

**Agenda Item 2
September 2, 2015**

DATE: August 21, 2015

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Commission Capacity Building Request for Application

ACTION: Receive Update on Commission Capacity Building Request for Application

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County's Strategic Plan includes the goal of Capacity Building which is focused on promoting an effective and quality delivery system for young children and their families. The Capacity Building programs include AmeriCorps, Capacity Building Grants, Fund Leveraging and Sustainability, and Evaluation. This agenda item includes an update on the Commission's Capacity Building grant program and the Request for Application process.

DISCUSSION:

The Commission's 2015 Capacity Building program is designed to support cohorts of local nonprofits focused on strengthening the service delivery system through the use of collective impact strategies. Specifically, the funding opportunity is focused on making impacts in Commission priority areas by:

- Increasing the cohort's ability to pursue research, evaluation and system improvement grants on behalf of regional projects
- Supporting the expansion and sustainability of proven interventions
- Promoting evidence-based models and tools
- Enhancing shared measurement systems and use of available data to support outcomes reporting
- Minimizing duplication and redundancies in services
- Strengthening regional indicators by focus area and support the creation of regional needs statements
- Bolstering coalition efforts focused on strengthening Commission priorities

The Commission released the Capacity Building application on June 17, 2015, and conducted an application conference on July 15. Potential applicants were required to submit a Letter of Intent by July 22. All agencies that submitted a Letter of Intent were provided the opportunity to receive one hour of additional one-on-one technical assistance. Eleven Letters of Intent were received and one-on-one technical assistance sessions were provided to 10 applicants. Two potential applicants joined efforts and agreed to submit together. Applications were due to the Commission on August 17, 2015. Eight applications were received.

A review panel has been identified and confirmed, consisting of both Commission staff and external consultants that have extensive experience with collective impact approaches. The panel will be reviewing applications based on:

- Completeness and accuracy of the application
- Project meets a demonstrated need
- Proposal offers detailed assessment of the cohort's level of readiness
- Proposed project aligns with cohort need and readiness level
- Application addresses the sustainability of continued cohort effort toward a shared goal, and discusses opportunities to leverage other investments
- Cohort describes and justifies the role of each cohort member, and addresses any significant absence of potential regional partners in pursuit of shared outcomes

The review panel will develop recommendations for consideration at the October Commission meeting. Following Commission consideration and approval, staff will work with each agency on the scope of work, technical assistance, timeline for deliverables, and funding award.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed action has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission's Capacity Building goal. The total funding amount of up to \$500,000 for the Capacity Building Grant program is included in both the FY 2014/15 and FY 2015/16 budgets within the Capacity Building funding category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- May 2015- Approval Capacity Building funding release
- February 2015- Capacity Building program update
- March 2014 – Capacity Building Goal Area Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive Update on Commission Capacity Building Request for Application.

Contact: Kim Goll