

DATE: December 22, 2009
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: 2010 Statewide and Regional Partnership Activities

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County representatives are active participants in the First 5 Association, the statewide membership organization for California First 5/Children and Families Commissions. The Orange County Executive Director serves on the First 5 Association leadership team, and Commission staff serves on statewide and regional evaluation, communications and finance committees. Commission approval is requested for continued state and regional First 5 participation in 2010 at the funding levels identified in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Annual Budget.

Statewide Partnership Effort

The Orange County Commission's Executive Director serves on the First 5 California Association Executive Committee and was elected to the position of Legislative Representative. The position represents the First 5 Association in meetings and briefings with the California legislative delegates, and statewide organizations including the California Dental Association, California Medical Association, California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and others.

A renewal of our annual \$25,000 contribution to the statewide association is recommended to implement a work program approved by the Commission Executive Director and to continue work on the Children's Dental Health Network, Reach Out and Read and other statewide organizations and joint efforts with CSAC, educational, and health organizations, including but not limited to a workshop at the 2010 CSAC conference and joint legislative programs.

Regional Programs and Activities

Several important statewide programs are coordinated by the six regions within California, and this trend is increasing. Orange County is one of eight counties in the Southern Region which spans from Imperial to Santa Barbara county. Los Angeles and Orange counties take leadership roles in many statewide activities, and Riverside County is serving as fiscal agent for State Technical Assistance funds. Each county in the region is expected to host one Southern California regional meetings each year. The meetings are usually held at the First 5 LA office due to its central location and proximity to the train station.

Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results

In August 2007, the Commission authorized \$25,000 to support Orange County's share of the Southern California Regional First 5 Commissions in developing a regional approach for

managing, analyzing, and communicating results and impact of First 5 investments. The collaborative project, Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR), has been developed to assist each Commission in ability to accomplish shared accountability and learning objectives through a coordinated regional approach. This approach also is cost-effective and reduces the individual expenses for each Commission. To date, the project has completed several deliverables including:

- A central searchable repository of Southern California Commission evaluation efforts to assist in developing shared communications and shared learning to enhance program effectiveness, including the ability to search and download measures and instruments.
- An analysis of current regional evaluation practices to develop recommendations to improve evaluation approaches and enhance relevancy of evaluation findings.
- Briefs on special topics of regional interest to disseminate findings including: Children's Health Access, Oral Health, School Readiness, Regional Outcomes Report.

First 5 Riverside is serving as the fiscal agent for this regional project. Authorization is requested to provide a continued funding contribution for this regional project, subject to approval of the project work plan by the Executive Director.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The program has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is consistent with all outcome goals. The SCALAR funding request is for the amount of \$25,000 to extend the term for one year until June 30, 2011. Funding for this item is included in the FY 2009/10 Budget within the Performance Outcome Measurement System budget category. Funding for statewide partnership activities and any regional meeting expenses are included in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 operating budget.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- January 2009 – Approved the funding contributions for statewide and regional partnership activities
- August 2007 – Authorized funding contribution to the First 5 Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into an Amendment to the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR) Memorandum of Understanding with First 5 Riverside to commit \$25,000 in funds and continued support for the collaborative project through June 30, 2011.
2. Find that partnerships with the First 5 organizations are consistent with, or furthers the goals in the adopted strategic plan.
3. Approve the funding contributions for statewide and regional partnership activities and authorize payment by the Auditor-Controller upon approval by the Commission Executive Director.

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni