March 23, 2021

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA  94903

SUBJECT:  Request approval for Marin County partnership in the Marin Community Foundations Universal Basic Income demonstration.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve participation in the Marin Community Foundation’s 24-month Universal Basic Income demonstration.
2. Provide a County contribution of $400,000 for the demonstration.

SUMMARY:
Low-income families are brimming with initiative, resilience, and home-grown solutions to drive their own economic mobility. In fact, 75% of those living below the poverty line achieve upward mobility within four years—despite navigating a deficit-based system. Within five years, 50% of those that achieve upward mobility drop back below the poverty line, due to the removal of assistance from welfare programs. Low-income families in Marin County and the greater Bay Area are no exception to this economic occurrence. A 2018 survey by the Department of Housing and Urban Development indicates that the median income in Marin County tops the entire country, classifying households that make $117,000 in Marin County as low-income. However, eligibility to access support from welfare programs continues to be determined by federal poverty levels of $25,750 for a household of four. To address this financial inequity, Marin Community Foundations Universal Basic Income Demonstration aims to invest directly in Marin County low-wage earning mothers of color, with children between the ages of 0-17. In this demonstration, 125 women, who are selected at random for participation from across the County, will receive $1000 a month for 24 months. The assessment team at Marin Community Foundation will document the results, tracking the opportunities and challenges the participants have during the demonstration.

We request that your board allocate $400,000 to this project. These resources will help ensure the success of the demonstration and will help Marin Community Foundation fund waiver support for the participants, wrap around services and a hold harmless fund in the event that participants lose other funding due to their participation in this demonstration.

EQUITY IMPACT:
The Marin Community Foundation has already conducted extensive research following the needs of low-wage mothers of color within Marin. Universal Basic Income has been proposed as a solution to garner multigenerational upward economic mobility and further community resiliency. Similar guaranteed income efforts are proving to be successful through the SEED project in Stockton, California, and the Magnolia Mother’s Trust program in Mississippi.
FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no increase in General Fund Net County cost as a result of your Board’s approval. The County match of $400,000 is available in the Non-Departmental budget.

REVIEWED BY:

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<th>Department</th>
<th>Reviewer</th>
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Respectfully submitted,

Anyania I. Muse
Equity Director