



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Executive Director

Date: March 21, 2019

Re: Recommendation to Approve Preschool Funding Allocations for FY 2019-21

Background

In February 2019, the Commission approved a FY 2019-21 preschool investment model as a two-year transition strategy that utilizes available unspent preschool funds to increase the FYs 2019-21 allocation to \$1,274,000 annually for continued funding of current F5VC preschool spaces not able to convert to State Preschool, and to maintain 104 scholarships for families in Ojai, Moorpark, Simi Valley at \$126,000 annually. This strategy positions Ventura County for future increased public preschool investments by maintaining licensed preschool spaces currently funded by F5VC to the greatest extent possible while the work to convert those F5VC-funded spaces to State-funding continues. This two-year investment will also minimize disruption for families, providers, and the community.

The Commission approved the following criteria for continued preschool funding:

- Must be an operator of preschool spaces in the FY16-19 F5VC funding cycle, either directly or as a subcontractor through a NfL program.
- Funding must be for current F5VC preschool spaces that cannot be converted to CSPP by July 1, 2019 and serving ages 2.9 years to 5.
- F5VC will provide up to 75% of the 2019 part-day CSPP reimbursement rate (\$22.43 per day/per space for up to 180 days).
- Funding requests may not exceed the current number of F5VC funded preschool spaces.
- Funds may only be used to serve families not eligible for CSPP (>85% SMI) or families not able to access CSPP, up to the First 5 Ventura County established income ceiling (TBD).
- Must implement a process to verify family income, refer/enroll families who may be eligible for a publicly funded program, and collect family fees.
- Preschool programs will be required to participate in Ventura County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Rising Stars and maintain a Tier rating of 3 or higher.
- Must have a sustainability plan (e.g. demonstrate ability to convert to CSPP) and participate in F5VC evaluation activities.
- The organization must have sufficient working capital to meet the fiscal demands of the contract.

Organizations currently operating preschool spaces funded fully or partially by First 5 Ventura County, either directly or as a subcontractor through a Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) program, were invited to request continued funding for FY 2019-21. The first step included the submission of a funding request by March 18, 2019 used to determine the proposed number of spaces and associated maximum allocations, followed by the submission of a narrative due by April 19, 2019 as a second step.

Attachment I represents anticipated maximum allocations, which would be subject to modifications based on changes in current needs and funding availability. Narratives submitted by funded partners will be evaluated on the extent to which a contractor is able to meet the established criteria, strength of the sustainability plan, and overall distribution of services.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve the FY 2019-21 Preschool Allocations for First 5 funded partners in accordance with Attachment I and to grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into contracts with designated contract agencies, pending their demonstrated ability to comply with established criteria.



PROPOSED 3/21/2019

FY 2019-21 Preschool Allocations

Contract Agency	FY 2018-19 Number of Spaces (1)	Proposed Number of Spaces	Proposed Maximum Annual Allocation (2)	Maximum FY 2019-21 Total Allocation
Oak Park School District	40	6	\$24,224	\$48,448.80
Ocean View School District	54	24	\$96,898	\$193,795.20
Oxnard Unified School District	42	42	\$169,571	\$339,141.60
University Preparation Charter School	5	5	\$13,200	\$26,400.00
Ventura Unified School District	24	24	\$96,898	\$193,795.20
MSRN, Inc.	40	40	\$161,496	\$322,992.00
Fillmore Unified School District	9	9	\$40,000	\$80,000.00
Continuing Development Inc.	175	109	\$440,077	\$880,153.20
Total Preschool Funding	389	259	\$1,042,363	\$2,084,726

(1) Spaces fully or partially supported by F5VC

(2) Represents anticipated maximum allocations, which would be subject to modifications based on changes in current needs and ability to comply with established criteria