



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 9, 2007  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Institute For Local Government Communities For Healthy Kids

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara in Support of the Institute for Local Government Communities for Healthy Kids (CHK) Program.

### DISCUSSION:

Children's health coverage is an important issue for the Santa Barbara County for a number of reasons including:

- families of uninsured children contribute to increased usage of already overtaxed emergency rooms;
- uninsured children miss more school days and perform less well academically;
- children with health insurance are more likely to get the care they need to be healthy and to become productive members of the community; and
- Santa Barbara County has the dubious distinction of having the second highest rate of uninsured children in the State.

The Institute for Local Government Communities for Healthy Kids (CHK) program is a new effort to identify and enroll eligible children in state funded health insurance programs. Locally, the County of Santa Barbara Children's Health Initiative Program is coordinating efforts to address the needs of uninsured children. Councilmember Horton, Chair of the Council Committee on Youth and Children (CCYC), asked Parks and Recreation staff to meet with the Children's Health Initiative Program to explore a City/County collaboration with the CHK program, as it presents an excellent opportunity to link residents with available, affordable health care for children.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Additional Department(s) That Need to Review CAR

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The outcome is a County and City collaborative submission of a CHK participation grant. The grant will fund identification of local uninsured children health needs, outreach activities, and project incentives (such as backpacks, thermometers, water bottles) for special event outreach. Parks and Recreation Community Services will work with Tara Dooley with the Children's Health Initiative Program to distribute informational materials, coordinate CHK outreach at facility programs and special events, assist with presentations to other local agencies, and waive fees for periodic enrollment activities held in Community Centers.

At their meeting of September 18, 2007, the Council Committee on Youth and Children voiced support for the collaboration and recommended forwarding the resolution to City Council for approval. This partnership further supports elements of the Santa Barbara Platform for Youth, and the City's consideration that the health and well-being of its children and youth is a top priority.

**PREPARED BY:** Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office