



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: March 17, 2016

Re: Recommendation to approve revised FY 2016-17 funding allocation for Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Program

Background

In December 2015, the Commission approved an annual allocation of \$352,088 in local funds to support local Quality Rating and Improvement System efforts and the recommendation to contract with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), the Commission's QRIS implementation partner.

Earlier this fiscal year, First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) applied for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of First 5 California IMPACT funding, totaling \$2,748,785 for Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2019-20. Building on state and local investments in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS), the intent of First 5 IMPACT is to work in cooperation with other quality improvement efforts and investments (e.g. California State Preschool Block Grant) to support the implementation of the CA-QRIS Framework.

Phase 1 of Ventura County's IMPACT application has been approved by First 5 California, and approval of Phase 2 is anticipated within the next few weeks. Through the previously approved local investment and the additional IMPACT funds, a minimum of 111 sites in Ventura County would participate annually, including infants and/or toddlers (ages 0 to 3), and family child care homes. 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. IMPACT funds would also support capacity building and systems change activities, such as advancing AA/BA degree attainment and Help Me Grow.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve a revised FY 2016-17 allocation for the Ventura County Office of Education for implementing the QRIS Program from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$793,140, subject to final approval of grant application by First 5 California. No new allocation of funds would be required.