



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: January 21, 2015

Re: Recommendation to grant authority to Executive Director to Contract with California State University – Channel Islands (CSU CI)/CSU CI Foundation to facilitate AA/BA degree attainment

Background

First 5 Ventura County believes that a well-prepared and nurturing Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce is at the core of high-quality early learning programs. Educated and skilled teachers provide the experiences that nurture children's curiosity, foster learning, and improve educational outcomes for young children. While First 5 Ventura County has been working with its partners to address systemic barriers to ECE degree completion and teacher preparation, additional strategies are needed to facilitate degree attainment and support a well-prepared, well-educated ECE workforce.

In November 2015, the Commission took action to release a Request for Letters of Interest to identify qualified implementation partner(s) to facilitate associate's and bachelor's degree attainment. Funds previously allocated in the Commission's financial plan for workforce development provide the opportunity to address the shortage of highly qualified ECE teachers – those with associate's (AA) and bachelor's (BA) degrees in Early Childhood Education or a closely related field - by building capacity and infrastructure within Institutions of Higher Education.

Only one entity, California State University – Channel Islands (CSU CI)/CSU CI Foundation submitted a letter expressing interest in implementing the scope of work described in the Request for Letters of Interest. The experiences and qualifications described in letter of interest are aligned with the required experience and qualifications also outlined in the Request for Letters of Interest.

In collaboration with Moorpark College and Oxnard College, CSU CI proposes to integrate research-based, high-impact practices in the design, development and coordination of strategies that will result in a successful system approach for Ventura County's Early Childhood Education (ECE) students. Specific activities will include:

- Identification of barriers and opportunities to leverage other resources (e.g. Hispanic Serving Institution funds, etc.) through cross institutional asset mapping
- implementation of action plans in each of the following areas:
 - Math course specifically designed for ECE students at community college(s)
 - Writing course specifically designed for ECE students

- Training and technical assistance for college and university counselors/academic advisors
- Professional Learning Community for ECE students to provide mentoring and student transfer support
- Others as identified through asset mapping

Since there is only one known agency who expressed an interest, meets the required qualifications and can provide the service as described above, conditions for a sole source contract are met.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to contract with California State University – Channel Islands (CSU CI)/CSU CI Foundation to implement strategies that facilitate AA and BA degree attainment in early childhood education (ECE) or related field. The total contract would be for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. No new allocations would be required as funds were previously budgeted in allocations for countywide strategies.