



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: September 18, 2014

Re: Recommendation to approve revised funding allocation for, and to delegate authority to Executive Director to contract with, Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Program

Background

F5VC and 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 2013-14, participating programs did not fully utilize all budgeted quality improvement incentives, resulting in unspent state and federal funds. In addition, savings were realized due to First 5 Ventura County budgeted expenditures for a QRIS data system and for strategies to accelerate AA/BA degree attainment being deferred to next year. First 5 CA Child Signature Program and CDE Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant guidelines allow the use of rollover funds. Staff is in the process of submitting revised budgets to both funding sources.

In May 2014, the Commission approved a FY 2014-15 program funding allocation for VCOE of \$1,846,397. In order to allow already participating programs to fully access their quality improvement incentives, and to accommodate additional sites that serve high-needs children, up to \$282,197 of prior year unspent federal and state grant funds would need to be incorporated into the FY 2014-15 QRIS contract with VCOE. The funding would also support operating expenses related to more sites being added, and training and technical assistance.

Recommendation

The recommended action is to approve a revised FY 2014-15 allocation for VCOE for implementing the QRIS Program and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an amended contract with VCOE, from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$2,128,594.00, subject to final approval from state and federal funders. No new allocation of funds would be required as the increase is supported by prior year unspent federal and state grant funds.