



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Countywide Strategies and Evaluation

Date: December 19, 2013

Re: Recommendation to receive \$798,350 in Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Supplemental Grant funds

Background

In October 2011, the Commission approved the recommendation to partner with the California Department of Education on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC) application submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

California was initially awarded \$52.6 million in federal RTT ELC grant funds, which funds local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) developed by Regional Leadership Consortia (RLC). First 5 Ventura County is one of 16 regional Leadership Consortia in California, with Ventura County designated to receive \$1,784,600 over the course of the 4-year grant period to expand quality rating and improvement activities.

California received a supplemental grant award of nearly \$22.5 million, of which \$798,350 is allocated for Ventura County. The local supplemental award is intended to serve an additional 36 early education sites through the QRIS project and mentor other non RTT ELC counties. Therefore, Ventura County will receive \$2,582,950 in RTT ELC grant funds over the 4-year grant period.

In partnership with its implementation partner, 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 grant funding streams.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the California Department of Education, Child Development Division, to receive up to \$798,350 in funds for the period of July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015 to support an additional 36 licensed early learning program sites and to mentor other non-RTT ELC counties.