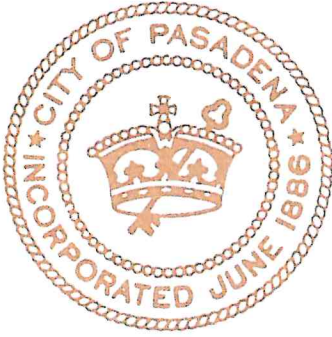




Agenda Report

October 27, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: Office of the Young Child, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS TO ACCEPT AN L.A. CARE HEALTH PLAN GRANT OF \$265,000 AND AMEND THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b);
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute documents with L.A. Care Health Plan to accept and administer grant funds to implement an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program; and
3. Amend the City Manager's Office FY2027 Operating Budget by recognizing and appropriating \$265,000 in grant funds from L.A. Care Health Plan in the General Fund (Fund 101) and increase the City Manager's Office personnel allocation by 1.0 full-time equivalent ("FTE") limited-term position.

BACKGROUND:

There are significant gaps in the availability and access to mental health services for young children, especially children between the ages of 0-5 who may need additional support in early care and education settings where behavioral challenges often emerge.

Recent reductions in Medicaid funding (Medi-Cal as it is known in California), will further limit access to essential early childhood and family support services, disproportionately

affecting those most vulnerable. In the Pasadena/Altadena area, 36% (57,136) of children will be impacted by these cuts. These conditions underscore the need for expanded high-quality programs outside the traditional health service delivery system.

The L.A. Care Health Plan released their Wildfire Relief Fund Round II in the fall 2025 to advance the recovery and rebuilding of communities affected by the Pasadena, Altadena, and Pacific Palisades fires. The grant program seeks innovative solutions that restore and improve the health and social service delivery systems and ensure equitable access to needed services and support wellbeing for all community members.

The City Manager's Office partnered with the Pasadena Public Health Department to submit a grant application to address critical behavioral health needs in early childhood by providing targeted mental health consultation services to young children exhibiting social-emotional challenges. The program recognizes that untreated behavioral health concerns in early childhood can lead to long-term developmental consequences and educational disruption. Grant funds will be used to deploy an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and trained interns to work directly with children, families, and educators. The grant is for two years and is expected to serve up to 24 children/families impacted by the Eaton Fire. A budget amendment is requested to accept grant funds and create 1.0 FTE Program Coordinator I to serve as the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program Manager for the term of the grant.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the vision of the City of Pasadena to be an Early Learning City that nurtures every child and creates an environment where young children are healthy, safe and find early success in school and life.

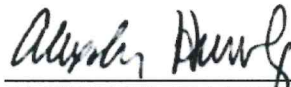
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

CEQA excludes from environmental review actions that are not "projects" as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b). Sections 21065 and 15378(b) define a project as an action which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Section 15378 excludes from the definition of "project" organizational or administrative governmental activities that do not result in physical changes to the environment. The actions proposed herein, authorizing the City Manager to execute all grant-related documents, and amend the operating budget, are administrative governmental activities that do not result in physical changes to the environment and therefore is not a "project" as defined by CEQA. Since the action is not subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended action will amend the City Manager's Office FY 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriating \$265,000 in the General Fund (101) for a grant from L.A. Care Health Plan effective November 2026 to October 2028. Funds will be used for 1.0 limited-term FTE Program Coordinator I, training, and other program support costs. While not required for the grant, City in-kind funds of nearly \$52,000 will be offered for the term of the grant by the Public Health Department and nearly \$61,000 from the City Manager's Office to support personnel expenses, data reporting, supervision, and general program expenses such as printing, mileage, computer equipment, and office supplies.

Respectfully submitted,



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Prepared by:



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Concur:



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Director, Public Health Department

Approved by:



MATTHEW E. HAWKESWORTH
Interim City Manager