

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

March 19, 2024

**Bridging the Gap Between Child Support and Employment Services**

On February 2, 2024, the federal Office of Child Support Services, under the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity inviting state and tribal Title IV-D<sup>1</sup> child support agencies to apply for a Section 1115 waiver<sup>2</sup> demonstration grant entitled, Next Generation Child Support Employment Services Demonstration (NextGen) with an award ceiling of \$2.1 million over five years. Based upon lessons learned from previous demonstration projects, NextGen’s goal is to expand child support-led employment services for noncustodial parents—breaking down silos between the child support program and employment services by allowing the use of federal child support funds for employment, training, and related services.

As one of the largest locally administered child support agencies in the nation, the Los Angeles County (County) Child Support Services Department (CSSD) is prepared to submit a grant proposal, due for submission to the California Department of Child Support Services on April 12, 2024. In Fiscal Year 2022-23, CSSD managed more than 244,000 cases (23% of total California child support cases), distributing an average of \$362 per

<sup>1</sup> [Title IV-D - Child Support and Establishment of Paternity - SJI Funding Toolkit](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Section 1115 Demonstrations | Medicaid](#)

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month, totaling over \$515 million. In close collaboration with the Departments of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Human Resources (DHR), Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), and other County departments as well as several Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), the proposal would prioritize community engagement by creating a public-nonprofit network working together to provide a comprehensive array of services for up to 500 project participants each year.

This demonstration project would build upon efforts launched by Supervisors Horvath and Mitchell motion on July 25, 2023<sup>3</sup>, directing CSSD and various County Departments to conduct intensive outreach efforts to noncustodial parents in South Los Angeles (SOLA), as part of the “SOLA Impact Outreach Project.” With over 40% of the Countywide child support caseload residing in the Second District, along with the lowest rates of child support payment rates, this grant application proposes to focus on noncustodial parents in the Second District who are unemployed or underemployed and have not made a child support payment within the past 12 months. In addition, with 50% of all noncustodial parents identifying as Hispanic and 35% as African American or Black in the Second District, expanding the SOLA Impact Outreach project aligns with Countywide Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative strategic goals to: (1) increase stable full-time employment among adults with incomes at or above 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and (2) increase the percentage of families with incomes above 250% FPL.

Examples of potential services offered to noncustodial parents in the demonstration project include:

- CSSD Enhanced Child Support Case Management teams offering services, such as debt reduction, suspension of enforcement tools, and expedited modification of child support orders;
- DEO offering employment, training, educational, workforce development, and other work support services, including dedicated Employment Specialists from America’s Job Centers of California;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/182725.pdf>

- DHR offering training and employment programs tailored to noncustodial parents, including access to existing pipeline programs into Los Angeles County jobs and depending upon stakeholder input and needs assessment, the possible development of a new pipeline program for noncustodial parents;
- DCBA offering support services, such as mediation, financial education, legal assistance, resources for immigrants, and other services to individuals through Counselors and in group settings like workshops; and
- At least five CBOs with deep roots in SOLA communities offering critical mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and Fatherhood programming services.

It is anticipated that the results of this multi-departmental and community-based project will demonstrate the benefits of systematically bridging the gap between child support and employment services at the Federal program level, and that ultimately, it may be expanded to support children and families throughout all five Supervisorial Districts.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Chief Executive Officer, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to submit a five-signature letter to the California Department of Child Support Services in support of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services' Department federal NextGen demonstration grant proposal for submission no later than April 5, 2024.