



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 2016-19 funding allocation for Landon Pediatric Foundation for Help Me Grow (HMG)

Background

Since July 1, 2014, the Commission contracted with the Landon Pediatric Foundation to implement Help Me Grow (HMG), supported by Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC) funds. Help Me Grow is a national model for universal screening, early detection of developmental concerns, and referral. In December 2015, the Commission approved an annual allocation of \$50,000 in local funds for FY 2016-19 to continue supporting Help Me Grow after the conclusion of the RTT ELC grant.

Since its launch, Help Me Grow Ventura County trained teachers in conducting developmental screenings and produced a Developmental Screening Toolkit for early childhood educators with protocols for proper screening, referral and follow-up. Initiated as a pilot project, a strong partnership was built with 2-1-1 Ventura, demonstrating the role of 2-1-1 in asking callers with young children about developmental concerns and facilitating appropriate referral and follow-up. More recently, Help Me Grow Ventura County has worked on institutionalizing developmental screenings during well-child visits and strengthening the referral pathways.

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. 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. In addition to supporting Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) efforts, IMPACT funds would also be used to support and enhance capacity building and systems change efforts, including Help Me Grow.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve a revised FY 2016-19 allocation for the Landon Pediatric Foundation for implementing the Help Me Grow program, from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, subject to final approval of grant application by First 5 California. No new allocation of funds would be required.