



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

**From:** Heather Davidson, Program Manager

**Date:** February 28, 2019

**Re: Recommendation to Adopt an Implementation Model for Help Me Grow and to grant authority to the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with Ventura County Public Health for Implementing Components of the Help Me Grow Model**

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**Background**

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a national model designed to set forth a comprehensive system that promotes universal early identification and linkage to intervention, and ensures all children reach their greatest potential. Help Me Grow consists of four core components (centralized access point, family and community outreach, data collection and analysis, child health provider outreach). An organizing entity is required to effectively integrate the core components and to apply a continuous system improvement lens with the goal of taking the work to scale.

First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) has invested in developmental screenings for the past 10 years. In 2013, Ventura County was the 4<sup>th</sup> county in the state to receive the designation of being a HMG Affiliate. Currently, First 5 Ventura County contracts with Landon Pediatric Foundation (LPF) and Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) at a combined amount of \$693,000 annually to implement this work, with LPF serving as the organizing entity. Additionally, 2-1-1 Ventura County links families with developmental concerns to the appropriate place for screening, assessment, or intervention.

In April 2017, the Commission approved a \$285,000 annual allocation for FY 2019-21 to support early identification and linkage to intervention through the Help Me Grow model. Recognizing the strong foundation and expertise that exists under currently funded partners, First 5 Ventura County approached the planning process for this investment in a collaborative manner by convening the HMG systems partners, including staff from LPF, VCPH and 2-1-1 to develop a viable HMG implementation model based on the reduced amount of funding available while sustaining the existing capacity that has been built over the past 10 years.

The recommended implementation model for FYs 2019-21 would continue to partner with existing contractors where possible as follows:

- Continue to contract with Ventura County Public Health to provide family navigation and support, community outreach, and capacity building for local early learning providers at \$200,000 per year for FYs 2019-21.

- First 5 Ventura County would take on the role of the organizing entity, currently fulfilled by Landon Pediatric Foundation as they are unable to continue as the contract entity, at \$85,000 per year for FYs 2019-21. The current staff capacity and knowledge would be retained by bringing on the HMG coordinator as a F5VC employee. F5VC is well-positioned to serve in this capacity and it is aligned with the organizational emphasis on systems change efforts.
  - To ensure a successful transition by July 1, 2019, F5VC would begin the process to changeover and utilize existing internal resources to support HMG transition activities between now and June 30, 2019.
- Expand role of 2-1-1 Ventura County to take on a more active role in serving as the centralized access point, which includes promoting 2-1-1 as a resource for helping families who have concerns about their child's development. This work would occur through the approved annual allocation of \$80,000 for 2-1-1.

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation action would approve the adoption of the implementation model for Help Me Grow, beginning July 1, 2019, which includes First 5 Ventura County taking on the role as the organizing entity. The recommended action would also grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Ventura County Public Health to implement specific components of the Help Me Grow model, for an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.