students in the Riverside Community College District Early Childhood Development program will have a transformative impact on both residents and businesses. By reducing the financial barriers that currently hinder students from completing their education at RCC, this support will enable more students to successfully finish the program. With this financial relief, students will be able to pursue diverse career opportunities, such as starting their own childcare businesses or advancing in roles like teaching aides or supervisors in Child Development Permit (CDP) programs. This, in turn, will strengthen the local economy by fostering new businesses and creating a more skilled workforce in the field of early childhood education.

Additional Fiscal Information

The full cost of this project is \$200,000. The funding source is strictly ARPA Funds.

Attachment

- Notice of Exemption


Brianna Lontajo, Principal Management Analyst 10/31/2024


Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deputy County Counsel 10/28/2024