



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR MAHAN  
**SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT**

**FROM:** Councilmember Peter Ortiz  
**DATE:** 5-25-23

Approved: 

Date: 5-25-23

## RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2023-2024 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Grant – Escuela Popular

Amount of City Funding Required: \$15,000

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

With the lifting of Title 42 at the U.S. border, Santa Clara County could see a surge of new arrival immigrant families seeking asylum and other support. The Rapid Response Network of Santa Clara County, of which Escuela Popular is a part of, is stepping up to serve immigrant families, but they can't do it alone.

Please approve \$15,000 in funding for Escuela Popular's programming throughout the 2023–2024 academic year. Escuela Popular provides numerous services and will be able to guarantee help for more than 1,100 children and their families thanks to this grant. The assistance will include, but not be limited to, basic household necessities, hygiene essentials, starter kits for basic clothing that

include shoes, food, internet assistance, eyeglasses, transportation assistance, legal supportive services, and a school-wide field trip to an overnight camping destination like Walden West.

All programs are free for students and their families who are Title 1 students or who live in areas with high rates of free and reduced meal eligibility. These services will enhance the educational experiences, which have produced positive results for both the families we serve and the students we serve. If accepted, this money would go toward helping Escuela Popular in achieving its planned objective of providing services to 1,100 participants.

Escuela Popular (EP), has provided and extended relevant services and learning opportunities to entire families from under-served backgrounds. For more than a quarter of a century, Escuela Popular has sustained itself and continued to grow. EP is a family learning center that serves Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade children, youth, and adults who seek to empower themselves by acquiring an education and the knowledge to affect change in their communities. EP began as a community-based, grassroots school to address a growing need for English-as-a-Second-Language instruction in East San José and consequently, has been providing educational services to immigrant families since 1986.

Within the first year of its operation, the demand for learning and schooling grew rapidly and Escuela Popular continued to expand in numbers of students, classes, and services to meet the growing need. In 1999, Escuela Popular was invited to operate a satellite campus of a new charter school organization. EP seized upon the opportunity to expand services to the community at large by providing a cost-free Waldorf inspired child care academy, a dual language transitional kindergarten through eighth grade academy, along with a high school academy for youth, and in keeping with the vision of EP as a family learning center, an academy for parents and adults. By acting as an intergenerational family learning center, parents and youth have access to educational opportunities in a single campus.

### **Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

### **Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: N/A

Department or Organization: N/A

Phone Number: N/A

Email: N/A

