



**HUMAN SERVICES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday June 3, 2026

3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
City Hall – Conference Room 1  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B  
Goleta, California

Councilmember Luz Reyes-Martín  
Councilmember Stuart Kasdin  
Robert Nisbet, City Manager  
Jaime A. Valdez, Assistant City Manager  
JoAnne Plummer, Director of Neighborhood Services  
Shannon Kirn, Assistant to the City Manager  
Melissa Cure, Management Assistant

**Public Participation**

If you wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item, the following methods are available:

**Distribution to the Human Services Standing Committee** - Submit your comment via email by 12 p.m. on the day of the Human Services Standing Committee meeting. Please submit your comment to Melissa Cure at: [mcure@cityofgoleta.gov](mailto:mcure@cityofgoleta.gov). Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

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## **AGENDA**

- I. Public Comment
- II. FY 2024-25 Childcare Grant Recap and FY 2025-26 Funding Feedback

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2026

TO: Human Services Standing Committee

FROM: Robert Nisbet, City Manager  
Shannon Kirn, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Item II. FY 2024-25 Childcare Grant Recap and FY 2025-26 Funding Feedback

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a recap of Fiscal Year 2024-25 childcare grants and provide feedback on Fiscal Year 2025-26 funding.

### BACKGROUND:

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, the City has programmed \$250,000 annually for childcare initiatives.

On October 22, 2024, the Human Services Committee (Committee) reviewed FY 2024-25 childcare funding options and considered proposals from four partner organizations: Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF), United Way of Santa Barbara County (United Way), Children's Resource & Referral (CRR), and Women's Economic Ventures (WEV). The Committee reviewed proposals aimed at expanding infant and toddler care, strengthening provider capacity, and supporting the local childcare workforce, including provider grants, scholarships, workforce development programs, licensing support for childcare centers and home-based family childcare providers, and business or quality improvement coaching.

On December 3, 2024, the City Council approved the Committee's funding recommendations, allocating the full FY 2024-25 appropriation of \$250,000 as follows:

- **SBF:** Fund three Childcare Provider Grants and supplement a fourth (Total: \$50,000)
- **United Way:** Fund one Employer-Sponsored Childcare Start-Up Grant and one or two Family & Caregiver Scholarships (Total: \$50,000)
- **CRR & WEV Collaborative Proposal:** Fund a cohort of 12 new Family Childcare providers (Total: \$150,000)

All grant agreements were executed with an expiration of June 30, 2026.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Recap of FY 2024-25 Grant Programs**

Two of three grant agreements, with United Way and SBF, have concluded and submitted the end-of-program reports. CRR has requested a contract extension, as implementation is still underway. Below is a summary of each program, and the end-of-program reports can be found in Attachment 1.

#### **United Way – Brighter Futures Childcare Initiative**

The program supported scholarships for Goleta families and a facility expansion at Hope for Kids. Scholarships improved family stability and workforce participation for two households, while the facility grant added 25 new infant/toddler spaces in local capacity. The project also supported professional development for early educators and completed a 1,500 square-foot expansion with three new classrooms. The full \$50,000 grant was expended, as documented in United Way's end-of-program report.

#### **SBF – Goleta Child Care Provider Grants**

Funding supported three full provider grants and partially supported a fourth, benefiting over 160 children, ~120 families, and more than 45 educators. Projects strengthened early childcare education (ECE) workforce pathways, improved teacher retention, expanded family engagement, and enhanced social/emotional and mental health support in classrooms. All awarded funds were deployed as intended, and providers completed implementation successfully despite initial contracting delays. The full \$50,000 grant was expended, as documented in SBF's end-of-program report.

#### **CRR – Steps to Licensing**

CRR continues to make progress in expanding licensed family childcare providers, with two new providers licensed as of March 2026, adding 14 childcare spaces. Several additional providers remain in the licensing pipeline, including those with pending applications, scheduled final reviews, and ongoing coursework, and recent outreach has generated six new prospective leads. Public awareness remains a challenge, as outreach through media, schools, libraries, and community events has not yet yielded sufficient visibility. Staff are working closely with CRR to support implementation and ensure program success, and are preparing a contract extension through December 31, 2026, to allow completion of provider licensing and continued outreach necessary to meet program goals.

Overall, the City's FY 2024–25 childcare investments have produced strong outcomes in family stability, childcare workforce development, and expansion of infant and toddler capacity.

## **FY 2025-26 Funding**

At a special meeting on July 21, 2025, City Council directed the City Manager to convene the Committee to reprogram \$100,000 of the \$250,000 from childcare initiatives to local nonprofit organizations providing frontline assistance to individuals and families affected by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities. Council identified priority service areas—including legal defense, mental health support, and direct services or financial assistance—and authorized the Committee to select funding recipients without the need for additional Council approval. Following this reallocation, \$150,000 remains available for childcare initiatives.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Of the \$150,000, staff recommends soft encumbering the remaining one-time funds and carrying over the entire \$150,000 into FY 2026-27 for the following:

- **Set aside \$60,000** of this balance to support a portion of the costs of the childcare fee study presented as part of the Planning and Environmental Review Department's FY 2026/27 Annual Work Program on March 3, 2026. Actual costs will be finalized once known.
- **Deploy the balance of \$90,000** to continue expanding previously funded programs that have demonstrated successful outcomes. For example, this approach could provide one-time additional allocations, such as \$45,000 to United Way and \$45,000 to SBF, to support the continuation of their established programs.

### **Alternatives**

- **Set aside the remaining \$150,000 funds** in fund balance for one-time childcare initiatives and return to the Committee at the beginning of next fiscal year with updated recommendations. The Committee would then consider a total of \$400,000, which includes the FY 2026-27 recommended budget amount of \$250,000.
- **Allow the remaining \$150,000 to return to the General Fund**, with no further action this fiscal year.

Staff seek Committee feedback on the preferred approach to ensure the remaining funds are allocated effectively and in alignment with City priorities.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. End-of-Program Reports

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

End-of-Program Reports



## Brighter Futures Childcare Initiative

### Grant Impact Report

*Prepared for the City of Goleta*

#### Initiative Overview

The Brighter Futures Childcare Initiative is a countywide, cross-sector effort to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare for families across Santa Barbara County. Shaped by local needs assessments and community voices, the initiative addresses critical gaps in childcare capacity and affordability that limit family stability and workforce participation.

Through partnerships among local government, philanthropies, employers, and community organizations, the initiative delivers: -scholarships that reduce financial barriers for families, -facility grants that expand capacity, -technical assistance and workforce development for childcare providers.

Together, these investments strengthen early care and education as essential community infrastructure.

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#### City of Goleta Investment at a Glance

Area	Investment	Key Outcome
Childcare Scholarships	\$12,500	2 families supported; consistent full-time care secured
Facility Grants	\$37,500	25 new infant/toddler spaces; 30% capacity increase
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	

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## Scholarships: Stabilizing Families

**City of Goleta Investment:** \$12,500

Childcare costs are one of the most significant financial pressures facing working families. The City's scholarship investment directly relieved that burden – with results that extended far beyond the classroom.

### Impact Highlights:

- Two Goleta families received targeted financial support, improving household financial stability.
- Parents maintained consistent employment and pursued educational goals.
- Children gained access to reliable, high-quality early learning.
- Families reported reduced stress and greater peace of mind.

### In their own words:

*“Before receiving the scholarship, my husband and I often had to miss work because we couldn’t afford full-time care for our son. Now, we can both work every day, I can focus on my teaching and credential, and our son is thriving—more social, gentle, and growing in every way. The financial support gave our family stability and peace of mind. We are so grateful.”*

## Facility Grant: Expanding Capacity at Hope for Kids

**City of Goleta Investment:** \$37,500

The investment into a facility grant funded a meaningful expansion of one of the community's early learning centers, creating lasting infrastructure change for the provider and for families.

### Impact highlight:

- Expanded capacity by adding 25 infant and toddler childcare spaces, increasing access for young children in Goleta by 30%.
  - Completed a 1,500 sq. ft. facility expansion with three dedicated classrooms designed for infants and toddlers, incorporating safety, accessibility, and developmentally appropriate design.
  - Supported professional development for five early childhood educators, strengthening staff qualifications and instructional quality.
  - Strengthened the overall quality and sustainability of early childhood programs for Goleta residents.
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## Lessons Learned

The implementation of the Brighter Futures Childcare Initiative has provided important insights into how targeted investments in scholarships and facility improvements can strengthen families, children, and the early care and education system. These lessons highlight both successes and areas for refinement as we continue to expand access and ensure long-term sustainability.

## Scholarships

### **What worked: -**

- Targeted eligibility (including middle-income families) helped reach households who fall through gaps in traditional assistance programs
- Modest financial relief had outsized impact on family stability, workforce participation, and children's wellbeing
- Consistent data collection allowed for stronger program evaluation and resource allocation

**What's Next:** The Demand for scholarships exceeds current supply – expanding funding would extend the program's reach to more eligible families in Goleta.

## Facility Grants

### What worked:

- Early, strategic planning for licensing and compliance reduced delays and cost overruns
- Expansion was a needed community element and has been utilized already.

**What's Next:** Continue working with childcare providers to encourage and make feasible facility expansions, especially for infants and toddlers.

## Looking Ahead

The City of Goleta's \$50,000 investment has produced measurable, meaningful results – for individual families, for childcare providers, and for the broader community. The momentum built through this initiative creates a strong foundation for continued growth.

The City of Goleta's investment has been transformative for local families and the early care system. Continued partnership and investment will allow this work to expand and deepen its impact, ensuring that more Goleta children have the opportunity to thrive and that families have the stability to pursue their goals. By building on this momentum, we can continue to strengthen early childhood education as a cornerstone of a vibrant, resilient community.

## Thank You

We are deeply grateful to the City of Goleta for its partnership and investment in the Brighter Futures Childcare Initiative. Your support has directly strengthened local families, expanded high-quality early care, and enhanced workforce stability in our community. We look forward to continuing this work together and building on these successes.

# City of Goleta End of Program Report 2025 -2026

**Agency Name:** Santa Barbara Foundation

**Contract Amount:** \$50,000

**Activity or Program Name:** Goleta Child Care Provider Grants

**Activity Location:** City of Goleta, California

**Agency Contact Name:** Beatriz H. García

**Agency Contact Number:** 805-882-9382

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## 1. Please describe the activity or program accomplishments.

The Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF) successfully implemented the Goleta Child Care Provider Grant Program to increase organizational capacity among nonprofit child care providers serving children ages 0–5 in the City of Goleta.

In alignment with the Scope of Work, funds were used to fully support three provider projects and supplement a fourth, with awards of up to \$15,000 each. Grants focused on:

- Workforce pathway and skill development
- Supportive organizational business models
- Content-specific leadership development
- Family engagement

## Funded Providers & Accomplishments

### 1. LEAP: Learn. Engage. Advocate. Partner. (\$15,000)

- Implemented a Teacher Scholarship Program supporting Early Childhood Education (ECE) credential attainment.
- Provided tuition support and academic mentoring to staff pursuing Child Development credentials.
- Strengthened recruitment of community-rooted educators.
- Served 139 children through improved staffing stability.
- Early outcomes include increased educator retention, internal promotion pathways, and strengthened classroom continuity.

### 2. CommUnify – Goleta Head Start (\$15,000)

- Developed a stipend-based recruitment and retention strategy to strengthen the toddler workforce pipeline in Goleta.
- Embedded stipends in hiring outreach to address workforce shortages.
- Adjusted payout structure to better support recruitment and retention.
- Continued efforts to stabilize staffing in the Goleta Head Start toddler classroom.

### 3. UC Santa Barbara Children’s Centers (\$14,840)

- Contracted with Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (IECMHC).

- Consultants conducted classroom observations and family consultations to build comprehensive support plans for children and families.
- Provided coaching to teachers to strengthen social-emotional supports and TK/Kindergarten readiness.
- Directly engaged families, administrative staff, and classroom teachers.
- Reported improved workforce morale and increased teacher capacity to address social-emotional needs while parents were provided education and training on family social-emotional practices for families.

#### **4. San Marcos Parent-Child Workshop (\$5,160 supplemental award)**

- Expanded music enrichment and launched STEAM-focused family engagement activities.
- Served 29 children and their families.
- Increased family participation through STEAM events and enrichment programming.
- Maintained strong workforce consistency supported by strengthened parent leadership within their co-op model.

#### **Goleta Child Care Grant Program Impact**

Across the four funded providers, the program:

- Strengthened professional development pathways for early childhood educators
- Improved teacher retention and internal leadership pipelines
- Expanded family engagement opportunities
- Increased access to specialized supports (e.g., mental health consultation)
- Directly benefited over 160+ children in Goleta, with indirect benefits extending to families and educators

The grants contributed to improved classroom stability, culturally responsive teaching environments, and increased workforce resiliency — all critical in a region facing significant child care shortages.

#### **2. Comment on areas of significant deviation from the activity/program goals and objectives, if any.**

While there were no deviations from the program's intended goals or funding priorities, the initial launch timeline required several months of coordination between the City and the Foundation to finalize contracting, receive funds, and complete internal grant setup processes.

As a result, the grant solicitation and award period began later than originally anticipated, which slightly compressed the implementation window for funded providers.

Despite this adjusted timeline, all awarded funds were deployed, and providers are successfully implementing their projects. The Foundation has identified opportunities to streamline internal launch processes in future cycles to ensure a more expedited start and maximize implementation time for grantees.

Additionally, some individual grantees encountered implementation adjustments:

- **CommUnify** experienced recruitment challenges and modified its stipend disbursement structure to better serve as a recruitment and retention incentive.
- **UCSB Children's Centers** experienced a delayed project start due to university contracting processes but fully implemented the program once finalized.

These adjustments strengthened program delivery and responsiveness rather than altering core objectives.

### **3. Comment on any areas of significant deviation from the budget proposal submitted with the activity/project application, if any.**

No significant deviations occurred at the program level. Funds were distributed consistent with the approved Scope of Work and within the \$50,000 contract limit. Any minor reallocations within individual provider budgets were aligned with grant guidelines and remained within approved project categories.

An itemized expenditure report is attached, detailing grant allocations.

### **4. Approximately how many persons in Goleta were served?**

- **Children served directly:** 160+
- **Families served:** Estimated ~120 households
- **Early care professionals supported:** 45+ educators (direct scholarship, stipend, coaching, or professional development beneficiaries)

Indirect benefits extended to additional children and families through improved classroom stability, workforce capacity, and enhanced quality of care.

### **5. Please attach an itemized budget report detailing how the program or activity funds were expended.**

Attached:

- Consolidated Itemized Budget Summary

Total Contract Amount: \$50,000

Total Expended: \$50,000

Funds supported:

- Teacher scholarships and tuition assistance

- Workforce stipends and retention bonuses
- Mental health consultation services
- Music and STEAM enrichment programming
- Professional development and leadership support

### **Closing Summary**

The City of Goleta Child Care Grant Program has proven to be a strategic and high-impact investment in the city's early childhood ecosystem. In a region facing severe licensed child care shortages, this initiative strengthened the workforce pipeline, stabilized classrooms, and deepened family engagement.

The program reflects the City's commitment to Measure B investments in community well-being and economic stability. By supporting providers directly, the City advanced long-term workforce development, improved early learning quality, and enhanced outcomes for Goleta's youngest residents.

We are grateful for the City of Goleta's leadership and commitment to addressing the ongoing child care crisis. Thank you for your support and collaboration in making this investment possible. We look forward to continuing our partnership to advance sustainable, long-term solutions that strengthen Goleta's child care system and support working families.