



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: May 21, 2015

Re: Recommendation to receive up to \$311,875 in First 5 California CSP 1 Extension funding

Background

First 5 Ventura County has been participating in First 5 California's (F5CA) matching fund Child Signature Program (CSP) 1 and 2 since FY 2012-13. With CSP scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2015, F5CA is providing a one-year extension (FY 2015–16) of CSP 1 for up to 50 percent of a county's current annual allocation. F5CA recently approved a new statewide \$190 million 5-year IMPACT initiative, to support a continuum of quality by building on state and local investments in a Quality Improvement System (QIS)/Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). This new IMPACT Initiative demonstrates the future direction of F5CA investments although specific details and county allocations have not yet been released.

First 5 Ventura County currently has 13 CSP 1 preschool sites, serving over 600 children. CSP 1 program investments supported meeting the stringent program guidelines that required direct services and multiple staff positions. This one-year extension with a reduced investment is intended to more smoothly transition from specific classroom investments and direct services to a more systems-level approach aligned with the new F5 IMPACT Initiative. It also allows additional time for counties to align services to the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), transition eligible CSP 1 classrooms into the new California State Preschool Program (CSPP) QRIS Block Grant and apply for CSPP Expansion funds.

First 5 Ventura County prepared and submitted an Action Plan to F5CA, describing the transition and ramp-down of CSP, and alignment to our local QRIS. Extension funding for CSP 2 programs is not available; CSP 2 sites will continue to be served through Ventura's QRIS initiative with RTT ELC, local First 5 and QRIS Block Grant funds, if they are eligible. More information about F5CA's IMPACT Initiative is expected within the next few months.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with First 5 California, to receive up to \$311,875 in Child Signature Program (CSP) 1 Extension funds for a one year period, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, to support First 5 Ventura County Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) efforts.)