

**Agenda Item No. 1  
March 5, 2014 Meeting****DATE:** February 20, 2014**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County**FROM:** Christina Altmayer, Executive Director *Christina Altmayer***SUBJECT:** First 5 Association and Affiliated Programs Membership for 2014

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**SUMMARY:**

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County is a member of the First 5 Association, the Southern California First 5 Regional Committee, and the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR). Commission approval is requested to continue participation in the statewide First 5 Association, Southern California Regional Committee and other affiliated memberships through 2014.

**DISCUSSION:****First 5 Association of California**

The First 5 Association is a membership organization of the 58 First 5/Children and Families Commissions in California. The Association members meet quarterly, three times in Sacramento, and once in the Los Angeles area. The First 5 Association supports the members by providing a collective voice for the county commissions on health and early education issues; facilitating information sharing and communication; providing resources and assistance that promote the effective implementation of Proposition 10 programs; and serving as a hub for statewide initiatives and collaboration. The Association structure includes an executive committee, and committees for program, evaluation, communication, finance and legislation. Participation in the First 5 Association with a membership fee of \$40,149 is recommended for 2014. The Commission's Executive Director serves on the Executive Committee as the representative for the southern region, on the Advocacy Committee, and is also leading the analysis process to limit the Board of Equalization administrative fees.

**Southern California Region Committee**

The First 5/Children and Families Commissions are divided into six regions throughout the state. Orange County is one of eight counties in the Southern California region which spans from Imperial to Santa Barbara counties. The Southern California region convenes regular meetings throughout the year to collaborate on common issues and programs, and to communicate the regional impact of Proposition 10 investments in similar programs. The recent action to develop a common multi-county data reporting system to realize cost savings and efficiencies and to improve reporting outcomes achieved was a result of discussions at these meetings. The counties in the Southern California region are expected to host one meeting each year. The meetings are held bi-monthly at the First 5 LA office due to its central

location and proximity to the train station. Approval to participate in the southern regional meetings and host one meeting is recommended.

### **Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results**

Since 2007 the Commission has annually authorized funding to support the Orange County's share of a regional program for managing, analyzing, and communicating results and impact of First 5 investments. The collaborative project, Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR), was developed for the First 5 Association Southern California Region to share accountability and learning objectives through a coordinated regional approach. The First 5 Association serves as the fiscal agent and project manager. The Commission approved a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2012 with an annual cost of \$25,000 to continue participation in SCALAR, beginning on July 1, 2012. Commission approval for continued participation in this regional program is requested at an annual cost of \$25,000.

### **Local Professional Associations**

The Commission continues to maintain memberships with local professional associations and organizations. This includes Commission membership in the Health Funder Partnership and the Orange County Funders Round Table. The Commission Executive Director serves on the management or executive committee of both organizations. Both organizations have been effective in securing local funders support for Commission-supported organization. Recent examples have included generation of new and/or additional support for the Children's Health Initiative for Orange County and the Early Literacy Initiative.

Other memberships may include professional and/or local business or community organizations. Membership benefits include a network of professional colleagues for the exchange of information and ideas, access to professional training, professional literature on issues of Commission interest and/or education of the Commission's mission and goals. The Commission approved a policy in May 2013 authorizing the Executive Director to approve memberships within the funding authority of \$50,000, an amount previously established by the Commission.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

This item has been reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is consistent with all outcome goals. Funding for memberships, regional meeting expenses, and the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR) will be included in the proposed FY 2014/15 Budget in the administration category.

### **PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS**

- February 2013 – Authorized funding to support for the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results and approved funding contributions to support regional meeting expenses

- October 2012 – Renewed funding contribution for the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results
- January 2012 – Approved funding contributions for statewide and regional partnership activities

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Authorize funding for the First 5 Association membership dues in an amount not to exceed \$40,149 in the FY 2014/15 Budget. Funding is subject to approval of the FY 2014/15 Budget.
2. Authorize funding to support the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR) in an amount to exceed \$25,000 in the FY 2014/15 Budget and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or an amendment to the existing MOU, as needed. Funding is subject to approval of the FY 2014/15 Budget.
3. Approve the funding contribution as required to support regional meeting expenses and authorize payment by the Auditor-Controller upon approval by the Executive Director.

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