



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Nani Oesterle, Program Manager

Date: May 23, 2019

Re: Recommendation to Contract with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. to Manage and Implement the Preschool Scholarship Program for FY 2019-21

Background

In February 2019, the Commission approved maintaining an investment of \$126,000 per year for FYs 2019-21 for 104 scholarships 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 access. Since the scholarship programs in these communities are currently managed through the local Neighborhoods for Learning, which are sunsetting 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 the Preschool Scholarship Program for FYs 2019-21. 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. CDR has long-term experience managing a voucher-based child care scholarship program. Since conditions for a sole source contract were met, in April 2019, the Commission granted authority to the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with CDR to implement the Preschool Scholarship Program in Ojai Valley, Simi Valley and Moorpark for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

Based on negotiations with CDR, the cost associated with managing and implementing the Preschool Scholarship Program is \$22,050 per year. The CDR scope of work includes: marketing in targeted communities, verifying and enrolling eligible participants, implementing and managing contractual agreements with families and preschool providers, disbursing payments to providers, and regular reporting. By building upon CDR's economies of scale, we are able to arrive at a low scholarship management cost to ensure Commission dollars are efficiently used. No new allocation of funds is required, as funds are available within the total preschool initiative allocation for FY 2019-21.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to contract with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. (CDR) to manage the implementation of the Preschool Scholarship Program for FY 2019-21 in the communities of Ojai Valley, Moorpark, and Simi Valley, not to exceed \$44,100. The contract would also provide funds for CDR to issue up to \$126,000 per year for two years in preschool scholarships to eligible families under the previously approved guidelines. The total contract would be for an amount not to exceed \$296,100 for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.