



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Heather Davidson, Program Manager

Date: September 20, 2018

Re: Recommendation to Approve Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Unspent Funds Request

Background

In December 2015, the Commission approved an annual allocation of \$593,300 for FYs 2016-19, totaling \$1,779,900 for the three year contract period, for Ventura County Public Health’s Regional Health Educators program. Regional Health Educators serve as resources in their assigned communities to promote the optimal health, development, and well-being of children ages prenatal to five. Health Educators provide developmental check-ups in community-based settings to identify possible developmental delays, refer children, and support their access to early intervention services.

VCPH has a total of \$128,765.80 in unspent funds from FYs 2016-17 and 2017-18 largely due to savings in personnel and associated indirect cost. VCPH has identified an opportunity to utilize \$54,783 of those unspent funds to expand and amplify current activities. Two temporary part-time positions would be added and leveraged Maternal Child and Adolescence Health funds would be used to also support these positions. Additionally, unspent funds would also be used to purchase and distribute ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 starter kits in English and Spanish for programs that will be implementing developmental screenings.

This request would continue to expand the network of partners that can identify and connect young children with developmental delays to services, in alignment with the existing contracted scope of work. Health Educators would continue to increase the capacity of a variety of service providers, such as child care providers, NfL’s, medical clinics, health care providers, and other community programs, to administer developmental screenings and link families to resources in the community. The proposed activities support the Commission’s vision for early identification and linkage, and build on the existing Help Me Grow framework.

According to the Commission’s policy on unspent funds, requests for unspent funds of \$50,000 and over require approval by the Commission. The request by VCPH meets all other criteria set forth in the policy.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve a VCPH budget amendment request to utilize up to \$54,783 in unspent funds from FY 2017-18 in FY 2018-19. The unspent funds would support capacity building activities for early identification through developmental screenings and linkage to follow-up services. No new allocation of funds would be required.