

## Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

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

**Date:** November 14, 2022

**To:** Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

**From:** The Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

**Subject:** Initial Balancing Package - FG-903-A-001-2023

**Cc:** Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Tammy J. Morales, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Councilmember Debora Juarez, Councilmember Dan Strauss, Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis, and Councilmember Sara Nelson

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Dear Councilmember Mosqueda and the Select Budget Committee,

On behalf of the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, we are writing to thank you for your values-driven leadership during this difficult budget process and to express our full support for **FG-903-A-001-2023** in your Initial Balancing Package.

This Council Budget Action would transfer \$1.2 million JumpStart Fund in 2023 and \$1.2 million JumpStart Fund in 2024 (one-time) to the Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) Fund to replace revenue losses projected in the November revenue forecast update. This transfer would allow the City to avoid making reductions to critical [SBT-funded programs and services](#) that increase food security and support child health and early learning for lower income families, including program like the [Food Equity Fund](#), [Prenatal-to-Three Community Grants program](#), [Fresh Bucks](#), [Healthy Food in Schools](#), [Child Care Assistance Program](#), and a variety of [hunger relief programs](#).

As our city recovers from the COVID pandemic and grapples with [historically high rates of inflation](#), we are grateful for your steadfast commitment to maintaining essential services like food assistance and child wellbeing. When inflation is high, everyone pays the price, but lower-income families suffer the most since food, childcare, and housing are a bigger share of total spending for these households. Today, your Initial Balance Package signals that in a [city as wealthy as Seattle](#), public support for programs and services that help ease the struggles lower income families are facing to pay for childcare or nutritious food is not negotiable.

We thank you for your continued partnership and leadership.

Sincerely,



Jen Moss, Co-Chair



Tanika Thompson, Co-Chair

## **Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board**

Jaimée Marsh	Position 1, Food Access Representative
Barbara Baquero	Position 2, Food Access Representative
Rebecca Finkel	Position 3, Food Access Representative
Bilan Aden	Position 4, Community Representative
Tanika Thompson	Position 5, Community Representative
Christina Wong	Position 6, Public Health Representative
Kristin Sukys	Position 7, Public Health Representative
Jen Moss	Position 8, Public Health Representative
Barbara Rockey	Position 9, Public Health Representative
Munira Mohamed	Position 10, Early Learning Representative
Dan Torres	Position 11, Early Learning Representative