



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Sam McCoy, Director of Programs and Evaluation

Date: February 25, 2021

Re: Recommendation to Fund Triple P Services, Training and Capacity Building through Challenge Grant Opportunities

Background

Since FY 2011-12, the Commission has funded the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, an internationally recognized, multi-level, evidence-based program designed to prevent social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems in children by enhancing parents' knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Originally, F5VC funded Ventura County Behavioral Health who in turn subcontracted with Interface Children & Family Services (ICFS) and New Dawn Counseling to deliver Triple P services, coordinate trainings, and distribute materials for families with children 0-5. VCBH was able to leverage additional funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Medi-Cal/EPSDT to implement Triple P for children countywide through partnerships with organizations where children and families are already receiving services.

Due to changes in VCBH's matching funds, VCBH requested termination of the First 5 contract effective June 30, 2017. At that time, the Commission approved direct service contracts for ICFS and New Dawn to minimize disruption of service and to ensure continued implementation of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program for FY 2017-19 for a total of \$995,000, with funded partner training and materials managed internally by F5VC for an additional allocation of \$100,000.

Due to significant shifts in F5VC strategic investments in FY 2019-20, Triple P services were subsumed under the redesigned 5VC Neighborhoods for Learning initiative at a reduced annual allocation of \$200,000 to be provided through ICFS and through a subcontract with New Dawn Counseling.

Over the course of the last year, F5VC staff have had ongoing conversations with both Triple P implementation partners to examine effectiveness and fidelity to the model, continued alignment with strategic priorities, and leveraging opportunities. Those discussions have identified that there are opportunities to access alternative sources for billing direct services for families, such as Medi-Cal and Beacon, but often the cost of training staff and program materials are not covered. Additionally, some families are not eligible to receive services through these funding sources. Although strong proponents of Triple P, without access to funding for staff training and materials, our implementation partners have expressed that they would be unable to provide ongoing services for families.

To ensure the continuation of services for families that would benefit from Triple P or similar interventions, First 5 staff would utilize Challenge Grants to provide access to individual training to clinicians or para-professionals serving families of child 0-5. Funds would also be available to cover the cost of Triple P or similar program materials as well as services for families who do not qualify for other existing funding sources. Applicants would be requested to provide a plan for implementing services with families, account for the population served and propose measurement of tracking family outcomes.

Challenge Grants are contemplated in the First 5 Ventura County long-range financial plan through FY 2026 at an annual allocation of \$400,000. Staff would come back to the Commission in subsequent months with parameters for the proposed Challenge Grants to continue investments in Triple P capacity building, training and targeted services.

Recommendation

The recommended action would allocate up to \$100,000 in FY 2021-22 to develop a challenge grant model for funding Triple P and/or similar services for unserved populations, and training, capacity building and materials for local organizations providing clinical or educational support for families with children 0-5.