

Written Public Comments

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Agenda Item: 6 c. 44 & 45

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Thank you for the **Ready To Rise (R2R) Initiative** – LA Probation Public-Private Partnership over the past two and half years.

Girls Club of Los Angeles is one of the **49 organizations** selected in the **first cohort** serving over **133 youth** and **3,182 program touchpoints**.

As a result, our **at-promise** and **high-need students** are now thriving with improved **reports cards**, looking at a brighter future with **college, vocation, and career pathways**.

Next year, **Ready to Rise grants will be cut by \$3.9M from last year** (40% cut), and **capacity-building will be cut by \$1.9M** (almost 60% cut). **Why?!**

Ready to Rise is an evaluated program that strengthens the ecosystem of **youth development opportunities** throughout LA County, including parts of the County that need it most. In contrast, most other programs being funded have shown **no outcomes**.

Ready to Rise cuts will impact our youth **services, resources, and our capacity building** around **strategic planning, communication, and program evaluations**.

Please invest in our youth now and actively promote **fair and just opportunities** to thrive according to their needs! Please do not cut the **R2R initiative** grantmaking by **40%** and Capacity Building by almost **60%**.

JJCC, it's time for you to make a **long-term commitment** to youth while addressing the **root cause of institutional racism, inequity, and oppression**. Unfortunately, your budget recommendations could drastically reduce the number of students the **Girls Club of Los Angeles** and **other organizations** could serve.

In closing, please work collaboratively to break the **patterns** contributing to **disparities** and **social injustice** in our communities?