



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Executive Director

Date: January 28, 2021

Re: Recommendation to Approve Unspent Funds for Activities to Facilitate Transition of First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) Initiative

Background

After reviewing the current implementation of the First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) initiative and assessing alignment with the FY 2020-22 Strategic Plan, opportunities and effectiveness, Commissioners approved the direct implementation of the NfL by the Commission, beginning with FY 2021-22.

The NfL will continue to provide Parent and Child Together (PACT) classes with a focus on 0-3 year olds and family support services in high-need neighborhoods throughout the county. Family support services include community resource & referral (R&R), service coordination, and parenting education. Both PACT and parenting education will incorporate developmental screenings, information on healthy lifestyle and nutrition, oral health, etc.

As we prepare to transition from the current implementation partner Interface Children and Family Services to First 5 Ventura County, the goal is to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible and to minimize a gap in services for children and families. Recognizing that there are significant transition activities that need to occur prior to July 1, 2021, it is proposed that resources from available unspent funds within the Commission's current FY2019-21 NfL allocation be provided to begin transition work.

Funds would cover dedicated staffing and associated operating costs in order to carry out activities such as securing facility leases, transferring operational infrastructure (e.g. phones, internet, etc.), recruiting staff, and preparing for their on-boarding. The amount requested for these transition activities is up to \$450,000 for the period of February 1 to June 30, 2021. The current amount available in unspent funds within the NfL Initiative is \$557,030 and is more than sufficient to meet the amount requested.

Recommendation

The recommended action would approve the use of up to \$450,000 in available unspent funds to be used for strategies and activities to facilitate the transition of the First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning initiative from the current contractor to First 5 Ventura County, from February 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.