



**Agenda Item 3
March 4, 2015**

DATE: February 23, 2015

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: First 5 Association and Affiliated Programs Membership for 2015

ACTION: Authorize annual funding for First 5 Association membership and affiliated programs.

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 2015.

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 First 5 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 2015. The Commission's Executive Director serves on the Executive Committee and is the chair of the Advocacy Committee. She is also leading the analysis process to limit the Board of Equalization administrative fees which has been actively supported by the First 5 Association Executive Director.

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. Members of the Southern California region meet regularly throughout the year to collaborate on common issues and programs, and to communicate the regional impact of Proposition 10 investments in similar programs. As a result of these meetings, last year a common multi-county data reporting system was developed to realize cost savings and efficiencies and to improve reporting outcomes. 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 California Regional Meetings and to host one of the meetings 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. Funding for SCALAR was included in the FY 2014/15 approved budget at \$25,000, but was not expended due to other available funding. Funding is requested for FY 2015/16 at \$25,000 to support regional and statewide evaluations to support the Commission’s and the First 5 Association’s policy agenda.

Local Professional Associations

The Commission continues to maintain memberships with local professional associations and organization. The 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 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. The following are memberships that have been included in prior year budgets and are recommended for renewal in FY 2015/16.

Organization	Membership Fee
First 5 Association of California	\$40,149
Orange County Health Funders Partnership	\$10,000
Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC)	\$5,000
Orange County Business Council	\$5,000
Orange County Funders Roundtable	\$5,000
Orange County Forum	\$1,000
Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA)	\$160
California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO)	\$110
Orange County Children’s Partnership	In-Kind

Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget

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 2015/16 Budget in the administration category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS

- February 2014 – Authorized membership dues for the First 5 Association and the Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results
- 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 2015/16 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Contact: Kelly Pijl