



# Memorandum

**TO:** NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Jon Cicirelli

**SUBJECT: CITY ROADMAP: CHILD AND YOUTH  
SERVICES UPDATE**

**DATE:** November 22, 2021

Approved

Date

11/30/21

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept the status report on Child and Youth Services as part of the approved City Roadmap for 2021-2022, including the City's role in local child care systems, equitable access to City operated early learning, afterschool and enrichment programs, and the Family, Friend and Neighbor network.

## **OUTCOME**

The Committee will be provided with an update on City operated early learning, afterschool and enrichment programs, and the Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver Support Network. Analysis on scholarship usage, the continuation of providing equitable access to childcare programming, and the focus placed on increasing academic support will also be provided.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The childcare branch of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency in March 2020, with the realization that the City of San José would serve a pivotal role in childcare throughout the pandemic. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) and San José Public Library (SJPL) began collaborating on childcare programs and options for vulnerable families in March 2020. The childcare branch administered programming for over 400 school aged students, providing academic support, enrichment, and physical activities in a safe and supervised environment during the 2020-2021 school year. In conjunction with school year programming, the branch coordinated childcare programs in the summer of 2020 and the summer of 2021 to provide full day childcare to approximately 900 youth weekly during the summer months.

Through the utilization of internal department scholarship funding, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, the childcare branch was able to provide these programs at no cost to eligible families, distributing nearly five million dollars in scholarships throughout the City of San José, thereby providing much needed support to those in desperate need of affordable childcare and distance learning. While the City transitioned from emergency to a recovery model, there was a growing concern that the pandemic had shifted the childcare landscape in San José, and the need for affordable childcare options for families would only increase. PRNS and SJPL continue to utilize funds to reduce the cost to the community for childcare programs, prioritizing scholarship eligible families, focusing on academic support, and administering a variety of early learning, enrichment programs and afterschool programs, preschool classes, and summer camps scheduled throughout 2021 and 2022. Additionally, another priority program includes providing support for license-exempt childcare providers through the FFN Caregiver Support Network.

## **BACKGROUND**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response (March 2019-August 2020), PRNS and SJPL led the childcare branch and provided programming and financial support to youth, families, and license-exempt providers, through a variety of in-person and virtual programs.

While the EOC and City transitioned from an emergency response to a recovery response, PRNS and SJPL began re-introducing their childcare related programs in late summer and fall of 2021, still with a focus on equity and access and providing financial, programming, and academic support to children, families, and license-exempt daycare providers. The childcare programs integrate educational, enrichment, and social-emotional learning activities in alignment with the Education and Digital Literacy (EDL) Strategy<sup>1</sup>, approved by City Council on May 7, 2019.

## **ANALYSIS**

*Camp San José Strong and Camp San José Strong Jr. (June – August 2020, June – August 2021)*

PRNS and SJPL offered Camp San José Strong, for students in grades K-8, and Camp San José Strong Jr, for children ages 3-5, citywide in community centers, libraries, and parks to meet the childcare needs of families. Camp San José Strong was a full-day camp offered throughout the summer and served 535 youth in 2020 and 1,102 children in 2021. Camp San José Strong Jr. was a half-day camp throughout the summer of 2021 that served 258 children. In partnership with the Housing Department, PRNS and SJPL were able to increase access to programs by securing CDBG funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide partial and full scholarships for eligible families. To increase access to these programs, PRNS

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sjpl.org/education-policy-governance>

combined both the department scholarship and CDBG funding; and 887 eligible families received full scholarships for summer camp in 2021.

*Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) (June – August 2021)*

Studies have shown that nutrition is directly connected to the academic success of youth. With 30% of young people in Santa Clara County living in food insecure households, SJPL and PRNS continued to focus on tackling this issue and provided free summer meals through SFSP. Locations for the program are selected based on percentage of low-income residents and individuals (students) eligible for the free and reduced-price meals program in their school/service area. The 2021 SFSP was offered at seven library locations: Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock, Edenvale, Educational Park, Hillview, Joyce Ellington, Tully and West Valley. SJPL continued to partner with the YMCA and Revolution Foods to supply grab-and-go meals and Second Harvest Food Bank to provide funding for adult meals. SJPL provided 11,880 meals at 7 locations, and of this total, 9,888 were served to youth and 1,992 were served to adults.

PRNS expanded their SFSP locations from four locations in 2020 (Roosevelt Community Center, Mayfair Community Center, Seven Trees Community Center, and Emma Prusch Park) to seven locations in 2021, adding Bascom Community Center, Starbird Youth Center, and Welch Park. The additional locations increased the number of meals served from 7,022 in 2020 to 16,920 in 2021. All meals were provided through a vendor, The LunchMaster – Nob Hill Catering, and served to youth by trained Recreation and Parks staff. PRNS also secured a \$10,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association, which supported additional supplies and marketing materials to enhance the visibility and safe delivery of the program for operations during COVID-19.

*Recreation of City Kids (R.O.C.K.) ‘n’ Learn (RNL) (August 2020 – June 2021)*

To address the childcare needs of families impacted by the pandemic, and to provide students in grades K-8 a safe and supportive environment in which to participate in distance learning classes, PRNS and SJPL offered RNL at 15 community centers and parks and at six libraries. Despite the pandemic, staff created fun, engaging, and interactive activities that encourage creativity, learning, and exploration. As a license-exempt provider, the City had to apply for an emergency waiver through the Department of Social Services in order to operate programming during traditional school hours. The emergency waiver was granted and expired at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the expiration of the waiver and students returning to school in August 2021, the City concluded RNL and returned to license-exempt programming.

To reduce barriers of access, eligible families were provided a full scholarship and were able to enroll in the program at no cost. City staff worked closely with school districts and partner organizations to identify and refer to the program vulnerable students who were experiencing challenges with distance learning and able to demonstrate the need for financial support. In addition, City staff worked with school districts to provide free lunches daily, distributed

additional snacks through Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, and secured shelf stable meals for school holidays with funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, providing youth with 96,793 meals across the RNL year. RNL served 717 unduplicated youth in 44 classrooms at 21 locations, serving students from 13 public school districts and 4 charter districts. To ensure a high-quality program, staff adhered to the California Quality Standards for Expanded Learning (QSEL) and embedded essential standards such as, safe and supportive environments, active and engaged learning, skill building, youth voice and leadership, healthy choices and behaviors, and diversity, access and equity. PRNS staff invested time and resources in conducting site visits, utilizing the QSEL assessment tool, and developed quality improvement plans and staff trainings to progress in the quality continuum.

*After School Education and Safety (ASES) (August 2020 – June 2021)*

ASES is a grant-funded afterschool program that PRNS operated at four school sites in partnership with Berryessa and Alum Rock School Districts and ACE Charter Schools, prior to COVID-19. PRNS worked closely with these ASES partners to provide a distance learning and academic support program, which was modeled after RNL. Staff also integrated fun, engaging, and interactive enrichment activities, while serving 99 unduplicated students in grades K–8 throughout the academic year. This free program provided students a safe and supervised space to participate in distance learning while families needed to return to work. They were in low-income neighborhoods that were heavily impacted by COVID-19 and provided a childcare option that removed the barrier of cost for families in need.

*San José Recreation Preschool (SJRP) (August 2020 – June 2021)*

SJRP is a license-exempt high-quality early education program for children ages 3-5. SJRP is a part-day program that integrates developmentally appropriate educational and recreational activities to address the cognitive, social-emotional, and developmental needs of children with the goal of preparing them for kindergarten and life-long learning. Through SJRP, PRNS provided age-appropriate instruction and activities to meet these needs for 227 unduplicated children, 3-5 years of age, with six in-person classrooms, and nine virtual classes. In partnership with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, evaluation consultant Applied Survey Research, and Kate Horst, developer of SEEDS of Early Literacy curriculum, PRNS was able to leverage resources to adhere to the Early Education Quality Standards (EEQS). Thus, staff implemented a standardized curriculum, SEEDS of Early Literacy and nationally recognized child-level assessment tools, Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASR) to measure school readiness skills and overall development. In addition, PRNS staff utilized the EEQS assessment tool and developed quality improvement plans to progress on the quality continuum.

### *SJPL Virtual Homework Club (HWC)*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual HWC was developed system-wide for Academic Year 2020-21. Learning objectives for staff, students, and coaches were developed in alignment with Early Learning Quality Standards (ELQS), including: skill building, safe and supportive environment, collaborative partnerships, and diversity, access and equity. Over the course of the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, 1,862 students participated in Virtual Homework Club: 113 two-hour sessions (226 hours), 206 unique participants, and 209 volunteer coaches. Surveyed parents reported that the program enabled and encouraged students to complete their homework. Additionally, students received support that equipped them with skills to complete their homework in the future; provided guidance in how to understand the underlying concepts in their homework; and afforded an environment in which they were able to establish trusting relationships with staff and coaches. Students saw staff and coaches as role models and felt comfortable asking them questions.

### *SJPL Virtual Class Visits*

In 2020 - 2021, SJPL pivoted the fieldtrip-style class visits to a virtual visit, with librarians joining virtual classrooms throughout the City. Class visits consisted of a book talk, website tour, technical assistance, and a question and answer session. Librarians joined 171 classes across 16 Local Education Agencies (LEA), meeting 4,250 students to share Library information and introduce them to academic resources. In a post visit survey, 98% of the teachers would recommend this program; and 100% of teachers said the program met their expectations.

### *San José Learns (SJ Learns)*

In school year 2020 - 2021, San José Learns (SJ Learns) served 930 students across five school districts: Alum Rock Union, Campbell Unified, Franklin-McKinley, Luther Burbank, and Mount Pleasant Elementary. Grantees were offered flexible use of grant funds to support students in the context of distance learning. During the summer of 2020, three school districts (Mount Pleasant, Franklin McKinley, and Alum Rock) provided virtual learning with grant funds, serving a total of 373 students. During Academic Year 2020 – 2021, 563 students participated in SJ Learns programming. With all districts engaged in distance learning, programs demonstrated tremendous flexibility as they adapted their services to meet the current needs and limitations. All districts, excluding Mount Pleasant, supported in-person learning pods for a small number of the most vulnerable students. Together, districts provided in-person support to 359 students. Three districts (Alum Rock, Franklin McKinley, and Mount Pleasant) offered virtual afterschool programming for students at home.

### *Early Education Programming*

SJPL provided several programs designed to meet the needs of children, ages 0-5, and their caregivers. In fiscal year 2020 – 2021, SJPL offered more than 930 free programs and activities targeting children ages 0-5, and their caregivers, with a total attendance of more than 36,500 in

program participation. Library story times have the potential to play a critical role in preparing young children to enter school ready to learn. They also provide opportunities to support caregivers in encouraging the development of early literacy skills at home. In addition to virtual story times, Library staff began offering their newly developed virtual kinder readiness programs. In a recent study of 1,253 kindergartners, 44% of the San José sample were assessed as “fully ready,” 37% were “partially ready,” and the remaining 19% were “not ready”. The study also found significant racial/ethnic and gender disparities in kindergarten readiness in San José, with readiness levels significantly higher among girls across racial/ethnic groups and among white children, relative to children of color. The program curriculum follows researchers' recommendations to focus programming on four primary learning domains (academics, self-expression, self-regulation, and motor skills) to provide quality kindergarten readiness programs to best support the children in our community. Launched in July 2020, the new programming is specifically designed to support kindergarten readiness skills for preschoolers in the community.

#### *Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver Support Network*

On March 5, 2019, the San José City Council approved two actions related to childcare and early education initiatives as Council Priorities to be completed within Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Priority proposals from both Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Arenas included workforce development training for early education providers and indicated that SJPL would lead the implementation. On March 19, 2019, the City Council approved the Mayor's 2019 March Budget Message, which included the directive to “allocate up to \$250,000 to the Library Department to evaluate, design, and launch a childcare provider training program, utilizing our prior experience and current best practices.” To implement the (EDL) Strategy<sup>2</sup>, which includes outcomes for Early Education, the Library partners with a broad community coalition of nonprofit early education and early care providers. Partner efforts will be integrated and utilized to ensure that the City's workforce development and training strategy is fully formed, successful, and leverages existing resources effectively.

In fall 2019, SJPL identified the need for a Workforce Development Environmental Scan (Scan) that would provide information about informal caregivers and existing professional development opportunities in San José. The Scan informs the development of a program that supports a broad range of caregivers and, in turn, improves the quality of childcare in San José. Once the research, stakeholder interviews, and surveys were complete, staff began synthesizing data and clustering common threads found throughout the Scan. When deciding which workforce development opportunities to offer, the three most important factors for informal caregivers in San José are: having opportunities for networking and social connections; understanding that one size does not fit all when it comes to programming for caregivers; and removing barriers to training opportunities. Identified barriers include lack of access to childcare while attending trainings, limited access to trainings and workshops in the participants' home languages, lack of digital

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sjpl.org/education>

devices, internet connection, and digital literacy training, and inability to participate if program funding requires participants to provide proof of immigration documentation.

In the months following the Scan, staff developed a robust Caregiver Workforce Development program with multiple pathways designed to support a range of caregiver goals and needs. In Summer 2020, Caregiver Workforce Development would not be able to continue as planned due to shelter in place orders. Early Education Services staff convened with local partners to discuss program design and consider how addressing program goals, funding, and partners would look in a virtual setting. It became clear: FFN caregivers needed immediate support to combat isolation, gain access to resources, and receive assistance for the important work they do to support children and their families. Staff quickly pivoted and provided programming to support the critical need.

### *Equitable Access*

Scholarships played a critical role in providing childcare during the emergency response and in the current recovery stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without the financial assistance of direct scholarships, many essential workers and residents would have been further in crises. Table 1 illustrates the number of children that received a scholarship for childcare programs and the amount of scholarship funding that was distributed.

During the emergency response period, PRNS utilized their internal scholarship program (CSJ), which was supplemented and later reimbursed with CRF. During the recovery phase, PRNS is utilizing Departmental scholarship funding, which will be supported through ARP dollars, and CDGB resources. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, PRNS annually distributed approximately one million dollars in scholarship funding in support of all programs. The additional funding support has totaled \$4.8 million dollars and allowed an increase in affordable and equitable access to childcare to the community.

**Table 1: Direct Childcare Scholarships**

COVID-19	<i>Emergency Response (PRNS Scholarship, CRF Funds, and Foregone Revenue*) 20/21</i>	<i>Emergency Response (PRNS Scholarship, CRF Funds, and Foregone Revenue*) 20/21</i>	<i>Recovery (PRNS &amp; CDBG) 21/22</i>	<i>Recovery (PRNS &amp; CDBG) 21/22</i>
<b>Name of Scholarship</b>	<b>Number of Scholarships</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Number of Scholarships</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
CSJ Camp San José Strong/ Jr.	350	\$302,614.00	538	\$562,996.25
CSJ R.O.C.K 'N' Learn	1,535	\$2,528,369.00	0	\$0.00
CSJ R.O.C.K	0	\$0.00	117	\$76,325.00
CSJ SJ Recreation Preschool	160	\$104,824.00	114	\$99,201.00
CDBG Camp San José Strong/Jr.	0	\$0.00	776	\$628,644.00
CDBG R.O.C.K.	0	\$0.00	237	\$496,596.00
CDBG San José Recreation Preschool	0	\$0.00	41	\$70,323.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>\$2,935,806.00</b>	<b>1823</b>	<b>\$1,934,085.25</b>

*\*In accordance with discussions at Neighborhood Services and Education Committee and City Council, at the Director's discretion, the pricing for qualifying participants has been reduced to \$0 to address community needs during the pandemic. These discounts will diminish the Department's revenue for 2020- 2021, which has already been adjusted to account for the scholarships.*

To minimize social and economic barriers for the most vulnerable youth in our community, PRNS awarded 776 CDBG Scholarships for Camp San José Strong and Camp San José Jr. to families impacted by Covid-19 during the summer of 2021. Of those scholarships, 80% of recipients reported living in extremely low-income households. These households represented thirty-one zip codes, including 95122, 95116, 95111, 95112 and 95127, which had employment impacts. These zip codes also lay within The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) Qualified Census Tracts ([https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda\\_qct.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html)), which are aimed at helping to create economically healthy communities, which validates the need to continue financial assistance for subsidized childcare in these zip codes and other extremely low-income areas.

**Table 2: CDBG Household and COVID-19 Impacts\***

<b>Household Income Level</b>	<b>Income Range (HH Size 1-8)</b>	<b># Of Subsidies Provided</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely Low-Income	\$34,800 - \$65,650	617	80%
Very Low-Income	\$48,650 - \$91,750	122	16%
Low Income	\$78,050 - \$147,200	25	3%
Other Income Data**	Other	12	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>776</b>	



<b>COVID-19 Impact</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Unemployed Household	297	38%
Reduced Hours Household	361	46%
Pay Reduction Household	83	11%
COVID-19 Impact Household	35	5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>776</b>	

\*Data represented in household and impact tables are from the PRNS CDBG Intake forms

\*\*Other Income data represents disability, seasonal, or other.

City of San José and CDBG scholarships continue to decrease the racial and economic disparities allowing equitable access to all ethnic and racial groups, and it should be noted that the zip codes most impacted have a higher Hispanic population in need of childcare assistance. Of the total youth served, Hispanic families represented 60%.

**Table 3: CDBG Race and Ethnicity Demographic**

<b>Ethnicity Demographic</b>	<b>Summer 2021</b>
Number of Participants Identified as Hispanic <i>*(additional question asked on intake form)</i>	60%
Number of Participants Identified as Not being Hispanic <i>*(additional question asked on intake form)</i>	38%
<i>Other Hispanic</i>	2%
<b>Race Demographic</b>	
White	20%
Black	3%
Asian	14%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native & White	1%
Asian & White	1%
Black or African American & White	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native AND Black or African American	1%
OTHER	56%

\*Data represented in table 3 is from the PRNS CDBG Intake forms

### *Outreach Methods*

To ensure vulnerable families had access to registration and scholarship opportunities, PRNS and SJPL worked closely with school districts and community-based organizations to identify and refer families. Priority registration periods were developed to assist eligible families along with mobile registration events in impacted neighborhoods. Community Centers extended weekend and evening hours to assist working families in the registration and scholarship process, and diverse social media and marketing strategies in multiple languages were utilized.

PRNS added six new afterschool programs that focused on expansion and growth to address community need and fill gaps left from the loss of providers. These programs included four new R.O.C.K. afterschool locations at Alex Anderson Elementary, Tom Matsumoto Elementary, Welch Park Community Center, and Willow Glen Community Center. PRNS also began afterschool programming at Berryessa Youth Center and Starbird Youth Center.

## **CURRENT PROGRAMMING**

### Early Education in FY 2021-2022

#### *San José Recreation Preschool (SJRP)*

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) provides several programs designed to meet the needs of children, ages 3-5, and their caregivers. On an annual basis, PRNS serves more than 1,500 children, ages 3-5, through programs such as the SJRP, The Hatchery at Emma Prusch Park, Camp San José Jr., and vendor-led sports and performing arts activities. These programs are designed to promote school readiness skills and social-emotional and cognitive development through fun, interactive activities. There are currently 16 San José Recreation Preschool classrooms, serving 172 preschool aged youth, with continued scholarship support available for qualifying families. For the third year, PRNS has partnered with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, evaluation consultant ASR, and Kate Horst, developer of SEEDS of Early Literacy to implement a standardized curriculum, SEEDS of Early Literacy and nationally recognized assessment tools, PALS and ASQ to measure school readiness skills and overall development. As a result, PRNS staff have made significant inroads in progressing towards the Early Education Quality Standards quality continuum from Basic Quality Not Met to Advance Quality.

### Expanded Learning in FY 2021-2022

PRNS and SJPL provide several programs designed to promote academic success and enhance learning beyond the school day. All programs are designed to provide school-age students with positive alternatives after school focusing on academic success, social-emotional development, health and wellness, recreation, and personal growth. On an annual basis, PRNS serves more than 4,200 unduplicated students through programs such as R.O.C.K. at 25 afterschool sites; ASES at four sites; 12 teen centers; and a variety of camps throughout the year. Similarly, SJPL

offered more than 9,600 free programs and activities designed for afterschool and summer at all 25 library locations throughout San José with a total attendance of 133,630 in program participation in FY 2020-2021.

#### *R.O.C.K. Afterschool*

Since 2009, PRNS has provided afterschool childcare through the citywide R.O.C.K. Afterschool program. Coming out of the pandemic, R.O.C.K. was a familiar constant for school communities and families, with many students joining the program for the first time after receiving care throughout the 2020-2021 RNL program. To increase access to R.O.C.K., PRNS has continued to offer scholarships, providing the program at no cost to eligible families who are most in need and impacted by COVID-19, with over 30% of participants receiving the program at 100% scholarship.

Currently, PRNS is serving 778 youth per day on elementary and middle school campuses and City of San José facilities. Through the budget process, and with the support of the Mayor and City Council, PRNS also began two new afterschool programs that are modeled after R.O.C.K. These programs are located at the Berryessa and Starbird Youth Centers, providing afterschool care for 87 youth per day at no cost.

PRNS has intentionally built and supported collaborative partnerships with school district partners to open lines of communication to ensure the health and safety of all students, prompt response and action in the event of COVID-19 exposures, and that there is continuity between school day policies procedures and afterschool programs. Throughout the year, PRNS plans to continue collaborative relationships built during the pandemic, including working with SJPL staff to provide coding classes, celebrate Read Across America, and increase access to literacy opportunities.

#### *After School Education and Safety (ASES)*

PRNS offers ASES at four school sites (elementary and charter middle school campuses), serving approximately 363, K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. ASES provides students a free, safe and welcoming environment and focus on literacy and academic enrichment and offers opportunities for relationship building and active student engagement.

In June 2021, Governor Newsom approved a state budget allocating additional dollars to ASES programs, resulting in a 14.6% increase of the daily per student rate from the 2020-2021 school year. These additional funds will allow PRNS to continue to run high quality programs and create opportunities for youth to participate in new activities that adhere to the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning Programs and create new opportunities for ASES staff to continue their own professional development, including sending ASES Site Coordinators to the 2022 Site Coordinator Symposium.

PRNS continues to work in partnership with the Region 5 Santa Clara County Afterschool Collaborative, supporting statewide advocacy for increased ASES funding, including working alongside the California School-Age Consortium with their 18<sup>th</sup> annual California Afterschool & Summer Challenge advocacy in March.

Enrollment at ASES programs further highlight the need for free childcare, with most programs exceeding their average daily attendance targets. ASES at Lyndale Elementary is currently exceeding its daily attendance targets by 150%, serving nearly 100 students a day.

### *Teen Center Programs*

PRNS has re-opened in-person teen centers and are currently operating nine Teen Centers citywide, offering positive and safe spaces for youth to participate in a myriad of enrichment and recreation activities and special events, during the critical hours of evenings and weekends. The Teen Centers serve 379 teens, 12-17 years of age, per day. For the 21-22 fiscal year, the Santa Clara County Office of Probation is providing PRNS with \$100,000 to offer free memberships for up to 1,000 teens. These funds will be utilized to provide free access to sports leagues, field trips, special events, and family engagement activities.

### *Academic Support*

PRNS and SJPL continue to partner to provide increased academic support and enrichment activities. Citywide expanded learning programs all align to the California Quality Standards for Expanding Learning, including daily scheduled homework support time to encourage active and engaged learning and skill building. City staff promote continued education through enrichment activities and special events, such as celebrating college day on an annual basis. PRNS has partnered with the Moreland School District to offer credentialed teacher support for youth at Starbird Youth Center.

In September 2021, the Fall 2021 semester of HWC was launched, remaining in the virtual sphere due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. As of October 2021, the Fall HWC has hosted 23 sessions, with 42 unique students in attendance. Forty-seven (47) unique volunteers have provided coaching for these students for a total of 328 hours. SJPL has received positive feedback from parents and students, many of whom expressed that they were pleased and grateful that the program had continued.

During the Fall semester, 10 Resilience Corps Associates were recruited, onboarded, and trained as homework coaches in addition to returning volunteers. Resilience Corps is a pilot jobs program for 50 young adults that focuses on critical areas of community resilience, specifically accelerating K-12 learning recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The program is designed to address economic

and workforce development needs among university students, with a secondary goal designed to accelerate learning growth for K-12 students in San José. SJPL plans to continue HWC in spring 2022 with the Resilience Corps Associates as coaches, and staff will explore the possibility of a hybrid virtual/in person model.

Citywide expanded learning programs also benefit from the placement of Resilience Corps staff, which offers unemployed and underemployed young adults with work experience opportunities that benefit the community at large. The Resilience Corps Learning Pathway pilot program is a jobs program for young adults that focuses on critical areas of community resilience, specifically accelerating K-12 learning recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is a one-year federally funded program that is providing 50 young adults with part-time employment, ensuring a living wage during fiscal year 2021-22. Priority was given to young adults residing in one of the low-resource census tracts in the City of San José from the 2021 map of data related to the Fair Housing Task Force. Second priority was given to young adults residing in a San José area outside of the low-resource census tracts, as well as young adults that have been impacted by the COVID pandemic. The primary goal of the Resilience Corps Learning Pathway pilot is designed to address economic and workforce development needs among university students with a secondary goal designed to accelerate learning growth for K-12 students in San José. Resilience Corps Associates are placed with high-quality and well-established expanded learning program providers serving San José students, including City agency program providers. Providers are aligned to common core anchor standards, prioritize whole child learning opportunities – including social-emotional learning, academics, and physical activity, and follow CDC public health and safety guidelines and best practices. This program is led by SJPL with the San José Public Library Foundation as the Employee of Record. Young adults have been recruited through local colleges and universities as well as community partners. Ten Associates have been placed with R.O.C.K. afterschool and ten Associates have been placed at SJPL homework clubs.

#### *Family Friend and Neighbor Caregiver Support Network*

SJPL, with the support of the San José Public Library Foundation and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, successfully launched the FFN Caregiver Support Network 6-month pilot program in January 2021. The program's mission is to build FFN caregiver networks, increase access to information and resources, and provide professional development in support of building stable, safe, and responsive relationships with the children and families in their care. Main supports have been categorized into three areas:

1. Social Connection: Caregivers need affirmation, advocacy, empowerment, connections, and ways to combat isolation;
2. Professional Development: Caregivers need access to mentors and coaches, quality trainings, professional development opportunities, and a ladder of career mobility;

3. Resources: Support with funding necessary costs to advance their career development/quality of care provided, technology and web access, and connections to community resources and supports.

The FFN Caregiver Support Network is designed to fit the needs and interests of each individual participant. As part of the participant onboarding process, program staff conducted an intake interview with each participant to understand their goals and aspirations for participating. Jointly, the participant and staff discussed program opportunities and resources needed to meet the participant's goals. Participants are provided opportunities to customize their learning by selecting from a menu of professional development options. This allows for flexible selection of educational opportunities that not only consider their professional needs, but their personal needs as well.

FFN Caregiver Support Network program participants are required to complete 21 hours of professional development activities during the program and have opportunities to engage in workshops and classes to gain knowledge, experience, and confidence in their ability to provide quality care and education that positively impacts children and families. Workshops are currently offered in the following areas:

- Social Emotional Development;
- Cognitive Development;
- School Readiness;
- Health and Safety (CPR & First Aid certification);
- Supporting Children with Special Needs;
- Trauma-Informed Care; and
- Strategies for Managing Care/Working with Families.

Program participants also have access to training and support in the area of digital literacy. To support participants on a virtual platform, staff trained and supported participants who had no previous experience with computers or digital platforms so that they would be able to navigate the virtual programming model.

In conjunction with physical and material resources (computers, hotspots, early learning resources, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors, etc.), participants also receive individualized mentoring and support. A cornerstone of the program is the weekly Wednesday virtual gathering, which regularly unites the FFN caregiver participants for an evening of community discussions, short workshops, socialization, and knowledge-sharing. These weekly convenings are the foundation upon which program participants and staff build their shared sense of community, trust, and interpersonal connections. These live and asynchronous community gatherings are an essential part of addressing caregiver isolation and building a robust network in which caregivers can help and support each other.

Due to the success of the pilot, the FFN Caregiver Support Network was able to continue with a second cohort launching in the Fall of 2021. The continuation and significant expansion of the

program was made through support from The San José Public Library Foundation, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The FFN Caregiver Support Network will run from September 2021 – June 2022. There are currently 109 program participants enrolled in the program, a 114% increase from the 51 caregivers who participated in the pilot. In fiscal year 20/21, through a partnership with Mission College, the program is offering six Early Childhood Education units to participants who are interested in earning their CA Assistant Teacher permits. Another element to this year's program supports participants through the state of California's licensing process. Embedded in the program are additional resources and technical assistance to help participants achieve their goals of becoming owners of Family Childcare Home businesses.

**Table 4: FFN Caregiver Support Network Participant Profile Year 1 & 2**

<b>Participant Demographics</b>		
	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Number of Program Participants	59	108
Collective Number of Children Cared for by Participants	286	336
Number of Languages Spoken by Participants	13	19
Age Range of Participants	19-73	18-67
Number of San José Zip Codes Represented	21	34
Number of Participants Who Identify as American Indian or Alaska Native	3%	1%
Number of Participants Who Identify as Asian	47%	47%
Number of Participants Who Identify as Black	3%	4%
Number of Participants Who Identify as Latino	29%	31%
Number of Participants Who Identify as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2%	2%
Number of Participants Who Identify as White	14%	10%
Number of Participants Who Identify as Hispanic	42%	44%
Number of Participants Who Declined to State	0%	4%

## **CONCLUSION**

PRNS and SJPL have successfully collaborated to provide high quality childcare programs and financial support throughout the City's response to COVID-19. Programs were developed and expanded to address the increased need for childcare in San José, which were exacerbated during COVID-19. Communities most negatively impacted by COVID-19 within the City of San José are those with the most socio-economic challenges and have the highest need for high quality and affordable childcare options. With the focus on equity and access, programs were strategically placed and added in these communities, and the outreach methods utilized helped reach those families and youth most in need. The increased funding support through a variety of

resources outlined in this memo greatly reduced and, in most cases, removed the barrier of cost associated with the childcare programs.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

The departments participated in the Joint Special Meeting on Child Well-Being on September 9, 2021 between NSE, County of Santa Clara Children, Seniors and Families Committee, and community partners, and will participate in the second meeting tentatively scheduled for April of 2022. Collaboration will continue with partners and Santa Clara County to strategize funding, infrastructure, and programming support for childcare, afterschool care, and other services for children of elementary school age, as well as children zero to five. There will be a continued focus on funding and access beyond COVID-19 and delivering programming that meets the adopted quality standards. These standards will be met by the evaluation of programs and the development of training and Quality Improvement Plans. These efforts will inform the development of a Children and Youth Services Master Plan which will ultimately guide the City's investment and focus on our youngest residents.

### **CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE**

The recommendation in this memorandum does not have any impact on Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the December 9, 2021 Neighborhood Services and Education Committee meeting.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.



November 22, 2021

**Subject: Child Care Learning Pods Status Report**

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**CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-009, Staff Reports, Assessments, Annual Reports, and Information Memos that involve no approvals of any City action.

/s/

JON CICIRELLI  
Director of Parks, Recreation  
and Neighborhood Services

The principal author of this memorandum is Hal Spangenberg, Interim Division Manager. For questions, please contact [hal.spangenberg@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:hal.spangenberg@sanjoseca.gov).

### Attachment A: PRNS Expanded Learning Program Locations

PRNS Program	Site Location	Associated School District
ASES	ACE Esperanza	ACE Charter
ASES	ACE Empower	ACE Charter
ASES	Lyndale Elementary	Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
ASES	Summerdale Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Laneview Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Brooktree Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Cherrywood Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Piedmont Middle School	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Majestic Way Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Noble Elementary	Berryessa Union School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	LeyVa Middle School	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Millbrook Elementary	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Matsumoto Elementary	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Norwood Creek Elementary	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Cadwallader Elementary	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Holly Oak Elementary	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Welch Park Community Center	Evergreen School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Parkview Elementary	Oak Grove School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Alex Anderson Elementary	Oak Grove School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Frost/Indigo Elementary	Oak Grove School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Baldwin Elementary	Oak Grove School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Taylor Elementary	Oak Grove School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Carson Elementary	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Almaden Community Center (Simonds)	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Bret Harte Middle School ("The Spot")	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Gardner Elementary	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Reed Elementary	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Schallenberger Elementary	San Jose Unified School District
R.O.C.K. Afterschool	Willow Glen Community Center	San Jose Unified School District
Youth Center	Berryessa Youth Center	Berryessa Union School District
Youth Center	Starbird Youth Center	Moreland School District