



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

**From:** Nani Oesterle, Program Manager

**Date:** September 19, 2019

**Re: Recommendation to Grant Authority to Contract with VIVA Social Impact Partners to Conduct Analysis on QRIS Data for IMPACT Hub Region 7**

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## **Background**

In April 2015, the First 5 California Commission approved \$190 million in funding for First 5 IMPACT to increase the number of high-quality early learning settings through the implementation of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). In addition to directly supporting counties in the implementation of QRIS across California, F5CA also created 10 Regional Hubs to provide coordination within a geographically defined Region.

First 5 Ventura County is the Fiscal Lead for IMPACT Hub Region 7 (Hub), which includes Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. Hub partners in Region 7 promote regional collaboration, share resources, create efficiencies, and reduce administrative costs.

In August 2019, the Commission released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of Hub Region 7 for a contractor to conduct analysis of existing county QRIS data and to provide regional and county level reports that summarize the trends identified in an easy to read format for various constituencies, including parents/families, ECE providers, and local and state policy/decision-makers. The RFP described the scope of work, a set of desired qualifications, and criteria which would be used for evaluating proposals.

Seven applications were received by the August 16, 2019 deadline. According to the Commission's procurement policy, the applications were read and scored by three independent readers without a conflict of interest, utilizing a scoring matrix that aligned with the application questions and evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP.

In August 2019, the three independent readers met to discuss the application and to develop funding recommendations. The following factors were considered in the decision making: applicant's qualifications and past experience with the work outlined in the RFP; applicant's strategy to implement the scope of work; cost to perform the work.

Three of the seven applicants clearly met the expectations outlined in the RFP. After further narrowing the pool of applicants, the review committee held interviews with two applicants to determine the most qualified. After the interviews, the review committee recommended to select VIVA Social Impact Partners to conduct analysis of existing county QRIS data and to provide regional and county level reports for Hub Region 7.

### **Recommendation**

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with VIVA Social Impact Partners to conduct analysis on QRIS data for all three counties in IMPACT Hub Region 7- Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. The total contract would be for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for September, 20 2019 through June 30, 2020. No new allocation of funds would be required as funds are provided through First 5 California.