AGN. NO.__________

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER AUGUST 4, 2026

Fostering The Future Funds For LA County Foster Youth

Fostering the Future accounts were established by the federal government on June 11, 2026. They are federally backed, tax-advantaged investment accounts established to help foster youth build long-term financial security. For U.S. citizens born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028, the federal government will contribute an initial $1,000 into the account. Based on historical S&P 500 average returns, this investment could grow to approximately $6,000 by the time a child turns 18. Once they reach adulthood, accountholders may use the funds for qualified expenses such as higher education, purchasing a first home or retirement savings. As of June 2026, 23 states, excluding California, have committed publicly to opening Fostering the Future Accounts for eligible foster youth.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has long stood to improve the financial stability and long-term outcomes for foster youth. On August 6, 2024, the Board passed the "Expanding Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income Program to Foster Youth" to serve transition-age foster youth, providing additional funds for 18 months. Fostering the Future Accounts would further build upon these efforts by providing eligible foster youth with long-term investment accounts. By providing eligible foster youth with an investment account from a young age, the program creates an opportunity to accumulate assets before they transition out of foster care. These funds can help reduce financial barriers to higher education, career training, homeownership and retirement savings. As foster youth begin earning income, they may also contribute to their accounts, allowing their savings to continue growing over time. Expanding access to long-term financial assets can strengthen financial stability and support more successful transitions to independent adulthood for foster youth across Los Angeles County.

The Board has consistently supported efforts to ensure foster youth have access to the identifying documentation needed to successfully transition into adulthood. The importance of having early access to Social Security and other identifying documentation for foster youth is vital. This documentation allows foster youth to open bank accounts, apply for jobs and higher education, access housing and much more.

-MORE-

<u>MOTION</u>

Mitchell	______________________
Horvath	______________________
Hahn	______________________
Barger	______________________
Solis	______________________

On January 11, 2024, the Board passed "Ensuring Foster Youth Have Access to Identifying Documentation," directing the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to strengthen compliance with state requirements and improve processes to ensure foster youth receive essential documents such as Social Security cards before exiting care. Subsequently, on May 17, 2024 the Board passed "Foster Youth Identifying Documentation Needs" which built on the earlier motion to advocate with the Social Security Administration and the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to address barriers preventing foster youth from obtaining Social Security cards. Because the Fostering the Future Accounts require a valid Social Security number to be eligible, having DCFS expand outreach to younger foster youth and their resource families will help them earlier in life and provide financial benefits from this account as they age.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Develop guidance and informational materials for staff regarding the many types of special state and federal accounts that are available to foster children, youth, and their families;
2. Distribute promotional materials for the Fostering the Future trust funds through 2028 to foster youth and their families and provide assistance to families who wish to apply, including assistance applying for Social Security Cards;
3. Identify any impacts, positive or negative, that should be considered in deciding whether to access the Fostering the Future trust funds including, but not limited to, whether the funds would limit foster youth from accessing social services due to the impact on total net worth; and
4. Collaborate with the California Department of Social Services, as needed, to access the Fostering the Future trust funds; engage relevant federal agencies; and to ensure administrative costs are accessed in accordance with the program.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct Chief Executive Office-Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR), in coordination with DCFS and the California Welfare Directors Association of California, to advocate for the release of an All County Letter by the California Department of Social Services detailing when and how these funds will become available to counties.

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KB:mbjs