



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Sam McCoy, Director of Program and Evaluation

Date: September 24, 2020

**Re: Recommendation to Rollover Prior Year Unspent Results Based
Accountability Funds**

Background

Results Based Accountability and Evaluation Service (RBA) funding is utilized to conduct outcome-based accountability and evaluation of First 5 Ventura County programs, services and investments, in accordance with the California Children and Families First Act. As part of review and approval of an annual operating budget, in May 2020 the Commission approved a FY 2020-21 RBA budget of \$257,000.

In FY 2019-20, F5VC staff began working with an external consultant to develop a new evaluation strategy of the redesigned Neighborhood for Learning and Parent and Child Together (PACT) program, which was anticipated to be piloted in March 2020. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person services ceased and efforts were redirected to adapting PACT and family support services to a new virtual format. As such, planned evaluation activities, including the implementation of a new parent survey, were postponed. At the end of FY 2019-20, the RBA cost center had \$69,000 in unutilized funds, primarily due to the unanticipated impact of COVID-19.

The rollover of \$40,000 unspent FY 2019-20 RBA funds would be utilized to support data collection and evaluation activities during FY 2020-21, including, 1) finalizing an evaluation and annual report framework, including a quantitative and qualitative data collection aspect, analysis and reporting template for assessing F5VC services, policy, advocacy, and systems change initiatives recently adopted in the FY2020-22 Strategic Plan, 2) expansion of the Persimmony software and evaluation data system to implement an online virtual intake platform to allow for virtual client intake and consent processes online, and 3) analysis of FY 2019-20 services and data for the F5VC FY 2019-20 Annual Report).

If approved, this action would update the Commission's FY 2020-21 operating budget accordingly.

Recommendation

The recommended action will authorize the rollover of \$40,000 in FY 2019-20 unspent funds from the Results Based Accountability (RBA) cost center for evaluation services and activities to be completed in FY 2020-21. As these funds were budgeted in FY 2019-20, but not expended, no new allocation of funds is needed.

**RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY
BUDGET
FY 2020-21**

| | APPROVED FY 2020-21 BUDGET | PROPOSED FY 2020-21 BUDGET | <i>Proposed FY 2019-20 Carryover</i> |
|---|---|---|--|
| Staffing | \$ 105,000 | \$ 105,000 | |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 17,000 | 17,000 | |
| Subtotal Staffing and Operating Expenses | \$ 122,000 | 122,000 | 0 |
| Evaluation Data Program (Persimmony) | \$ 85,000 | 90,000 | 5,000 |
| Evaluation Services | \$ 50,000 | 85,000 | 35,000 |
| Subtotal Services and Strategies | \$ 135,000 | 175,000 | |
| TOTAL BUDGET | \$ 257,000 | \$ 297,000 | \$ 40,000 |

Total FY 2019-20 Unspent Funds - \$69,000