



## BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 6759**  
**September 2, 2025**  
**Special Business**

### AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6759: Recognition for the MIYFS Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Recognize MIYFS Foundation's contributions to the Youth and Family Services Department and the City of Mercer Island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Youth and Family Services
<b>STAFF:</b>	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Resolution No. 1681
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation (MIYFS Foundation) has served the Mercer Island community since 1989, raising funds through donations for the City's Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS). The MIYFS Foundation has directly, as their mission states, expanded the positive impact of YFS in the community. Resolution No. 1681 (Exhibit 1) recognizes their historical impact and recent increase in financial support for YFS that has helped enhance the provision of behavioral health and basic needs support for all Island residents, particularly the community's most vulnerable youth, families, and seniors.

### BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation (MIYFS Foundation) raises and manages private financial resources to support the mission and priorities of the City's Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS). Together, the Foundation and YFS work toward a shared vision: building a healthy community for all Mercer Island youth, adults, families, and seniors.

Since 1976, YFS has served as a City department providing comprehensive human services. These include school-based counseling, outpatient counseling, emergency assistance, senior services, and substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion.

The MIYFS Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-governance, entity whose sole purpose is to raise funds that support the YFS Department. Since 1989, members of the Mercer Island community have volunteered to serve on the MIYFS Foundation Board to raise funds through initiatives, events, and a signature Annual Breakfast that gathers over 500 supporters.

Funding support for the YFS Department historically included an annual gift plus specific pass-through funding for YFS programs that support the basic needs of Island residents, including back-to-school supplies, holiday meals, and holiday gift giving. Currently, giving is consolidated in an annual gift of \$515,000 plus additional funding to support YFS staff salary increases related to the 2024 citywide classification and compensation update. Total giving comprises over 20% of the YFS Department's annual revenue.

The relationship between the City of Mercer Island/YFS and the MIYFS Foundation is a unique public-private partnership. This relationship encompasses the vehicle by which resources from local philanthropic efforts are directed towards crucial behavioral health services and basic needs for residents of the City. The MIYFS Foundation and the City entered into a Cooperative Agreement in 2023 to formalize the terms, procedures, and general understanding of the relationship between the two entities ([AB 6097](#)).

Donations pledged to the City for YFS services include support for general YFS operations, and specifically support for school counselors, emergency assistance (including food security), and senior programming. Funds have supported YFS efforts to maintain two counselors at Islander Middle School, meet the food security and residential stability demands elevated during the Pandemic, and support the provision of basic needs for the community's most vulnerable residents.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The public-private partnership between the MIYFS Foundation and the City of Mercer Island/YFS has significant impact on overall revenues for the YFS Department as well as for specific YFS programs. The 2023 funding agreement formalized the MIYFS Foundation's annual contribution to YFS at \$515,000. The new funding level supported funding the second Mental Health Counselor position at Islander Middle School, elevated post-pandemic demand for rent assistance and food security programs, and provided general YFS budget support. The timing of this increase coincided with the sunset of one-time revenues related to the Pandemic.

Additionally, the MIYFS Foundation would like to continue supporting YFS at a higher level by increasing the annual donation to \$580,000, each year in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Agenda Bill 6764, also on the September 2, 2025 Council Meeting agenda, will formalize this commitment with a new four-year funding agreement.

The MIYFS Foundation provides critical financial support, representing a significant share of the YFS Department's annual revenue. It also expands access to local resources and fundraising opportunities that lie beyond the scope of municipal government. The Island residents who volunteer their time on the Foundation Board introduce their personal and professional networks to the opportunity to donate to YFS—philanthropic giving to the City that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Members of the MIYFS Foundation and their staff also build ties between YFS, the City, and the community while lending credibility to YFS's mission and vision among donors as well as residents, businesses, and institutions. The MIYFS Foundation engages residents in the spirit of community giving by localizing its fundraising efforts. Signature events include the Annual Fundraising Breakfast, Holiday Tree Lot, and

participation in the City's Recycling Event to collect YFS donations. The Foundation also supports Shop Local days with Mercer Island businesses, and this year is introducing a new event: *Play Date with a YFS School Counselor* for incoming Kindergarten families.

It is uncommon for municipal governments to provide direct behavioral support services for their residents. The current scope of YFS services would not be possible without the generous contributions of the MIYFS Foundation. It not only provides significant resources to YFS by harnessing charitable giving in the community but is also an essential City partner in providing essential community services to Island residents in need across the lifespan. Resolution No. 1681 formalizes the recognition of this historic and generous partnership between the MIYFS Foundation, YFS, and the City of Mercer Island.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Resolution No. 1681 recognizing the MIYFS Foundation's contributions to the Youth and Family Services Department and the City of Mercer Island.