



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 7010
October 6, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 7010: MIYFS Foundation Donation Acceptance	☐ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Accept donation from MIYFS Foundation allow for a part time high school counselor for the 2026-2027 school year.	☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Funding Acceptance Agreement 2026-01 with MIYFS Foundation
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to accept an additional donation from the MIYFS Foundation for 2026 to hire-ahead a 0.6 FTE High School Counselor for the 2026-2027 school year, in anticipation of a retirement at the end of the school year.

- The City and the Foundation signed a Cooperative Agreement in June 2022, the first formal agreement established between the two entities to memorialize over three decades of partnership work for the benefit of youth and families on Mercer Island
- In September 2025, the City and the Foundation signed a four-year Funding Acceptance Agreement memorializing their annual donation of \$580,000 ([AB 6764](#)).
- The Foundation has offered a one-time donation to fund the “hire ahead” of a part-time high school counselor for the 2026-2027 school year to support long-term strategic personnel planning while ensuring continuity of care and supporting gender-aligned counseling options for the Mercer Island High School student body.

BACKGROUND

MIYFS FOUNDATION SUPPORT

For over three decades, the MIYFS Foundation has provided funding for the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Department to support community, human services, and prevention programs. The generosity of the Foundation's donors has allowed YFS programming to grow with the needs of the community.

In 2020, the Foundation established an ongoing commitment of \$300,000 each year to support YFS. This ongoing revenue was added to the City's budget in 2020 and will continue to be included in future budgets as a stable revenue source for the YFS Department.

In 2022, the Foundation made an additional one-time donation of \$215,000 to the City to fund YFS programs and services through the end of 2022. A portion of this funding was used to fund the second Mental Health Counselor position at the Middle School through the end of 2023.

In 2022, the City and the Foundation entered into a Cooperative Agreement to formalize the terms, procedures, and general understanding of the relationship between the two entities. This agreement serves as the "parent agreement" for the entities. Section 5.5 of the agreement states:

"The Foundation shall use its best efforts to create an environment conducive to fostering levels of private support for the mission and priorities of the YFS Department and, in consultation with the City Manager (or designee), is responsible for planning and executing comprehensive fundraising programs in support of the YFS Department's mission. These programs include annual giving, major gifts, planned gifts, special projects, and campaigns as appropriate."

The City and the Foundation also agreed in 2022 to formalize the process for donation acceptance through the development of Funding Acceptance Agreements. For any donations pledged to the City by the Foundation, a Funding Acceptance Agreement will be approved by both entities, memorializing the amount, uses, and terms of the donation. The City also requested that Funding Acceptance Agreements be established on four-year periods, which provides stability and predictability for the YFS Department.

In 2023, the Funding Acceptance Agreement 2023-04 ([AB 6337](#)) established an increased annual donation amount of \$515,000 to support the second Mental Health Counselor position at Islander Middle School through 2026, support rental assistance and food security programs through the Emergency Assistance Program, and provide general YFS budget support for Community-Based and School-Based programs.

In 2024, the City requested additional funds from the Foundation to support cost increases related to City staff classification and compensation related salary increases; the Foundation provided funds to cover the salary increases for July-December 2024.

In 2025, the Funding Acceptance Agreement 2025-01 ([AB 6764](#)) established an increased annual donation amount of \$580,000 to continue funding the second Mental Health Counselor position at the Islander Middle School, extending the position through June 2028, supporting rental assistance and food security programs through the Emergency Assistance Program, providing general YFS budget support for Community-Based and School-Based programs, and supporting costs associated with YFS staff salary increases pursuant to the City's classification and compensation effort.

YFS STAFFING

When tenured staff retire or leave the City, there is an unfortunate loss of institutional knowledge and experience for the organization. Such loss affects productivity, delays work items and requires new staff to “figure it out.” In addition, when a school-based Youth and Family Services staff member leaves the City, there is an additional loss of professional and clinical relationships with the students, families, and staff at that school. Staff has been using a proactive approach to address staff leaving the City by implementing a hire-ahead program before key positions are vacated. This necessitates additional one-time funding to implement.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

FOUNDATION DONATION

The MIYFS Foundation would like to donate an additional \$95,852 in 2026 to the YFS Department to hire-ahead a high school counselor for the 2026-2027 school year to support long-term strategic personnel planning while ensuring continuity of care and supporting gender-aligned counseling options for the high school student body. This is in response to an anticipated school counselor retirement at the end of the school year.

Attached as Exhibit 1 is Funding Acceptance Agreement 2026-01 which memorializes this one-time donation from the Foundation.

NEXT STEPS

If the City Council accepts the additional donation from the MIYFS Foundation and authorizes the City Manager to sign the Funding Agreement, staff will immediately direct those funds towards the hire ahead school counselor position.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept the additional one-time donation of \$95,852 from the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation to hire a 0.6 FTE High School Counselor for the 2026-2027 school year and authorize the City Manager to sign the Funding Acceptance Agreement memorializing the donation.