

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Office of the County Executive**  
Office of Budget and Analysis




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CSFC-CE02 042011

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DATE: April 20, 2011

TO: Supervisor Dave Cortese, Chairperson  
Supervisor George Shirakawa, Vice Chair  
Children, Seniors & Families Committee

FROM:   
Leslie Crowell  
Deputy County Executive

SUBJECT: Child Impact Statements

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to Child Impact Statements.

Possible action:

- a. Forward to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval.
- b. Direct the County Executive's Office to work with County departments to include a child impact statement in every Board transmittal beginning July 1, 2011.
- c. Direct the County Executive's Office to provide a report back at the December 2011 meeting of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this recommendation.

## **CONTRACT HISTORY**

Not Applicable

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to Supervisor Cortese's proposal during the January 2011 State of the County Speech, the County Executive's Office is requesting approval of the recommended process to include child impact statements in every transmittal that is sent to the Board, beginning July 1, 2011. This includes transmittals to Board Committees that will be forwarded to the Board for further action.

The proposed process will require departments to include a Child Impact statement header under the Reasons for Recommendations section and will address the following:

1. State whether there is (is not) a direct impact to child services.
2. For direct impacts to child services, the department will be required to:
  - Identify the fiscal impact by indicating whether the recommended action will eliminate, reduce, modify, or enhance child services, or whether services will remain at the existing level.
  - Explain any programmatic impact the action being requested will have upon child services.

If the department states that there is no direct impact to child services, no further explanation is required.

Staff of the County Executive's Office and the Social Services Agency have worked together to create this process, which will be used by all departments submitting transmittals to the Board of Supervisors. The level of impact uses the same criteria currently used in the Recommended Budget Book for all major programs and functions in each department, which are described as same, modified, reduced, eliminated, and enhanced.

### **Next Steps:**

The County Executive's Office of Budget and Analysis will provide instructions to County departments and agencies to include a child impact statement section in all Board transmittals beginning in FY 2012. Directions will be given regarding the criteria to include in this section. The Child Impact Statement header will be included at the end of the Reason for Recommendation section of each transmittal. A report back will be provided to the Children, Seniors and Families Committee in December 2011.

## **BACKGROUND**

In the January 2011 State of the County speech, Supervisor Cortese proposed that every decision the County makes should take into consideration the impact on children and families. Supervisor Cortese highlighted the importance of support being provided to children and their families early in childhood because “stable families build stable communities.” Thus, he proposed the inclusion of child-impact statements as part of every decision made by the Board of Supervisors to consider any “unintended consequences” of its decisions.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The child impact statements will not be included in every transmittal to provide the Board with information regarding the impact of proposed actions on children and families.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

None.

## **Linking Child Impact Statements to the Indicators of the Santa Clara County Children's Agenda**

Santa Clara County endorsed the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in February, 2010. The Santa Clara County Children's Agenda is the pathway to action for fulfilling the Bill of Rights. The Children's Agenda provides the community with an explicit set of goals and methods for measuring how Santa Clara County children are faring. The thirteen indicators of the Children's Agenda are collected and monitored over time to track our progress in achieving the vision of the Bill of Rights. The goal of the Children's Agenda is: *Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, successful in life.*

By utilizing the thirteen indicators of the Children's Agenda when preparing Child Impact Statements, Santa Clara County staff link the decision-making of the Board of Supervisors to a framework that has been endorsed community-wide and that provides a common lens to consider how decisions made by the Board of Supervisors impacts children.

Below are the thirteen indicators of the Children's Agenda and examples of issues and decisions that may impact the indicator.

### **Goal Area - Every Child Safe:**

Indicator 1: Food Insecurity and Hunger

Indicator 2: Children Living in Safe and Stable Families (including indicators of child abuse and neglect, removals into foster care, reunification and placement changes)

Indicator 3: Juvenile Arrests

### **Goal Area – Every Child Healthy:**

Indicator 4: Routine Access to Health Care (including indicators of percent/number of children insured, last visit to doctor or dentist, immunization rates).

Indicator 5: Healthy Lifestyle (including children achieving proficiency on state fitness tests, self-report of healthy lifestyle activities).

Indicator 6: Early Social-Emotional Development

Indicator 7: Developmental Assets

### **Every Child Successful in Learning:**

Indicator 8: School Readiness

Indicator 9: Third Grade Reading Proficiency

Indicator 10: Middle School Math Proficiency

### **Every Child Successful in Life:**

Indicator 11: High School Graduation Rate

Indicator 12: Children Fluent in 2+ Languages

Indicator 13: Children Feel Valued by the Community