



**Agenda Item No. 1
May 2, 2012 Meeting**

DATE: April 24, 2012

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Ruane", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: First 5 California Child Signature Program – County Commission Funding

SUMMARY:

First 5 California initiated a Request for Application (RFA) to participate in the Child Signature Program (CSP) for readiness assessment and quality improvement for preschool classrooms in California. This is a non-competitive application and does not require matching funds. This item summarizes the program and requests authorization to participate in the three-year program.

Child Signature Program/Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement

First 5 California Children and Families Commission approved funding for the statewide implementation of the Child Signature Program (CSP). The term of the program is three-years from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015, and the total funding available to Orange County is \$315,000. The program will provide technical assistance to increase the quality in early learning programs for young children in early care and education centers in high need school districts with Academic Performance Index (API) scores in deciles 1-3. The key components for the Child Signature Program are summarized in Attachment 1.

The CSP is intended to benefit children, teachers and parents. Children with the greatest risk for school failure will receive skills to be successful; teachers can improve their effectiveness with culturally and linguistically diverse children and children with special needs; and parents can become more involved with their child's cognitive and behavioral development and increase their knowledge and skills to advocate for their child's education.

Requesting the maximum amount of funding available to support the CSP at 30 classrooms in high need communities including, but not limited to Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana, is recommended. Eligible classrooms will be within programs that currently or formerly received Commission funding and meet the requirements established by First 5 California.

Benefits of Orange County Participation the Child Signature Program

First 5 California's Child Signature Program will provide funding to support technical assistance and training to improve the quality of preschools in high need areas. Raising the standard of quality in local preschool programs has a double benefit of improving the quality of early education for children participating in the programs, and increasing the programs competitiveness in future state and federal funding opportunities.

Child Signature Program Implementation Plan

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County currently participates in the First 5 California *Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus* Program to increase the use of quality curricula, instruction tools and other evidence supported approaches to prepare children for school with priority in the high need school districts of Anaheim, Garden Grove and Santa Ana. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is implementing the federal *Race to the Top* program to promote K-12 education reform, innovation, and teacher quality.

Participation in the CSP program will complement and enhance the current efforts in both Pre-K and K-12 for the benefit of Orange County students. The Commission has a funding agreement with OCDE for school readiness services. Expanding the agreement to implement the CSP program with First 5 California program funds up to \$85,000 annually for three-years is recommended.

The CPS program includes funding to employ a local Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS) to support participating preschools with the required Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement process. The ELSS will coordinate and facilitate training, technical assistance, and other support for the CSP sites throughout the term of the program. The Commission funds consultant Jennifer Burrell currently to manage the implementation of the CARES Plus program. Expanding the agreement to provide the ELSS services with First 5 California program funds up to \$20,000 annually for three-years is recommended as the most cost-effective approach.

Support for Programs Not Eligible for First 5 California Funding

Orange County preschools that do not meet the CSP eligibility requirement can request quality improvement technical assistance through the Commission's Early Learning school readiness programs. An expanded work plan and funding requirements will be presented to the Commission if the demand for services exceeds current capacity.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The recommended actions presented in this staff report have been reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and are consistent with applicable goals. This funding request is for \$315,000 for the three-year term. Funding for this item will be provided by First 5 California and included in the FY 2012/13 Amended Budget within the Early Learning category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- March 2012 – Authorized amendments to agreements to provide Early Learning/School District services.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize submitting application for participation in the First 5 California Child Signature Program.
2. Adopt resolution (Attachment 2) authorizing the Executive Director or designee to prepare and negotiate a Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Orange County Department of Education to provide California Signature Program services for a three-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$255,000.

3. Adopt resolution (Attachment 3) authorizing the Executive Director or designee to prepare and negotiate a First Amendment to Agreement C-291 with Knowledge, Ideas, Dedication, and Solutions, Inc. to manage the California Signature Program services for a three-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. First 5 California Child Signature Program Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement Key Program Components
2. Resolution to amend agreement with the Orange County Department of Education
3. Resolution to amend agreement with Knowledge, Ideas, Dedication, and Solutions, Inc./Jennifer Burrell

Contact: Kelly Pijl

First 5 California Child Signature Program, Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement Key Program Components

Program Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports assessments to determine strengths and challenges of identified county centers and classrooms. • Designed to provide targeted training and quality improvement support in all 58 counties for local centers and classrooms not participating in First 5 California Power of Preschool program. • All 58 First 5 County Commissions eligible. Does not require matching funds from counties. • Opportunity to participate in the Access to Early Education Effectiveness Exchange, a “Learning Academy” to provide specific training and assistance to facilitate quality improvements in identified early learning centers across the county.
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites and classrooms selected must serve children 0 – 5 who live in elementary school catchment areas with current Academic Performance Index score in deciles 1 – 3. • Infant/toddler ages 0 – 3 who meet income eligibility based on the California Department of Education Schedule of Income Ceilings.
Priority Given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or existing classrooms being built or currently serving children in high priority areas as defined by the most recent Needs Assessment conducted by the County’s Local Child Care and Development Planning Council. • Centers and classrooms where the majority of children served are Dual Language Learners and or children of migrant workers and/or have special needs.
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fewer than 10 classrooms. • Include a minimum of one infant/toddler classroom serving no fewer than eight infants/toddlers. • Serve no more than 30 classrooms per each full-time Early Learning Systems Specialist. • Include minimum of one preschool classroom serving no fewer than 12 preschool children. • Only classrooms that participate in project will be eligible to participate in the next Power of Preschool application in February 2013. • All participating centers and classrooms must have a completed Readiness Assessment and corresponding county-level Improvement Plan in place by March 30, 2013. • All staff must participate in the on-line training “Kids and Smoke Don’t Mix. • Participate in First 5 California evaluation and data collection.
Submission Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2012 – Received First 5 Ca Program RFA • May 21, 2012 – Application submission deadline • July 2012 – Program start
Fund Allocation	<p>20 – 24 classrooms = \$70,000 / year, \$210,000 three-year allocation 25 – 29 classrooms = \$87,500 / year, \$262,500 three-year allocation 30 classrooms = \$105,000 / year, \$315,000 three-year allocation</p>
Research-Based Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional strategies and teacher-child interactions • Social-emotional development • Parent involvement and support

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-12-C&FC

May 2, 2012

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE, TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FCI-SD-26 WITH ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE CALIFORNIA SIGNATURE PROGRAM SERVICES; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the “Act”) implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County (“Commission”); and

WHEREAS, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County’s children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2011 Commission authorized the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Orange County Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as “Contractor,” to provide services related to Orange County’s School District Early Learning Services in the amount of \$78,000, in support of a Medical Officer for Orange County’s School Districts in the amount of \$25,000, and on September 7, 2011 Commission authorized an additional \$108,000 for services related to CARES Plus (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards), for a total amount not to exceed \$211,000 for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2012 Commission authorized the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a First Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Contractor to provide services related to Orange County’s School District Early Learning Services in the amount of \$156,000, in support of a Medical Officer for Orange County’s School Districts in the amount of \$50,000, and services related to CARES Plus in the amount of \$40,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$246,000 for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014.

WHEREAS, Commission desires to enter into a Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Contractor, to add an additional \$255,000 for a revised Maximum Payment Obligation of \$712,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to provide California Signature Program services as specified in the May 2, 2012 staff report for this Agenda Item, and

WHEREAS, Contractor desires to enter into the Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan on the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable Amendment to Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the staff report relating to the Scope of Services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendment to Agreement is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2 Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director or designee to prepare and negotiate the terms, conditions and final form of a Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Orange County Department of Education to add an additional \$255,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$712,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to provide California Signature Program services consistent with the May 2, 2012 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The approval by the Executive Director or designee of the final Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such Amendment to Agreement by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves the Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Contractor, to add an additional \$255,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$712,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to provide California Signature Program services as specified in the May 2, 2012 staff report for this Agenda Item.

Section 5 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of the final Second Amendment to Agreement when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. The final executed Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 7 In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director, or designee, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Amendments to Agreement(s), (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement(s), and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement(s) in the furtherance thereof.

Section 8 The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION

(Attach copy of final executed Amendment to Agreement FCI-SD-26 with Orange County
Department of Education)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-12-C&FC

May 2, 2012

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE, TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT C-291 WITH KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS, DEDICATION, AND SOLUTIONS, INC., TO MANAGE THE CALIFORNIA SIGNATURE PROGRAM SERVICES; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the “Act”) implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County (“Commission”); and

WHEREAS, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County’s children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

WHEREAS, On March 7, 2012, Commission authorized the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into Agreement C-291 with Knowledge, Ideas, Dedication, and Solutions, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Consultant,” to provide project management services related to the Commission’s School Nurse/Early Intervention programs, including CARES Plus for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to enter into a First Amendment to Agreement C-291 with the Consultant, to add an additional \$60,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$240,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to manage the California Signature Program as specified in the May 2, 2012 staff report for this Agenda Item, and

WHEREAS, the Consultant desires to enter into the First Amendment to Agreement C-291 in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan on the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable Amendment to Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the staff report relating to the Scope of Services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendment to Agreement is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2 Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director or designee to prepare and negotiate the terms, conditions and final form of a First Amendment to Agreement C-291 with Knowledge, Ideas, Dedication, and Solutions, Inc. to add an additional \$60,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$240,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to manage the California Signature Program consistent with the May 2, 2012 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The approval by the Executive Director or designee of the final First Amendment to Agreement C-291 shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such Amendment to Agreement by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves the First Amendment to Agreement C-291 with the Consultant, to add an additional \$60,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$240,000 and extend the term of the Agreement by twelve months through June 30, 2015 to manage the California Signature Program as specified in the May 2, 2012 staff report for this Agenda Item.

Section 5 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the First Amendment to Agreement C-291 on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of the final First Amendment to Agreement when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. The final executed Amendment to Agreement C-291 shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 7 In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director, or designee, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Amendments to Agreement(s), (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement(s), and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement(s) in the furtherance thereof.

Section 8 The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION

(Attach copy of final executed Amendment to Agreement C-291 with Knowledge, Ideas, Dedication,
and Solutions, Inc.)