

**Agenda Item 3**
September 7, 2016

DATE: August 24, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Kimberly Goll, Executive Director 

ACTION: Receive update on a feasibility analysis for a regional Help Me Grow program

SUMMARY:

A strategic priority for the Children and Families Commission of Orange County is to ensure access to early developmental/behavioral screenings and to connect children to services as early as possible to optimize their healthy development. For over a decade, the Commission has provided funding and supported Help Me Grow Orange County, a program that connects families to developmental services. The following agenda item provides an update on the feasibility analysis of a regional Help Me Grow program.

DISCUSSION:

The executive directors from both First 5 Riverside and First 5 San Bernardino contacted the Orange County Commission to explore the possibility of a regional Help Me Grow program. The two county First 5 Commissions are interested in leveraging the expertise and strong administrative capacity of Help Me Grow Orange County and offered financial contribution to jointly engage a consultant to conduct this analysis. Moving forward with the feasibility analysis was approved at the July 2016 Commission meeting.

Agreements with First 5 Riverside and First 5 San Bernardino have been finalized for their portion of the financial contribution for the feasibility analysis. Focali Consulting has been selected from the Commission's qualified consultant list to serve as the project lead. Focali Consulting has proposed work in two phases, with the budget of \$25,350.

The first phase assesses the feasibility of creating and implementing a regional Help Me Grow program. A comprehensive analysis will be completed by October 31, 2016 to evaluate the feasibility of a regional Help Me Grow model that would support Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Specifically, this feasibility assessment would address the following questions:

- What advantages, such as reduced cost, increased fidelity, increased efficiencies, may be achieved by developing a regional model?
- What are the constraints or limitations of a regional model?
- Which of the program components would function effectively in a regional versus a local county model?
- Overall, what is the feasibility of a tri-county regional model?

The second phase of the project will be the development of an implementation plan for the recommended scenarios. This plan is expected to be completed by December 31, 2016. The final report from the feasibility assessment and the implementation plan will be presented at the Commission meeting in February 2017.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The update has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission's Healthy Children and Capacity Building goals. The total consultant contracted amount is \$25,350. The Commission will be reimbursed up to \$16,900 from both First 5 Riverside and First 5 San Bernardino. The Commission's contribution of \$8,450 is included in the fiscal year 2016/17 Capacity Building budget.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

July 2016 - Received authorization to enter into agreements with First 5 Riverside and First 5 San Bernardino to receive funding for a regional Help Me Grow feasibility analysis and to enter agreement with qualified consultant to conduct a feasibility analysis for a regional Help Me Grow program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive update on a feasibility analysis for a Regional Help Me Grow program.

Contact: Lucy Lin