



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Claudia Harrison, Executive Director

Date: June 20, 2013

Re: Recommendation to authorize extension of one-time use of unspent funds for Self-Sufficiency Benefits Calculator Project

Background

The Ventura County Self-Sufficiency Benefits Calculator is a web based software tool for connecting families with benefits for which they are eligible (e.g., CalFresh, Medi-Cal, housing assistance). First 5 Ventura County, in partnership with the United Way and Community Action of Ventura County, introduced the calculator to agencies across the county in 2010.

Ongoing project support has been realized through a collaborative funding process and administrative resources from all 3 partner agencies, with initial funding through ARRA stimulus funds received by Community Action of Ventura County. Funds have supported the licensing agreement for this web-based tool as well as resources for a part-time project coordinator.

As utilization by community-based organizations has been low, an RFQ was released in March 2013 for consultant services to provide an analysis of the current project, with recommendations for improvements, and development of an outreach and training plan for broad implementation and use of the Self-Sufficiency calculator. While initially anticipated to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, the RFQ is still in process and will extend into FY 2013-14.

Licensing fees have been renewed through January 2014. Use of remaining unspent funds of \$5,288, along with resources from United Way and Community Action, will allow completion of the project analysis and the development of an outreach and training plan to increase utilization of this valuable tool.

Recommendation

The recommended action would authorize an extension of the three party agreement with the United Way of Ventura County and Community Action of Ventura County through June 30, 2014, to utilize remaining unspent funds, up to \$5,288.00.