



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

**Agenda Item No. 4
May 2, 2007 Meeting**

DATE: April 25, 2007
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director
SUBJECT: ABCD Constructing Connections Program

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COMMUNICATIONS

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County is participating in the *Affordable Buildings for Children's Development (ABCD) Constructing Connections* program as a requirement to the grant awarded to Orange County. The program is an initiative developed and supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to build a comprehensive and sustainable system for financing and developing quality center-based child care facilities in California.

The *ABCD Constructing Connections* program is supporting the development and implementation of collaborative partnerships focusing on technical assistance and training at the local level. The project includes funding from First 5 California and requires partnership with the local First 5/Children and Families Commissions and a one-to-one financial match of in-kind and cash resources.

The Orange County Child Care Connections is the formal collaborative convened to implement the program. Collaborative members include representatives from the Commission, Public Law Center, Kennedy Commission, County Child Care Coordinator, Child Care & Development Planning Council, Children's Home Society, and Orange County United Way as the lead agency.

As a member of the Collaborative, Commission representatives have provided support to the following program activities:

1. Actively participating in collaborative meetings and Commission representative serving as chair.
2. Supporting the development and implementation of a collaborative structure and two-year work plan.
3. Promoting the project to potential participants such as private providers, school districts, other Commission grantees, and United Way LINCC (Local Investment in Child Care) pipeline providers to receive assistance in developing facilities. Pipeline providers are existing, or potential child care providers who have contacted the United Way for assistance through their LINCC.
4. Disseminating resource tools to collaborative members and other key stakeholders such as Orange County Preschool Planning Collaborative Work Group and city planning staff.

5. Providing technical assistance to Commission grantees on facilities development and program expansion.

In addition to serving as a member of the Collaborative, the Commission committed the local cash match contribution required for the *ABCD's Constructing Connections* grant through a contract with CONNECT- Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions. First year funding was authorized to provide technical assistance and capacity building services to the collaborative and organizations interested in developing quality center-based child care facilities in Orange County.

Initial outreach resulted in approximately 30 agencies interested in providing or expanding child care services. Of 12 survey respondents, four have been selected to receive additional capacity building services. Additional organizations receiving technical assistance and capacity building services through Commission representatives include Cambodian Family, Anaheim City and Magnolia School Districts, Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove, KidWorks, and El Sol.

Commission action is requested to approve the first year report and proposed scope of work for the second year, and final cash match of \$35,000 to CONNECT - Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions (Attachment 1). The proposed scope of work is focused on facilitation of a strategic plan, sustainability planning, and facilitated, customized workshops to address the educational needs of providers working on facility development for participating agencies.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

This program has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the outcome goals. This funding request is for the amount of \$35,000 for one year commencing July 1, 2007. Funding for this item is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget within the Ready to Learn budget category.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Approve the *ABCD Constructing Connections: Orange County Child Connections* program first year report and second year proposed scope of work (Attachment 1).
2. Authorizing the Executive Director and/or designee to negotiate and execute Agreement number FCI-TA-02 with CONNECT- Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions for the term July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and a maximum obligation not to exceed \$35,000 to implement the approved scope of work.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *ABCD Constructing Connections: Orange County Child Connections* first year report and second year proposed scope of work.

Contact: Kelly Pijl

**ABCD CONSTRUCTING CONNECTIONS
Orange County Child Connections Collaborative**

*First Year Report and Second Year Proposed Scope of Work for
CONNECT Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions*

FIRST YEAR REPORT – JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2007

CONNECT – Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions is funded by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the *Affordable Buildings for Children's Development (ABCD) Construction Connections* program work plan as developed by the Orange County Child Care Connections Collaborative. Formal collaborative members include representatives from the Commission, Public Law Center, Kennedy Commission, County Child Care Coordinator, Child Care & Development Planning Council, Children's Home Society, and Orange County United Way who serve as the lead agency.

CONNECT managed and coordinated the technical assistance to the Child Care Connections Collaborative and the pipeline of child care providers in the first year of the grant. CONNECT services included on-going support to the lead agency in collaborative process and function, developing resource materials and marketing, and directing capacity building opportunities for child care agencies selected for intensive support. CONNECT also worked with the members of the Collaborative to develop an effective infrastructure that was efficient and inclusive.

The following are a summary of CONNECT's facilitation of the Collaborative first year accomplishments:

- Developed and published tools:
 - Orange County Resource Guide for Child Care Facilities
 - Goals and Work Plan Flowchart
 - Activity Planning Tool
 - Timeline for Developing and Financing a Child Care Center.
- Provided marketing support including feedback on branding and logo that determined the Collaborative name and visual image.
- Refined and finalized the mission and vision statement based on an image survey developed by CONNECT and committee recommendations.
- Facilitated collaborative infrastructure development.
- Documented the Leadership Roundtable and the Committee Activity-Structure Worksheet.

- Supported the lead agency staff to delineate the relationship between the existing Orange County United Way programs and the new collaborative with its own leadership, process and accountability.
- Assisted the lead agency in community education events including the spring 2007 workshop on center financing for pipeline child care agencies.
- Provided input into the Child Care Facilities Needs Assessment: Pipeline Projects survey for technical assistance requirements of pipeline child care agencies. Analyzed survey results and reported to the Collaborative. Developed a technical assistance plan for all survey participants.
- Assessed and selected pipeline child care agency applicants for further technical assistance, presented individual technical assistance plans to the Collaborative for implementation with the selected participants.

SECOND YEAR (FINAL YEAR) PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK – JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

A second year and final contract with CONNECT- Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions to provide facilitation and administrative services to the Orange County Child Care Connections Collaborative is recommended. Building on the infrastructure and momentum of the first year, CONNECT is qualified to facilitate a strategic planning process, support the sustainability planning process, and facilitate workshops.

The following is the proposed Scope of Work for the Commission's second-year contract with CONNECT-Partnership for Non-Profit Solutions to complete the Commission's matching fund contribution for the *ABCD Constructing Connections* project. The contract amount will not exceed \$35,000:

- Provide technical assistance to strengthen the work of the Orange County Child Care Connections Collaborative. Facilitate strategic planning for services, infrastructure and sustainability for Collaborative members.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building services to support sustainability. Conduct research and present models of sustainability to the Collaborative members during the strategic planning process and provide technical assistance and capacity building support for the sustainability goals established in strategic plan.
- Facilitate up to four customized workshops identified and developed from Orange County Child Care Connections Collaborative Board and general members to address the educational needs of the child care facilities providers. Workshops may address zoning, working with city planners, facility design, and other topics selected by the members.