

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

<https://www.seattle.gov/sweetened-beverage-tax-community-advisory-board>

Date: August 25, 2020
To: Mayor Jenny Durkan and Budget Director Ben Noble
From: The Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board
Subject: Additional 2021 Prenatal-to-Three Budget Recommendations
CC: Councilmember Lorena González, Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Debora Juarez, Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis, Councilmember Tammy J. Morales, Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Councilmember Dan Strauss

Dear Mayor Durkan and Budget Director Noble,

On behalf of the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB), we are writing to clarify the recommendation in the CAB's [July 14, 2020 budget memo](#) to allocate \$1.5 million in 2021 for community-based investments in prenatal-to-age-three services.

We affirm our original recommendation to establish a new \$1.5 million grants program intended for community organizations that specialize in high-quality prenatal-to-three and kindergarten readiness services that seek to reduce the disparities in outcomes for children and families based on race, gender, or other socioeconomic factors.

Additionally, we want to make clear that we intend for this be an **ongoing** \$1.5 million per year grants program. Here are our recommendations for how to fund an on-going prenatal-to-three community grants program starting in 2021:

1. In 2021, the initial outlay of money should first come from unallocated Sweetened Beverage Fund balances and then from the Department of Neighborhood's Healthy Food Fund.
2. Any reduction of DON's Healthy Food Fund should be limited to one year and should not exceed \$1.5 million. For example, in 2022, DON's Healthy Food Fund should be restored to its \$2.5 million per year baseline.
3. In 2022, the City should continue funding the prenatal-to-three community grants program by redirecting the \$1.5 million held in reserve for job retraining and placement programs for workers adversely impacted by the tax. There is no evidence of job losses because of the SBT and no plans for how to use this money, therefore this money should be directed towards community priorities.

4. Starting in 2023, when the one-time SBT expenditures for the first five years of tax collection expire and all proceeds from tax collection are to be directed to on-going programs, the City should identify and dedicate \$1.5 million in on-going SBT funds to support the prenatal-to-three grants program.

5. To be efficient while leveraging institutions and processes that have a track record of running equity-driven community grant programs, and to reduce duplication, the City should look to have Public Health – Seattle & King County Best Starts for Kids administer or advise on the structure the program.

We appreciate the opportunity to advise you on the SBT spending plan. Thank you in advance for ensuring that available resources are allocated in accordance with community priorities.

Sincerely,



Jen Moss, Co-Chair



Tanika Thompson, Co-Chair

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Barbara Baquero	Position 2, Food Access Representative
Rebecca Finkel	Position 3, Food Access Representative
Tanika Thompson	Position 5, Community Representative
Christina Wong	Position 6, Public Health Representative
Laura Flores Cantrell	Position 7, Public Health Representative
Jen Moss	Position 8, Public Health Representative
Paul Sherman	Position 9, Public Health Representative
Adrián Lopez-Romero	Position 10, Early Learning Representative
Dila Perera	Position 11, Early Learning Representative