

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: October 3, 2025
	Time: 9am – 12pm
	Location: Virtual
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Joey Lu, Nurhazila Mohamath, Bilan Aden, Tanika Thompson Bird, Angie S. Wood, Yamila Sterling, Jen Moss, Dan Torres, Laura Nicholson, Barbara Baquero
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Barbara Rockey
VACANT SEATS:	None
GUESTS:	Star Berry, Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) Bridget Igoe, OSE Robyn Kumar, OSE Sean Walsh, Human Services Department Lisa Chen, Department of Neighborhoods Akshay Iyengar, City Budget Office (CBO) Sarah Burtner, CBO Lisa Gaccione, CBO Ismael Fajardo, Department of Education & Early Learning (DEEL)
DECISIONS AND NEXT STEPS:	<p>After taking a red-green-yellow vote, the CAB approved the key messages and empowered the Executive Committee to work with staff to prepare a first draft of the letter based on the meeting's discussion and the notes.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee to develop first draft and send to CAB for review • After CAB review period, the Executive Committee will prepare a final draft to send to City Council.

Welcome and Introductions

No public comment.

T. Thompson Bird, CAB Co-Chair, opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

Overview of the City Budget Process

CAB members reviewed the City's budget process budget process emphasizing what phase of the process the CAB and City are in at this moment in time. [See meeting slides.](#)

Overview of the 2026 Proposed Budget, Presented by staff from the City Budget Office

New Food Investments in Proposed Budget

- Food Security is an important policy and funding priority for the Mayor
- The SBT fund will provide \$22.2 million for food programs in 2026
- In addition, the proposed budget appropriates \$30 million in General Fund, generated by proposed B&O tax changes, to mitigating impacts of federal safety net cuts.
- \$12 million of this \$30 million will fund food security:
 - OSE:
 - \$6.2 million to expand Fresh Bucks (increase benefit to \$60 per month, serve 4000+ new households)
 - \$136,000 to expand the Lake City Farmers Market
 - HSD:
 - \$3.0 million for Food Banks
 - \$1.0 million for Shelter Meals
 - Office of Economic Development (OED):
 - \$1,000,000 for to Enhance Security at Grocery Stores
 - \$700,000 for Neighborhood Groceries

Key takeaway from slide above: \$12 million in new investments are one-time funding adds since the picture is unclear and there is lots of uncertainty of the real impacts of the federal cuts and if the state will step in.

SBT – Overview of 2026 Proposed Budget

- SBT projected 2026 revenue is \$23.4 million.
- Proposed expenditures are \$22.2 million across all departments.
- Changes for 2026:
 - Shift most SBT-funded **Dept of Education and Early Learning (DEEL)** programming to the proposed 2025 FEPP Levy – putting early childhood programs on a more stable long-term funding source.
 - Increase in SBT funding for existing **Human Services (HSD)** food support programs (support for food banks, shelter meals, other meal services).
 - \$1 million reserve to protect against fluctuations in the Fund
- No Changes to funding for:
 - OSE food programs (Fresh Bucks funding, Healthy Food in Schools, Food Policy and CAB support)
 - Parks recreational programming
 - Healthy Food Fund (Dept of Neighborhoods) kept at level of the 2026 Endorsed

Key takeaway from slide above: The biggest change to the SBT Fund is the funding swaps, i.e. shifting DEEL's SBT early learning investments to the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy and shifting HSD's General Fund food and nutrition investments to the SBT Fund.

SBT – Financial Overview 2025-2027

\$'s in 1000s	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	2027 Projected
Beginning Balance	\$3,039	\$1,118	\$1,277	\$1,242
Revenue	\$21,327	\$21,753	\$22,165	\$21,740
Total Resources	\$24,366	\$22,871	\$23,443	\$22,982
Education and Early Learning (DEEL)	\$8,023	\$7,473	--	--
Dept of Neighborhoods (DON)	\$2,984	\$2,796	\$2,785	\$2,868
Human Services Dept (HSD)	\$5,558	\$5,310	\$12,633	\$13,012
Sustainability and Environment (OSE)	\$6,337	\$6,423	\$6,427	\$6,620
Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)	\$346	\$360	\$356	\$367
Total Expenditures	\$23,248	\$22,362	\$22,201	\$22,867
Ending Balance	\$1,118	\$508	\$1,242	\$115
Reserve	\$1,000	--	\$1,000	--
Ending Unreserved Balance	\$118	\$508	\$242	\$115

Key takeaway from the slide above: We are in the second year of the biennium. The 2026 endorsed budget provides the framework for the 2026 proposed. What you can see here is the big shift in all the DEEL's SBT funding taken out, and HSD's SBT funding increases.

Detail on DEEL Funding and FEPP Levy Swap

- The Proposed Budget shifts \$6.6 million from SBT to the FEPP Levy. This includes:

Item	Description	2026 Endorsed	FEPP Year 1 SY	6-Year Total
CCAP*	Child care subsidies and support for families	\$2,200,921	\$2,200,921	\$14,236,459
Child Care Health Consultation	Early Learning Public Health for health assessments and nutrition supports as well as nursing services	\$706,922	\$1,243,436	\$8,043,054
Developmental Bridge	Contract for kids with Special Learning needs prior to preschool	\$473,400	\$614,844	\$3,977,063
ParentChild+	Contract with United Way for home visiting providers	\$706,922	\$704,443	\$4,556,626
Prenatal to 3 Grants**	Competitive grant process with CBOs for P-3 Programs such as parent education and supports, home visiting, maternal health, etc.	\$1,326,970		
Administration	Central Rates, L&A Labor, and includes non-labor costs such as supplies.	\$1,871,416	\$1,808,825	\$12,263,121
Total		\$7,473,065	\$6,572,469	\$43,076,323

*Total CCAP funding in Year 1 of the levy is \$15.8M, \$91.3M over 6 years

**Funding process currently underway and contract term anticipated through 2026-27 School Year

Key takeaway from the slide above: This is a deeper dive on the \$6.6 million from the SBT Fund spending that is proposed to shift to the FEPP Levy. Notably, cuts that were made to the programs when they were on SBT are restored when they move to the FEPP Levy.

Early Childhood Development in FEPP

- Based on community feedback, DEEL's approach to FEPP Levy proposal and current early childhood development Spending Plan is to **expand the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**
- DEEL experienced the first ever waitlist for childcare in 2024
- DEEL also prioritized direct services for early childhood development tied to **evidenced-based approaches** that positively affect children and **improve readiness at kindergarten entry**.
- Early childhood programming included in current FEPP spending plan includes:
 - Childcare
 - Nurse Family Partnership
 - ParentChild+
 - Developmental Bridge (early detection)
- Currently funded Prenatal-to-Three Community Grants will use 2025 funding (\$1.49M) for an additional two years of program contracts.

Key takeaway from the slide above: The proposed budget assumes the FEPP Levy will pass (it will be on the November ballot).

Currently, the Prenatal-to-Three Community Grants not reflected in the FEPP Levy spending plan; it was deprioritized. DEEL couldn't demonstrate the direct impact of the grant projects to Kindergarten readiness. The Prenatal-to-Three Community Grants awarded in 2025 will continue through 2027.

Food Assistance in the 2018 FEPP Levy

- Seattle Preschool Program
 - FEPP-funded can be used to provide meals (provide choice)
 - Partner with HSD's Farm to Preschool program (SBT funded)
 - USDA reimbursement through the WA state Child and Adult Care Food Program
- K-12 Investments
 - SPS Family Support Services provide referrals to [food programs](#)
 - CBO and school partners use FEPP-funding to provide afterschool snack and meals during break or summer camps
 - Partner with HSD Summer Food Service Program
- Existing FEPP Levy investments and partnerships are planned to continue in 2025 Levy

Key takeaway from the slide above: This is how food assistance is funded in the current (2018) FEPP Levy.

Food Assistance in the 2025 FEPP Levy

LEGISLATION REVIEW

- Includes continuation of 2018 FEPP Levy DEEL services and partnerships
- Moved HSD's Afterschool and Summer Meals funding into FEPP (\$102K annually)
- "Food assistance" is named on list of sample investments funded by the K-12 health and safety investment area ([Amendment 4](#))
- Proposed amendment to add \$2M in annual investment to Fresh Bucks failed ([Amendment 5](#)); however, Fresh Bucks expansion was included in the Mayor's proposed 2026 budget

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

- Q3 2025: Internal review of existing City-funding for food services and 2026 budget proposed
- Q4 2025: Stakeholder engagement
- Q1 2026: Continued engagement and decision-making
- Q2 2026: Transmit Implementation & Evaluation Plan legislation (includes spending plan) to City Council; Council public proves and vote
- SY 26-27: New FEPP school year investments begin

Key takeaway from the slide above: Food assistance will also be addressed in the 2025 Levy.

Detail on SBT/GF Swap in HSD

- Proposed Budget shifts \$7.15 million from GF to SBT in Human Services.
 - Food Banks: \$2.1 million
 - Food Distribution: \$1.66 million
 - Meal Programs: \$1.47 million
 - Food System Support: \$727,000
 - Home Delivery Programs: \$718,000
 - Backpack Meals: \$332,000
 - Farm to Preschool Food Distribution and Education: \$92,500
- Most of these programs already received a mix of SBT and GF.
- No change to programs and services resulting from this fund swap.

Key takeaway from the slide above: This year, the General Fund (GF) pressures are big. The City Budget Office is proposing to remove "non-supplantation" clause from the SBT Fund is not proposing to remove the eligible spending categories (food, early learning).

Questions and Comments from CAB members:

- *The new \$3 million for food banks, what is the fund source?*
 - General Fund (GF)
- *Now that you moved all these GF programs to SBT, what is the risk of SBT declines?*

- That's a future year question. Every year we examine revenues and programs/services.
- *How will the SBT ordinance language change?*
 - It would remove the language around no supplantation
 - CBO will send the CAB the proposed ordinance language change. It has not yet been uploaded into Legistar.
- *If more SBT revenue than expected comes in, how is that allocated?*
 - Goes into the SBT Fund balance
 - Sometimes it can be part of the supplemental budget process

CAB Discussion about the 2026 Proposed Budget

After City updates, the CAB opened a discussion about the 2026 Proposed Budget and how it aligns—or not—with its budget recommendations. The purpose of the discussion was for the CAB to develop the key messages to include in its response to City Council about the proposed budget.

First, the CAB reviewed slides comparing its recommendations to the 2026 Proposed Budget. [See meeting slides](#) (pages 15-21).

Second, the CAB used an online collaboration tool/whiteboard to collect CAB member feedback on these questions:

- *What would you change?*
- *What would you keep?*
- *As Council reviews the proposed budget, what messages or recommendations would you like the CAB to convey to City Council?*

Lastly, using the results from the sticky note activity, the CAB discussed how it would like to respond in a letter to City Council. [Click here](#) for a link to the collaborative document used during the meeting to start outlining a response.

After discussion, the CAB co-chairs asked the CAB if it was ready to vote on the key messages to put in the letter. **Decision Point:** After taking a red-green-yellow vote, the CAB approved the key messages and empowered the Executive Committee to work with staff to prepare a first draft of the letter based on the meeting's discussion and the notes.

Next steps:

- Executive Committee to develop first draft and send to CAB for review

- After CAB review period, the Executive Committee will prepare a final draft to send to City Council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

-END-