



## **Memo**

**To:** Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

**From:** Petra Puls, Executive Director

**Date:** October 19, 2017

**Re:** Recommendation to modify First 5 California IMPACT Contracting Model

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### **Background**

In FY 2015-2016, First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) applied for and received First 5 California IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) 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 align with and leverage other initiatives and funding sources, such as the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) QRIS Block Grant, the Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant, Child Care and Development Block Grant Quality Improvement investments (e.g. Quality Projects), and local quality projects to expand efforts and reach more diverse early education settings. Collectively, these investments provide the opportunity to serve a full spectrum of program types and expand the implementation of CA-QRIS.

F5VC has subcontracted with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), the Commission's longtime QRIS implementation partner and recipient of CA QRIS Block Grants, to deploy IMPACT funds as part of the county's broader quality improvement efforts. VCOE has successfully implemented F5CA IMPACT, met the required targets for participating sites, and provided training, technical assistance and coaching supports to participating early education sites. In FY 2016-17, VCOE served 149 sites, including 44 family child care homes. Ninety-five sites (83%) were rated at Tiers 4 or 5, the highest tiers on the CA QRIS matrix. In addition, 704 teachers were supported in improving quality at their programs through coaching and training.

F5VC currently serves as a pass-through entity for F5CA IMPACT funds. Terminating and transferring the contract from F5CA to VCOE would allow for increased efficiency in managing the various sources of funds supporting local QRIS work. The change would go into effect as of July 1, 2018. F5VC would continue to guide QRIS implementation as an important partner and key decision maker on Ventura County's QRIS Consortium.

First 5 county commissions were given priority and first right of refusal to apply for First 5 IMPACT funds and to serve as the Lead Agency. First 5 Ventura County will retain the first right of refusal for any new RFAs released by F5CA relating to IMPACT/QRIS.

### **Recommendation**

The recommended action would terminate the existing agreement with First 5 California to receive IMPACT funding for the local QRIS program effective June 30, 2018. The recommended action would streamline the contracting model and allow the Ventura County Office of Education, the county's QRIS key implementation partner to receive First 5 California IMPACT funding directly.