



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: September 17, 2015

Re: Recommendation to increase FY 2015-16 contract with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Program

Background

First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) and Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) have created one seamless quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) that is anchored in a 5-tier QRIS matrix and utilizes local First 5, First 5 California Child Signature Program, and federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant funding streams. Participating QRIS sites are eligible for participation and quality improvement incentives, and have access to a broad range of training and technical assistance geared towards reaching higher levels of quality.

In FY 2014-15, participating QRIS programs did not fully utilize all budgeted quality improvement incentives, resulting in unspent federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) funds. In addition, savings were realized from First 5 Ventura County budgeted expenditures. Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant guidelines allow the use of rollover funds. Staff is in the process of submitting a revised budget to the California Department of Education for the RTT ELC unspent funds.

The total additional funding available for the FY 2015-16 QRIS contract with VCOE includes \$111,850 of prior year unspent RTT–ELC grant funds and an additional allocation of \$3,220 from First 5 California (F5CA), for a total of \$115,070. The additional funding will support training, technical assistance and quality enhancements for participating QRIS sites.

Recommendation

The recommended action would authorize the Executive Director to increase the FY 2015-16 contract with VCOE in an amount up to \$115,070 for implementing the QRIS Program. The total contract would be for an amount not to exceed \$1,088,214 for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, subject to final approval of budget amendment from state and federal funders. No new allocation of funds would be required as the increase is supported by prior year unspent federal grant funds and an increased allocation from First 5 California.