



# FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION

NEWSLETTER



Dear Colleague,

Last week the California Supreme Court made a unanimous decision that is **GAME-CHANGING** for California's kids and for our democracy. They ended a 3-year battle between children's advocates and anti-tax crusaders. They declined to hear the anti-tax group's petition to overturn 2 lower court decisions that had determined that **only a majority vote is needed to pass local special taxes** – if the measures are put

on the ballot by through signatures of the voters.

**THE FOLLOWING OPINION STANDS:** *The initiative power is “one of the most precious rights of our democratic process” and must be interpreted broadly,* Appeals Court **Justice Mark Simons** said in his court's earlier 3-0 ruling. The two-thirds vote requirement applies only to measures initiated by a city council, board of supervisors or school board and submitted to the voters. **This is a huge victory for our movement to raise local dollars for children and youth.**

**Funding the Next Generation is now recommending that advocates can move forward with voter-initiated special tax measures for kids.** The California Supreme Court sent a strong message in refusing to hear the San Francisco case; 3 appellate court decisions hold that voter qualified special taxes require only a majority vote; there are no appellate court decisions holding otherwise; and city/county attorneys will most likely feel bound to score measures as requiring a majority vote.

## KIDS WIN WHEN THE MAJORITY RULES

Since 2016, 6 local tax measures have been on the ballot to raise dollars for California kids that got an overwhelming majority vote, but not the 2/3 super-majority required by Propositions 13 and 218. So now, if voters themselves place those very same measures on the ballot - they will pass.

## SAN FRANCISCO'S MAJORITY-VOTE MEASURE WILL NOW RAISE \$146 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR CHILD CARE.

This recent and most definitive case is from San Francisco and is known as “Baby Prop C” – a commercial rent tax that will end waiting lists for subsidized care, provide a living wage to child care workers, and expand care to working class parents. *“San Francisco's child care community has rallied and*

*campaigned for three years to get these voter-approved dollars to families and early educators who so desperately need them, now more than ever.”* Said **Gina M. Fromer**, CEO of San Francisco’s Children’s Council. [Link to story in SF Chronicle](#)

**LET’S GET BUSY AND MAKE 2022 THE YEAR WE PLACE CHILDREN’S MEASURES ON THE BALLOT.**

**YOUR CITY OR COUNTY CAN CONSIDER A REVENUE MEASURE FOR CHILDREN OR YOUTH.**

**Funding the Next Generation** has formed a cohort of leaders who are aiming to place a local revenue measure on the ballot for kids in either of the next two elections. The group is meeting virtually on a quarterly basis to share strategies and insights, and receive targeted training and coaching. The group will also have the opportunity to be referred to a C-4 funder for support for their campaigns.

Contact Margaret Brodtkin if you are interested.

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**Model budget legislation** - Funding the Next Generation has drafted a **model resolution for cities and counties** about a transparent and accountable budget process. Use it as a start for your local budget advocacy for either a ballot measure or your advocacy for American Rescue Plan funding.

## What’s in the American Rescue Plan for California’s Kids?

Unpacking Funding Opportunities for Children and Youth.



**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) WILL HELP CALIFORNIA'S KIDS. ADVOCATES MUST GET BUSY TO ENSURE FUNDS TARGET OUR MOST VULNERABLE WITH GREAT SERVICES.**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) reflects a profound and much-needed change in policies supporting vulnerable children, youth and families - **truly a chance to "build back better."** Advocates must seize the moment. We can strengthen our coalitions, propose innovative solutions, demand a focus on equity for our families - and in the process we can increase our capital in the policy and budget arena and make our budget processes more transparent.

### **THE BASICS**

The three main targets for our advocacy are described below in the 3 major categories of funding that will impact children and youth. These funds provide

significantly more flexibility than the CARES dollars, and can be spent over four years. **Public input is required in the planning for all these funds.**

## COUNTY AND CITY RECOVERY

**How much?** Fiscal recovery for CA cities - \$8.4B; Fiscal recovery for CA counties - \$8.1B

**Example of one city's allocation** - Stockton - \$85M

**Example of one county's allocation** - San Joaquin County - \$148M

**What for?** Wide discretion to address public health and economic impacts of pandemic, and disrupted public services

**Who decides?** - City Councils and Boards of Supervisors

**When?** May 2021 for disbursement of half; December 31, 2024 deadline to spend.

## EDUCATION STABILIZATION (ESSERIII - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund)

**How much?** - \$15.1 Billion

**Example of one school district allocation** - Stockton Unified - \$179M

**What for?** Help K-12 schools open and recover. 20% minimum to be spent on learning loss recovery (can be very flexible) for children and youth disproportionately impacted by COVID.

**Who decides?** Local Education Agencies, i.e. Boards of Education (districts and counties)

**See comments by Jill Wynns below for more details.**

## CHILD CARE

**How much?** \$3.76 B (largest investment since WWII)

**What for?** Support and stabilize child care programs, assist essential workers

**Who decides?** State of CA, Governor and State Legislature (weigh in at state level)

[Recommendations by statewide ECE coalition](#)

## TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

- Focus on equity.
- Demand Transparency. ([link to model legislation](#))
- Start NOW - follow-up
- Learn city/county financial position
- Assess competing needs
- Work in coalition - align priorities
- Identify champions on Board of Supervisors or City County.
- Build on your relationships.
- If possible, conduct survey and use data. ([link to San Diego example](#))

**Note:** Local measures can ensure that innovations and new services created through ARP can be sustained.

## A BUDGET MUST REFLECT OUR VALUES.



## EXAMPLE OF REQUEST TO SONOMA COUNTY AND CITIES FOR CHILDREN ages 0 - 5

**American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding and Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County's Children & Families:**

## First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years

- Early Childhood Mental Health \$1,000,000
- Family Safety-net Navigation \$500,000
- Home Visiting for High-Need Families \$1,000,000
- Direct Supports to Essential Workers: Child Care Providers \$1,000,000
- Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems \$1,500,000

[Link to full request.](#)

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## RESOURCES

- [Find out how much your city and county will receive.](#)
- [Find out how much your school district will receive.](#)
- [Video of webinar on April 28](#) by Funding the Next Generation, Advancement Project, Child Care Law Center, Partnership for Children and Youth, Children's Funding Project.
- [Overview report from Children's Funding Project](#)
- [Details of child care funding from Child Care Law Center](#)
- [Expanded learning guide to resources](#)
- [ARP ESSER Fact Sheet from U.S. Dept. of Education](#)

Go to home page of Funding the Next Generation for examples of local advocacy proposals, slides from the April 28 webinar, and some of the material above. [www.fundingthenextgeneration.org](http://www.fundingthenextgeneration.org) (half way down the page)

## MORE INFO AND CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT K-12 ARP FUNDS



**A LOT OF MONEY:** School districts in California will be receiving large allocations of federal funding over the next four years, which they must budget and encumber by September 30, 2023 (Go to [www.helpkidsrecover.org](http://www.helpkidsrecover.org) to see how much your district will get from Federal COVID-related funding). **California will receive some \$21 BILLION, yup, with a B, for the next four years.** 20% of the ARP federal money, or over 3 billion dollars, is set aside to address learning loss outside the school year and traditional classroom. That means summer programs, afterschool, recreation and other enrichment, youth development, youth job training and organizing, counseling and mental health services, among others. They are also getting special state funding this year in the form of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Grants (GEER) this year.

**PUBLIC INPUT REQUIRED:** ESSER III (the big pot of money authorized in President Biden's American Rescue Plan) requires a community-based planning process not unlike the **LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan)** that school districts have already implemented several years ago when the Local Control Funding Formula method for distributing state school funding was instituted.

**COSTS SCHOOLS MUST BEAR:** School Districts, like all local and state governments, have significant costs associated with the virus, including changes to the physical environment to make schools safe for kids and extra teachers and other staff to implement hybrid instruction (both on-line and in person). Much of the new federal and state funding will go for these costs. However, there is money for new investments in support services and non-traditional programs to meet student needs in this extraordinary time.

**TIMELINES:** Although the time lines for plan approval are not quite the same for ESSER III and GEER, both will happen in the Spring and can be integrated to use the same community-based process. ESSER plans must be adopted by the governing board by June 1<sup>st</sup> and LCAPs are usually adopted at the same time as the budget, by June 30. LCAP Planning and community outreach is going on now in districts all over the state, virtual of course.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP:** This is an opportunity for community organizations to forge partnerships with school districts. Those that have not participated in this process in the past can get involved and advocate for expanded summer enrichment, afterschool funding, and youth engagement programs as a complement to instructional programs that all districts will be funding to try to recover some of the instructional time that students have lost.

**CAPACITY:** Capacity will be an issue for every district making this a unique time for many school districts who have not had robust partnerships with community-based agencies.

**Child advocates and service providers should be in this discussion now!**



**Parent Voices leaders in the San Francisco Prop C campaign which created groundbreaking policy for the entire state.**

See how much fun a campaign can be! Congratulations to (from left to right) - June Kealoha, Maria Luz Torres (SF Parent Voices Organizer), Maria Antonietta Jandres, Eva Velez, and Mary Ignatius (Statewide Parent Voices Organizer ).

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**Funding the Next Generation** has now officially merged its work with **Children's Funding**

**Project**, our new fiscal sponsor and partner. We are delighted to coordinate our work and build a stronger movement to fund opportunities for children and youth, in California and nationally.



As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas or requests for support - no matter how big or small. With a team of some of the best experts in the country, we provide free technical assistance on everything related to local revenue measures for kids and budget advocacy with your city or county.

**Margaret Brodtkin, Founder Director, Funding the Next Generation**

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[Check out our website full of information.](#)

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