



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Elizabeth Majestic, Director of Neighborhoods for Learning & Pritzker Foundation Fellow

Date: January 24, 2019

Re: Recommendation to Approve Strategies and Activities to Facilitate Transition to Redesigned Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) Initiative.

Background

Since its inception, F5VC invested in place-based services through its core initiative - Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL). Neighborhoods for Learning are designed to maximize school readiness for children by transforming fragmented under-funded programs for young children into a comprehensive, organized, integrated system of care. The current 11 geographically defined NfLs are funded through June 30, 2019 at \$6.8 million annually.

Facing a planned reduction in resources, the Commission approved an annual allocation of \$2.9 million for FYs 2019-21 for the implementation of place-based services through its redesigned and streamlined NfL Initiative. Following a competitive Request for Qualifications (RfQ) process, in October 2018 the Commission selected Interface Children and Families Services to implement the redesigned NfL Initiative, beginning July 1, 2019. Interface will provide Parent and Child Together (PACT) classes with a focus on 0-3 year olds and family support services in high-need neighborhoods throughout the county. Family support services include community resource & referral (R&R), service coordination, and parenting education. Both PACT and parenting education will incorporate developmental screenings, information on healthy lifestyle and nutrition, oral health, etc.

As we prepare to transition from our current 11 NfLs to one countywide implementer with a regional approach, the goal is to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible and to minimize a gap in services for children and families. Recognizing that there are significant planning and ramp-up activities that need to occur prior to July 1, 2019, it is proposed that resources from available unspent funds within the Commission's current FY2016-19 NfL allocation be provided to the new contractor to begin transition work. Funds would cover dedicated staffing and associated operating costs in order to carry out activities such as securing facilities, recruiting staff and preparing for their on-boarding, and for capitalizing on existing capacity, knowledge and relationships. The amount requested for these transition activities is \$300,000 for the period of January 28, 2019 to June 30, 2019. The current amount available in unspent funds within the NfL Initiative is a \$1,383,368 and is more than sufficient to meet the amount requested.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve the use of up to \$300,000 in available unspent funds to be used for strategies and activities to facilitate the transition by funding the new NfL contractor, Interface Children & Family Services, from January 28, 2019 to June 30, 2019.