

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

April 4, 2023

Expanding Breathe: LA County’s Guaranteed Income Program

On May 18, 2021, the County of Los Angeles’ (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Poverty Alleviation Initiative to establish a Countywide Guaranteed Income pilot program to: identify appropriate funding and administrative support to provide \$1,000 per month to 1,000 County residents for three years; work with subject matter experts to design the pilot based on best practices from other jurisdictions; identify the target population to be served by the pilot; develop an academically recognized method of qualifying and selecting the pilot program participants; and engage community organizations, advocates, and service providers to support the program. The subject matter expert consultants were tasked with advising on the appropriate mechanisms to disburse funding; conduct research throughout the duration of the pilot; and analyze the impact and efficacy of the pilot on the target population at its completion. This program, Breathe: LA County’s Guaranteed Income Program, launched on March 31, 2022, and completed its enrollment of all 1,000 participants on August 15, 2022.

The original program goal included Transition Age Youth (TAY), who are former foster youth, served by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The program launched with eligibility criteria that included age, income, and residency within under-resourced census tracts. Participants must also have experienced a negative financial impact related to COVID-19 and must not have been enrolled in another guaranteed income program. The belief was that former DCFS foster TAY were likely to fall within these parameters and be included in the program participants served; yet, this

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did not occur at the intended level. To ensure that former DCFS foster TAY are included in the program, it needs to be expanded. An expansion will aim to assist former DCFS foster TAY and study the effect of guaranteed income on household financial stability, the alleviation of stress, the completion of deferred schooling, and participation in one's community, as this population is particularly vulnerable to negative outcomes in these areas. This guaranteed income program has the potential to significantly affect the way policies and practices are implemented in the future, and, therefore, it is imperative to add a significant sample of this population in the program's research study sample.

Expanding the program will also require expanding the three current operational program contracts to absorb a higher capacity of, at minimum, 200 additional former DCFS foster TAY participants. The current contracts are with Strength Based Community Change which serves as the program administrator, MoCaFi which serves as the debit card distributor and monthly card funder, and the University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research which serves as the lead for the research and evaluation team.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or her designee, to expand Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income Program. The expansion shall include:
 - a. Using Board-allocated existing Breathe program and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) funds to serve, at minimum, an additional 200 former DCFS foster Transition Age Youth (TAY) for two years and provide a monthly income support of \$1,000 to each participant;
 - b. Using the existing program design, method for choosing participants, and mechanism for disbursing funds;
 - c. Using a similar program research design and determining the appropriate metrics that may be unique to this population; and
 - d. Refining eligibility criteria and program terms as appropriate for this population.
2. Authorize the CEO, or her designee, to amend the existing contract with Strength Based Community Change, for an additional amount not to exceed \$355,000, for administrative services to serve the additional program participants. Also authorize the CEO to amend the agreement, as needed, to update the statement of work and/or pricing, increase/decrease the contract sum up to 10%, extend the term of

the agreement, make changes to the terms and conditions, or terminate the agreement. All amendments must be approved as to form by County Counsel.

3. Authorize the CEO, or her designee, to amend the existing contract with the University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research, for an additional amount not to exceed \$895,000, for administrative services to serve the additional program participants. Also authorize the CEO to amend the agreement, as needed, to update the statement of work and/or pricing, increase/decrease the contract sum up to 10%, extend the term of the agreement, make changes to the terms and conditions, or terminate the agreement. All amendments must be approved as to form by County Counsel.
4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), or his designee, to amend the existing contract with MoCaFi, to include the monthly income support for additional participants and for additional administrative costs not to exceed \$45,000, for debit card distribution and funding services to serve the additional program participants. Also authorize the Director of DCBA to amend the agreement, as needed, to update the statement of work and/or pricing, increase/decrease the contract sum up to 10%, extend the term of the agreement, make changes to the terms and conditions, or terminate the agreement. All amendments must be approved as to form by County Counsel.

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