

**Agenda Item 2  
December 2, 2015**

**DATE:** November 16, 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 Agreement Process

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**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 projects approved for support at the Commission September 2015 meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Commission's 2015 Capacity Building program is designed to support cohorts of local nonprofit organizations focused on strengthening the service delivery system through the use of collective impact strategies. The Commission released the Capacity Building application on June 17, 2015, and approved four projects from that application process at the October 2015 Commission meeting. The cohort members and project outcomes are summarized in Attachment 1. Commission staff has been meeting with each of the cohorts with support from The Olin Group, the Commission's sustainability and technical assistance provider for these grantees. The meetings have resulted in refining the scope of work, confirming intended outcomes, and identifying the technical assistance required for each project.

The intent of these capacity building awards is to encourage and support collective impact strategies within the Commission's priority focus areas. Collective impact strategies include but are not limited to the development of a shared agenda, measurement and evaluation system, coordination among mutually reinforcing activities, and continuous communication. As part of the Commission's support each of the cohorts will receive specialized technical assistance within the objectives and to achieve the deliverables outlined in their application. Continued support by the Commission for this individualized technical assistance will be contingent on the cohort's ability to achieve identified milestones. Contracting authority to support the specific expertise each of the cohorts will need in order to achieve the intended outcomes will be requested at the February Commission meeting.

In addition to the individual support each cohort will receive, all cohort members will benefit from the technical assistance described below.

- Project Management - An assigned Project Manager to facilitate cohort discussion, handle administrative logistics, oversee cohort's progress towards completion of critical

deliverables, tracking and assistance on identified grant opportunities, and serve as project liaison with the Commission staff.

- Customized Sustainability Assistance - Identification and prioritization of local, regional, and or national funding opportunities and technical support for the application.
- Creating Shared Measurement and Evaluation - Facilitated discussion to improve the cohort's evaluation capacity including development of shared data systems, leveraging existing systems, using existing data, outcomes reporting and identification of key indicators.

These services will be provided through the Commission's existing agreement with The Olin Group and will be closely aligned with ongoing sustainability efforts.

**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 funding to support this project is included in both the FY 2014/15 and FY 2015/16 budgets within the Capacity Building funding category.

**PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

- September 2015 – Approval of four Collective Impact Capacity Building Projects
- May 2015 – Approval to release application for Capacity Building funding
- February 2015 – Capacity Building program update
- March 2014 – Capacity Building Goal Area Update

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive update on Commission Capacity Building agreement development process.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Recommended Capacity Building Cohorts

**Contact:** Kim Goll

## Recommended Capacity Building Cohorts

Cohort Focus	Cohort Members	Proposed Activities/Milestones	Cohort Objective
Children's Mental Health	CHOC Children's Foundation Orange County Department of Education Regional Center Children's Home Society*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare asset map</li> <li>• Identify additional cohort partners</li> <li>• Analyze childcare provider survey results</li> <li>• Develop Theory of Change</li> <li>• Develop strategies to align services and systems</li> </ul>	Improve mental health and behavioral health outcomes for children in Orange County. The cohort will improve its understanding of the needs in the county and how it can effectively address those needs through the creation of a county wide system of supports for early learning providers and parents.
Early Learning	Center for the Study of Social Policy* Delhi Community Center El Sol Academy Orange County Labor Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze Early Development Index profile for Santa Ana Schools, health data, family economic well-being</li> <li>• Develop a landscape and network analysis of organizations, civic leaders and other stakeholders focused on early childhood</li> </ul>	Begin a collective impact process that focuses on ensuring Santa Ana young children are healthy and ready to learn when they enter school. Focus of cohort will be to engage members in a shared agenda, to identify stakeholders that can address gaps that exist in school readiness rates in Santa Ana and to conceptualize strategies for cohort deployment.
Developmental Screening	CHOC Foundation* CHOC Primary Care Clinics American Academy of Pediatrics Blind Children's Learning Center Cal Optima Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center Regional Center Orange County Family Support Network MOMS Orange County Orange County Department of Education Pretend City Providence Speech and Language The Center for Autism Western Youth Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop cohort evaluation framework</li> <li>• Conduct network analysis of stakeholders focused on developmental screenings</li> <li>• Develop cohort case for investment</li> </ul>	Strengthen the existing regional developmental screening network and attract new members. This will be achieved by developing a regional theory of change, identify funding that will sustain and expand screening services and systems, and develop an evaluation framework to guide the cohort's efforts to measure impact.
Homeless Families	Mercy House* American Family Housing Family Assistance Ministries Families Forward Pathways of Hope South County Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop cohort Theory of Change</li> <li>• Identify system enhancements</li> <li>• Identify additional cohort partners</li> <li>• Analysis of existing data collected in the County's Homeless Management Information System</li> </ul>	Establish a common agenda for family homeless service providers targeting shared measurements, comprehensive analysis to inform system changes, and ultimately open channels for new funding opportunities to support the continuum of care for homeless families in Orange County.

\*Cohort Lead Agency