

Board increases funding for community programs

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SC Budgets
SANTA CRUZ — Funding for community programs from revenue-sharing funds was increased over last year by the Board of Supervisors during its last day of budget hearings Friday.

Supervisors restored most of what had been recommended for cuts from the CAO — some \$111,131, according to Assistant County Auditor Gary Knudsen.

The money will be transferred out of Health Services Agency federal revenue-sharing funds, which in turn will be replaced by county contingency funds.

According to Patton, supervisors had discussed in a closed executive session the

idea of trying to get more funding for day-care programs.

They decided to mount a campaign geared toward getting Sacramento lawmakers to increase the state's share of revenue for child care, and they told the CAO to work with the Human Resources Agency to look for other ways to raise funding.

"I consider this a major work item for the coming year," said Patton.

Supervisors' Chairwoman Robley Levy said, "The board strongly supports child care and wants to be able to augment the funding more."

Pajaro Valley Supervisor E. Wayne Moore added that he'd been working with Watsonville Mayor Ann Soldo on trying to find more revenue for child care in the Pajaro Valley, "where the need is particularly important" because often "both parents work in the field."

Of the 17 child-care programs seeking revenue-sharing (federal) funds, supervisors padded 11 projects with funding above the recommendations of the CAO. The other six received either more, or slightly less, than what they had requested.

Among the child-care groups to which funding was added above the CAO's recommendation were Capitola After School, Child Development Resource Center, Community Children's Center, Glen Arbor School, Good Beginnings, Mid-County Drop In, Neighborhood Childcare, Pacific Pre-School, Santa Cruz Toddler Care Center, Watsonville YWCA Drop-in and

Night and Day Care Centers.

A number of other groups also received added funding above the CAO suggestions, including Cabrillo College Stroke Center, Citizens for Better Nursing Home Care, Project SCOUT, San Lorenzo Valley Seniors, and Senior Legal Services.

Also funded were the Davenport Resource Center, Family Service Association of Watsonville, Santa Cruz Women's Health Center, Volunteer Bureau, and Women's Crisis Support and Shelter Services.

Association of Watsonville Area Seniors, Legal Aid Society WELAC, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center and the Shelter Project.

In addition, there were a host of other community projects that received funding. They included Food and Nutrition Services, Skills Center, Grey Bears, Community Gardens, Adaptability Unlimited, Legal Aid Society and Wingspread (center for women's health).