



## **Memo**

**To:** Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

**From:** Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

**Date:** May 22, 2014

**Re:** Recommendation to approve revised FY 2014-15 funding allocation for Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Program

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## **Background**

First 5 Ventura County has been partnering with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) since 2005 on implementing the Preschool for All and Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) programs, through which early education providers receive the training, technical assistance and support to meet rigorous quality standards and to increase their education and effectiveness.

In partnership with the Ventura County Office of Education, First 5 Ventura County has created one seamless quality improvement initiative that is anchored in a 5-tier QRIS matrix, incorporates Educare Best Practices and utilizes local First 5, First 5 California Child Signature Program, and federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT ELC) 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 December 2013, the Commission approved a FY 2014-15 program funding allocation for VCOE of \$1,580,000. Since that time, the Commission has received up to \$798,350 in supplemental RTT ELC funds to support an additional 36 licensed early learning program sites and to mentor other non-RTT ELC counties. Up to \$648,350 of the supplemental funds will be utilized between July 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015 to support the increased number of QRIS sites. The remaining \$150,000 RTT ELC supplemental funds are proposed to support the development of the Help Me Grow model.

## **Recommendation**

The recommended action is to approve a revised FY 2014-15 allocation for the Ventura County Office of Education for implementing the QRIS Program. The recommended action would also grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Ventura County Office of Education, from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$1,846,397. No new allocation of funds would be required as the increase is supported by Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant supplemental funds.