

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

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

Date: October 25, 2023

To: Council President Debora Juarez, Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis, Councilmember Tammy J. Morales, Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, Councilmember Sara Nelson, Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, and Councilmember Dan Strauss

From: The Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Subject: 2024 Proposed Budget for the Sweetened Beverage Tax Fund

Cc: Mayor Bruce Harrell and City Budget Director Julie Dingley

Dear City Council,

On behalf of the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB), we are writing to express our unanimous support for Mayor Harrell's 2024 Proposed Budget as it relates to [the Sweetened Beverage Tax \(SBT\) Fund \(00155\)](#).

The proposed budget maintains Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) expenditures and programming at the original 2024 Endorsed Budget levels of \$22.4 million. This includes the temporary \$1.2 million from the JumpStart Fund that Council transferred to the SBT Fund through [CBA FG-903-A-001-2023](#).

We are deeply grateful to the City Council, Mayor, and City Budget Office for all the efforts to maintain SBT-funded programming and avoid any cuts. In accordance with the [Seattle Municipal Code 5.53.055](#), the SBT Fund supports critically important programs that increase food security, increase access to healthy food, and support child health and early learning. Using other city revenues to fully support SBT programs shows your commitment to food assistance and child wellbeing, which should not be negotiable nor made to rely on a single revenue source that is known to be volatile.

If the November revenue forecasts are lower than expected, we urge the City Council to continue looking for other city revenue sources to keep the SBT Fund balanced in 2024. Cutting food and child development services for low-income individuals and families would go against our city's values and harm our communities.

Beyond this current budget cycle, we also want to call attention to this longer-term issue: **food and child development programs/services need diverse and progressive revenue streams beyond the SBT Fund.**

Consider the following:

1. **SBT expenditures and programming are outpacing revenues.** The [proposed SBT Financial Plan](#) shows that even if spending in future years (2025-2027) is held at 2024 levels, we are still facing

a projected revenue gap. Meanwhile, inflation continues to outpace the SBT Fund and General Fund. If City officials do not find alternative, stable revenue sources for food security and child development programs/services, we will face cut scenarios again in 2025. As outlined in our [June 2024 budget recommendations](#), cuts to SBT-funded programs and services will increase economic, racial, and social disparities.

2. **Demand for food and child development programs/services continues to increase.** For example:

- a. Local hunger relief programs (food banks and meal programs) continue to face increased demand from food insecure residents.¹ This need is magnified by the loss of COVID-era programs and persistent, above average inflation in food prices, making it difficult for low-income households and food programs trying to serve them.
- b. The [Food Equity Fund](#) (Department of Neighborhoods, DON) regularly receives funding requests that are *four-to-five times* more than the ongoing \$2.3 million annual allocation.
- c. [Fresh Bucks](#) (Office of Sustainability & Environment, OSE) has maximized the number of customers it can serve with the resources made available to the program. In the most recent Fresh Bucks open enrollment campaign, the program received applications from 3,200 households *above and beyond* available enrollment spots.
- d. A report published in December 2022 for the Washington Governor and legislature, [The True Cost of Quality Child Care in Washington](#), confirmed what many of us already knew – because child care is not financed as a public good, the cost of providing high quality care far outweighs the budgetary capacity of most families. Meanwhile, last year, a record number of families contacted the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) to apply for [Child Care Assistance Program](#) (CCAP) subsidies, which are funded by SBT.
- e. The updated [Food Action Plan](#) coming out in 2024 has identified new actions to foster an equitable and resilient local food system.

3. **Investing in the city’s food and child care assistance programs is good for the local economy.**

SBT investments include nationally recognized and locally beloved programs and services like Fresh Bucks (OSE), Farm to Preschool (Human Services Department), Healthy Food in Schools (OSE), the Food Equity Fund (DON), the Prenatal-to-Three Community Grant Program (DEEL), the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) (DEEL), and the Developmental Bridge Program (DEEL). Thanks to years of engagement and co-design efforts with community partners and the CAB, SBT programs and services are intentionally designed and delivered so they benefit people in Seattle most impacted by race and income-based disparities in health, economic hardship, and child wellbeing. This includes the people who deliver and receive the services.

SBT programs and services are designed and implemented by community-based organizations, most of which are led *by and for* the Black, Native, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, and

¹ Public Health – Seattle & King County. Feb 2023. Food Insecurity in King County. <https://publichealthinsider.com/2023/04/09/food-insecurity-in-king-county-remains-high-how-to-help-and-get-food-assistance/>

refugee communities. Programs and services also focus on sourcing food, child care, and supplies from local, women- and minority-owned businesses (WMBE) and/or BIPOC-owned businesses. Attached is a list of community organizations and child care providers who were supported by the SBT Fund in 2022.

On behalf of the communities we represent and serve, thank you for your continued attention to our recommendations on the SBT spending plan and the need for new and stable review for food security and child development programs and services. We appreciate the commitment to accountable and transparent partnership that Mayor Harrell, City Council, City Budget Office, and SBT-funded departments have shown over the years. We ask that you continue to consult the CAB early and often whenever there are changes in the SBT revenue outlook.

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

Attachment 1: Community-Based Organizations and Child Care Programs supported by SBT in 2022

The following is a list of 2022 community-based organizations that were supported by the SBT Fund to implement food security and early child development programs and services.

1st Start Learning Family Home Center (Katherine Green)	Boys & Girls Club - North Beach
A Mother's Touch Daycare (Tomeshia Felder)	Boys & Girls Club - Northgate
A4 Apple Learning Center	Boys & Girls Club - Olympic Hills
Aaliyah Family Learning Program LLC (Bibi Abubakar)	Boys & Girls Club - Sacajawea
ABC Academy of Diversity LLC (Dolores R Cubias)	Boys & Girls Club - Salmon Bay K-8
Adam Home Day Care (Fatumo M. Ali)	Boys & Girls Club - Smilow Rainier Vista
African Community Housing & Development	Boys & Girls Club - View Ridge
Aisha Family Childcare (Hawo Dahir)	Bright Horizons - Harborview
Aisha Home Daycare (Saidiya Jama)	Build Lake City Together
American Polynesian Organization	Busy Bee Childcare (Ling He)
Amiin Family Child Care (Nimo S Ahmed)	Byrd Barr Place
Amina Aboo Family Childcare	Casa Latina
Anab Hash Haybe	Causeys - Main
Anas Family Child Care (Sadiya Adem Omer)	Central Area Senior Center
Angels Nest Childcare (Radia Bendjellal)	Central Co-op
Anisa Daycare LLC (Anisa Abdullahi Omar)	Cham Refugees Community
Asha's Family Child Care (Asha Abdalla)	Chief Seattle Club
Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS)	Child Learning and Care Center - UCUC
Aster Blossom Child Care (Aster Weldemichael)	Children's Home Society of Washington
Atlantic Street Center	Children's Therapy Center (CTC)
Ayan Family Child Care (Faduma Muse)	Children's Center - Burke Gilman Gardens
Backpack Brigade	Chinese Information and Service Center
Ballard Food Bank	City Fruit
Barakat Home Day Care (Safia Kahin)	Collaboration Station
Beacon Food Forest	Community Day Center For Children
Beginnings CC 1	Community Roots Housing
Beginnings II Child Care Center - Queen Anne	Community School of West Seattle
Black Dollar Days Task Force	Cooperative Children's Center
Black Farmers Collective	Cosmopolitan Kids Downtown Academy
Black Star Farmers	Cottage School - Gatewood
Blazing Trails Childcare - Pathfinder	Creative Beginnings
Boru Family Child Care (Zeinaba Boru Gelchu)	Creative Kids - Carkeek
Boys & Girls Club - Bagley	Creative Kids - John Marshall
Boys & Girls Club - Ballard	Cultivate South Park
Boys & Girls Club - BF Day	Denise Learning Center (Denise M. Dailey)
Boys & Girls Club - Coe	Denise Louie - Beacon Hill
Boys & Girls Club - Lawton	Denise Louie - Magnuson Park
Boys & Girls Club - Lowell Elementary	Discovery Child Care & Preschool (Amy Siderits)
	Early Learning & Development Center - Broadview Center

Early Learning & Development Center -
 Greenwood
 East African Community Services
 Ebla Family Childcare (Hawo Mohamed)
 El Centro - Hirabayashi Place
 El Centro - Jose Marti
 El Centro - Jose Marti at Cedar Crossing
 El Centro - Plaza Roberto Maestas
 El Centro de la Raza
 Empowering Youth & Families Outreach
 Eritrean Association of Greater Seattle
 Fahima Home Day Care (Zeinab Elmi)
 Families of Color Seattle
 Family Works
 FareStart
 Fatah Child Care (Khadija Haji)
 Fatax Home Child Care (Asha Ali)
 Fathiya Hassan
 Fautleroy Children's Center
 FEEST (Food Empowerment Education &
 Sustainability Team)
 Filipino Community of Seattle
 First Place - Main
 First Step Child Care Learning Center (Denise
 Marie Mathis)
 Food For All Youth Leadership Program
 Food Lifeline
 Freeway Park Association
 Friends of FEED
 Geneses Early Learning
 Giddens School
 Got Green
 Green Lake Preschool & Childcare Center
 Green Lake School-Age Program
 Green Tree Early Childhood Center
 Growing Hearts Childcare (Samira Osman)
 Hanan Family Daycare (Sahra Osman)
 Happy Day Care (Fadumo Mohamed)
 Harborview Medical Center
 Hayat Family Home Childcare (Hindia Yusuf)
 Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center - Main
 Hidayah Family Child Care LLC (Mohamed A
 Abdel-Aziz)
 Hilltop Children's Center - Fremont
 Hilltop Children's Center - Queen Anne
 Hinda Child Care (Hinda Yusuf)
 Hip Hop is Green

Hoa Nguyen Home Daycare (Hoa & Loc
 Nguyen)
 Hobyo One Childcare (Muhubo Musse)
 Hormuud Home Family (Seynab Hassan Dimbil)
 Horn of Africa Services
 Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services
 Hunger Intervention Program
 Iftin Childcare (Halwa A Mohamud)
 Ilhan Home Day Care (Khadra Dahir)
 Iman Family Childcare (Jemila Abdi)
 In Toddler Care (Hafiza Kundil)
 Innsha Allah Family Childcare (Anaji Aman)
 Interim Community Development Association
 Interlake Child Care & Learning Center
 International Community Health Services
 Iqra Family Child Care (Baroon Ahmed)
 Ismahan Family Childcare (Sadiya Osman)
 Jannah Child Care (Abubakar Omar)
 Jasmin Day Care (Sahra M. Adan)
 Jewish Family Service of Seattle
 Kaiser Permanente
 Kandelina
 Khayre Family Daycare (Lul A. Khayre)
 Khmer Community of Seattle King County
 Kids Club After School Program
 Kids Co. - Adams
 Kids Co. - Cascadia
 Kids Co. - Cedar Park
 Kids Co. - Decatur
 Kids Co. - Graham Hill
 Kids Co. - John Hay
 Kids Co. - Magnolia
 Kids Co. - McDonald
 Kids Co. - Queen Anne
 Kids Co. - Southshore
 Kids Co. - TOPS
 Kids First Early Learning (Zahra Hassan)
 Kids Inc - West Woodland
 Kidspace Child Care Center
 Kidus Montessori
 Korean Community Services Center
 Kusum's Family Child Care (Kusumben J
 Chohan)
 Kyo ABA Therapy
 La Escuelita Bilingual School - Columbia City
 La Escuelita Bilingual School - Green Lake
 Laila Waran Childcare (Leylo Afrah)
 Lake City Collective

LASER - Bryant
 LASER - Laurelhurst
 Latino Community Fund
 Latona B & A School Program
 Launch - Beacon Hill
 Launch - Delridge Community Center
 Launch - Hawthorne
 Launch - Highland Park
 Launch - Kimball
 Launch - Leschi
 Launch - Madrona
 Launch - Maple
 Launch - Miller Annex
 Launch - Montlake
 Launch - Sanislo
 Launch at Primm ABC
 Le Jardin Day Care And Preschool (Marthe S. Daix)
 Learning Tree Montessori
 Learning Way School & Daycare
 Legacy of Equality Leadership and Organizing (LELO)
 Lifelong
 Lil Peoples World Seattle
 Little Blessings Daycare (Deshon Renee Horton)
 Loveable Nest Child Care (Chelon Jackson)
 Loving Hands Childcare (Nichelle Fredrickson)
 M&M Child Care (Paulette & Ernest Chambers)
 Magnolia Whizz Kids Academy
 Mary's Place
 May May and Yan Yan's Family Day Care (Linda Yi Mai)
 Mercy Housing Northwest
 Miles of Smiles Family Child Care (Shamis Hassan)
 Mother Africa
 Moyale Home Family Childcare (Fatuma N Ali)
 Muna Childcare (Adar Warsame)
 Nageeye Child Care Center (Zeinab Mohamud)
 Nancy's Daycare, LLC (Nancy Shields)
 Nasiib Family Child Care (Maryan Abdulle)
 Nasri Family Child Care (Habibo Hashi & Iqra Mohamud)
 Neighborcare Health Systems
 Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance
 Neighborhood House
 Nesteho Child Care (Basro Abdigani Ahmed)
 North Helpline
 North Seattle College A.S.B. Child Care Center
 Northgate Whizz Kids Academy
 Northwest Center Kids - Chinook
 Northwest Center Kids - Greenwood
 Northwest's Child Seattle
 Nourishian for Life
 Nurturing Hands Daycare (Asha Huka)
 Nurturing Knowledge - Greenwood
 Nurturing Knowledge - Loyal Heights
 Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
 OSL
 Our Beginning
 Pacific Coast Harvest
 Paradise Family Home Childcare (Sainab A. Warsame)
 Percussion Farms and Preserves
 Phinney Ridge Lutheran Child Development Center
 Pike Market Child Care and Preschool
 Pike Market Senior Center
 Pike Place Market Foundation & PDA
 Playmates Daycare (Monique Williams)
 PNA - Whittier Kids
 Preschool Adventures Learning Center (Shaylynn Kilgore)
 Primm ABC Child Care (ECEAP)
 PSESD - Educare Seattle
 Puget Sound Labor Agency
 Queer The Land
 Radwaan Family Child Care (Nasra Ali Mohamed)
 Rahma Home Daycare (Fardowza Shire)
 Rainier Beach Action Coalition
 Rainier Valley Food Bank
 Rainier Valley Midwives
 Rainier Valley Steering Committee
 ReWA - Beacon Hill
 REWA - Lake City
 ReWA - MLK
 Ridwan Family Daycare (Nimco Ismail Ahmed)
 Sabastian's Bilingual Preschool (Fabiola Herrera Reyes)
 Safeway Corporation
 Salmaan Family Childcare (Hamdi Hussein)
 Salvation Army Food Bank
 SCCS - Dragon's Den Dearborn Elementary
 SCCS - Epiphany Early Learning Preschool
 SCCS - Hoa Mai

SCCS - Interlaken
 SCCS - Magic Lantern
 SCCS - Pinehurst at Hazel Wolf K-8
 SCCS - Pinehurst Child Care and Preschool
 SCCS - RIFC
 SCCS - SWEL
 Sea Mar Child Development Center
 Seattle Amistad School
 Seattle Farmers Market Association
 Seattle Indian Center
 Seattle Indian Health Board
 Seattle Public Schools
 Seed of Life - Main
 Seed of Life - MLK
 Seed of Life - Orca
 Senait Family Home Child Care (Senait Kifle)
 Small Faces Child Development Center
 Small World Childcare (Deeqa Osman Shnur)
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 Sofia Family Childcare (Umi Sofiatun)
 Solid Ground
 Somali Health Board
 Sound Generations
 South Park Senior Citizens
 St George Parish Preschool
 St. Paul Early Learning Center
 Stay and Play PHZ 2 Center
 Ta'alem Community Center
 Takaba Childcare (Abdia Hussien)
 Takawal Family Childcare LLC (Hawo Mohamud Gared)
 The Food Bank at St. Mary's
 The Vida Agency
 Tilth Alliance
 Tina Abdinoor Falestin daycare
 Tiny Tots - (East Campus) Helen Hicks
 Tiny Tots - Hutchinson School Age
 Tiny Tots - Main (ECEAP)
 Tiny Tots - Othello
 Tiny Tots - Wing Luke
 Tongan Food Pantry
 United Indians - Daybreak Star
 United Indians of All Tribes
 United Way of King County

University District Children's Center
 University District Service League
 UW Children's Center - Laurel Village
 UW Children's Center - Portage Bay
 UW Children's Center - West Campus
 (Sacajawea Montessori)
 UWCC @ Radford Court
 View Point Child Care (Jamila Hussein Bonaya)
 Villa Comunitaria
 Voices of Tomorrow
 VOT - Family and Child Center
 Wa Na Wari
 WACC - One Family Learning Center
 Wallingford Child Care Center
 Washington Multicultural Services Link
 Wee Are The World - Main
 Wee Are The World - Right Start
 Weeble Peeple Day Care (Juliana A. Proctor)
 Wellspring Early Learning Center
 West Seattle Food Bank
 White Center Food Bank
 Willow Creek Children's House
 Within Reach
 Woodland Hall Preschool
 YMCA - Arbor Heights
 YMCA - Bailey-Gatzert
 YMCA - Boren STEM
 YMCA - Concord
 YMCA - Fairmount Park
 YMCA - Hallows
 YMCA - Rainier View
 YMCA - Sand Point Elementary
 YMCA - Thurgood Marshall
 YMCA – Westwood Village (Y Early Education at West Seattle)
 YMCA of Greater Seattle - North Seattle Early Education Center (YMCA Dale Turner Family)
 YMCA Roxhill @ E.C. Hughes
 Y-WE (Young Women Empowered)
 Yusra Home Day Care (Fadumo Sheikhuna)
 Zamzam's Family Home Childcare (Zamzam Hersi)
 Zhi Weng Ye