AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL May 6, 2025

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability of Care First Funding

The Care First Community Investment (CFCI) program embodies a promise that was overwhelmingly supported by advocates and community members in the November 2020 election. CFCI fiscally ensures that Los Angeles County (County) fulfills its commitment to a 'Care First, Jails Last' vision. Born from Measure J, CFCI requires that 10% of the County's unrestricted locally generated revenues be invested into community programs and alternatives to incarceration.[1] CFCI recipient programs have been able to fill the gaps left behind by decades of injustice to our most vulnerable communities. These programs have offered vital resources to address various community challenges, including but not limited to, support for individuals with substance use disorders, reentry initiatives, youth development, education and job training, rental assistance, housing, and more.[2] The CFCI Advisory Committee has demonstrated success in funding community-based programs that uphold the Care First agenda and has underscored the importance of maintaining a transparent process that actively engages community members and other stakeholders most affected by this issue.

As the Board of Supervisors (Board) emphasized in the creation of CFCI, and as outlined in the language of Measure J, the processes and key funding decisions must be transparent and involve community engagement. The CFCI Advisory Committee was established to facilitate a collaborative process that ensures the Measure J budget reflects input from community members. The Advisory Committee has also ensured that

[1] Justice Care And Opportunities
[2] Justice Care And Opportunities

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the budget process is inclusive and data driven, reflecting the priorities of community members. This approach has been key to integrating the lived experience of the most vulnerable communities into both planning and implementation.

Ultimately, the CFCI Advisory Committee has kept the Care First promise of Measure J. Community members closest to the issue bring lived experiences that must remain a key component of the CFCI budgetary process and priorities. With the experience of four to five budget cycles, the Board affirms that communities are aware of where funding should be allocated. CFCI Care grants have provided over $350 million to support grantee organizations across the County. For example, in year two of the spending grants, CFCI provided $45 million to housing, with more than $42 million dedicated to permanent housing. They also provided $20 million to programs prioritizing youth development and more than $14.5 million to fund violence prevention.[3]

However, some County departments have carried large, unspent balances in CFCI funding that were allocated to advance and establish programs or projects. For instance, the 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget reflected $325.8 million in unspent CFCI funds carried over from prior years. It remains unclear whether the 2025-26 Budget will follow a different trend, potentially reflecting a lower amount of unspent funds.

Given the extraordinary budget constraints facing the County, this Board must continue to prioritize transparency and accountability. County departments should be held to the same standards as CFCI grantees, including the requirements to spend all allocated funds within a specified timeframe and submit monthly reports on services and outcomes. The Board must establish accountability metrics, including progress monitoring, to ensure that prompt and efficient implementation of CFCI continues.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in coordination with all relevant County departments, to report back to the Board in writing in 7 days with a list, including current balances, of all unspent Care First Community Investment (CFCI) funding allocated to Los Angeles County departments as of April 2025.

[3] Justice Care And Opportunities

2. Direct the CEO, in coordination with all relevant County departments, to report back to the Board in writing and orally in 30 days and quarterly thereafter, with a comprehensive accounting of all CFCI funding allocated to the departments, and the status of the use of the funds.
3. Direct the CEO, in coordination with all relevant County departments, to use similar data collection, reporting, and term requirements required of community-based applicants of CFCI funding, including but not limited to:
    a. Requiring County departments awarded CFCI funding to submit budgets and spending plans for their proposed program, project, or service;
    b. Requiring County programs and projects funds awarded by CFCI to be spent within 36 months of the funding allocation start date; and
    c. Requiring County departments to collect and report services and outcome data monthly to the CEO as well as submit quarterly reports to the Board.
4. Direct the CEO, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer, to develop a publicly facing dashboard within 60 days that details the amount of CFCI money allocated annually, the grantees (by both department and community organizations), the progress toward expending granted funds, the outcomes of each program and other relevant metrics.
5. Direct the CEO that any future recommendations for redistributing unspent and unencumbered CFCI funds from County departments must be recommended for reallocation to a designated program, project, or service that is consistent with the CFCI Advisory Committee's prior recommendations for justice involved individuals and alternatives to incarceration.

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