



NATHAN FLETCHER
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 19, 2020

Andrew Potter
Clerk of the Board
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Potter:

The following is submitted as recommendations for Budget Changes to the Chief Administrative Officer's Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget:

Finance and General Government Group – Finance Other

During the COVID-19 pandemic, San Diegans turned to the County of San Diego for emergency information. It became apparent that access to information was critical to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to share information related to local Public Health Orders. This situation underscores the vital importance of ensuring that County communications are accessible for all. Otherwise, individuals for whom English is not their first language are left vulnerable and without necessary information. As a County, we should factor in the costs of providing language translating for public-facing information and materials distributed as a cost of doing business for all County Groups to improve accessibility for our residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.) Increase appropriations in Services and Supplies in Finance Other to support translation services for all county departments by \$5,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-21 based on General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance and in future years factor this cost into the cost of doing business for all County departments.

Health and Human Services Agency – Administrative Support

The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for accessible Internet for all. Without access to the Internet, children are entirely left out of distance learning activities and fall further behind those with adequate resources. This disparity is inequitable and unacceptable. The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) has negotiated discounted Internet and wireless

hotspot agreements with Cox, Spectrum, and Verizon for families that will be engaging in distance learning. The allocation of \$10,000,000 in one-time funds will ensure that the needs of up to 50,000 families identified by the SDCOE are met for the entire school year, and additional philanthropic funding should be explored.

Recommendation:

- 1.) Increase appropriations in Services and Supplies for Residential Internet Access in the Health and Human Services Agency, Administrative Support, by \$10,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-21 based on General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance.

Health and Human Services Agency – Self-Sufficiency Services

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, we must ensure that those who are sick can quarantine. Some essential workers face the decision to stay home and lose out on a paycheck or their job, or go to work sick. The County should provide a stipend for individuals who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive to make sure that those who should stay home are able to stay home without risk of losing income. The creation of a COVID-19 Income Replacement Stipend would go far in slowing the spread. This one-time funding would provide a set amount of money during the required quarantine period if an individual is not otherwise eligible for sick pay or other benefits.

Recommendation:

- 1.) Increase appropriations to establish a COVID-19 Income Replacement Fund in Self-Sufficiency Services by \$2,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-21 based on General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance.

Respectfully Submitted,



NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor
Fourth District