



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Nani Oesterle, Program Manager

Date: April 18, 2019

Re: Recommendation to Grant Authority to the Executive Director to Negotiate Sole Source Contract with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. for Implementation of the Preschool Scholarship Program

Background

In February 2019, the Commission approved maintaining an investment in scholarships for FYs 2019-21 for families residing in Ojai Valley, Moorpark, and Simi Valley while working with partners to create publicly funded programs in those areas with very limited capacity. These voucher-based scholarships will be limited to preschool-aged children (3 and 4 years old). Providers may include licensed center-based programs and licensed family child care providers, provided that they are participating in Ventura County's QRIS program, VC Rising Stars. Since the scholarship programs in these communities are currently managed through the local Neighborhood for Learning, which are sun-setting June 30, 2019, a new implementation contractor is needed.

In March 2019, the Commission released a Request for Letters of Interest to identify qualified entities to administer First 5 Ventura County's Preschool Scholarship Program for FYs 2019-21. The LOI provided the scope of work and outlined a set of required qualifications and experiences for the selected partner. Only one agency, Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. (CDR), submitted a letter expressing interest in implementing the scope of work and administering the Preschool Scholarship Program. The experiences and qualifications described in CDR's letter of interest are aligned with the required experience and qualifications outlined in the Request for Letter of Interest.

CDR has long-term experience managing a voucher-based child care scholarship program. Since 1980, CDR has been the state contractor for several Ventura County child care alternative payment programs. Management of these programs has included determining eligibility, need, contracting with child care providers, and payment to providers - all functions that would be under the scope of work for a contract with F5VC to administer the Preschool Scholarship Program. In addition, as the only state contractor for Resource and Referral services for Ventura County, CDR has a vast knowledge of local licensed center-based and family child care programs serving preschool aged children.

In accordance with the Commission's Procurement and Contracting Policies, since there is only one known agency who expressed an interest by the mandatory due date and that agency meets the required qualifications and can provide the service as described above, conditions for

a sole source contract are met. The costs associated with managing and implementing the scholarships would be in addition to the Commission's allocation of \$126,000 per year for two years for 104 scholarships. No new allocation of resources would be required as funds from the Commission's \$1.4 million preschool investment would be utilized.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to negotiate a sole source contract with CDR to implement the Preschool Scholarship Program in Ojai Valley, Simi Valley and Moorpark for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. A recommendation to enter into a contract, including funding amounts, would be brought back to the Commission for approval at a subsequent meeting.