



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Agenda Item No. 3
September 2, 2009 Meeting

DATE: September 2, 2009

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Statewide Fiscal Technical Assistance and Training

SUMMARY:

Several of the larger children and families commissions serve as lead statewide entities for development and delivery of technical assistance and training in specific areas and disciplines to assist local commissions on a statewide basis.

For example, First 5 San Bernardino serves as the contracting agent for state funded technical assistance contracts for program and evaluation topics, while First 5 Riverside County serves as the fiscal agent for these contracts. The Children and Families Commission of Orange County serves as the contracting and fiscal agent for the statewide VISTA program, and for special projects involving financial and accounting technical assistance and training through the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The "First 5 Financial Management Guide" was developed under such an arrangement.

In on-going efforts with the First 5 Association of Children and Families Commissions to enhance fiscal operations and financial reporting for county commissions statewide, the Orange County Commission was requested by the First 5 Association's Fiscal Working Group to obtain a proposal from GFOA to develop uniform definitions and procedures to assist local commissions with the implementation of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, the newest GASB accounting and financial reporting standard. GASB 54 is effective for annual financial statements issued for FY 2010-2011. The proposed proactive role on this statewide issue is consistent with the Commission's leadership on advocacy with the state legislature, First 5 California, and the First 5 Association.

GASB 54

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) released Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions" during spring 2009. This latest GASB standard is intended to improve the usefulness of fund balance information in governmental financial reports by providing more structured fund balance definitions, and by clarifying the definitions of existing fund types.

Because GASB 54 substantially alters the focus and terminology to be used for fund balance reporting beginning with FY 2010-2011, retaining GFOA is recommended to provide the technical financial and training support to develop a uniform set of definitions and procedures that can be used by local commissions to implement GASB 54 on its effective date.

The project will be coordinated through the First 5 Association, and will involve the Association's Fiscal Working Group, First 5 California, and the State Controller's Office in the development of the definitions and procedures. Additionally, GFOA will update the "First 5 Financial Management Guide" to include the GASB 54 requirements.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed action has been reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the outcome goals. A consulting services agreement with GFOA will be prepared under existing Executive Director's contracting authority, and funding will not exceed \$50,000. The contract term would be for the period September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Sufficient funds for this request are available in the Commission's approved FY 2009-10 Annual Operating Budget within the Professional & Technical Services budget category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

July and October 2004 - Approved consultant services agreements for financial technical support and training with the Government Finance Officers Association.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report and reaffirm the Commission's on-going lead role for statewide financial technical assistance and training.

Contact: Steve Kozak, Chief Operations Officer