



Agenda Item No. 6
April 3, 2013 Meeting

DATE: March 28, 2013

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director *Christina Altmayer*

SUBJECT: Receive Update on Early Learning Portfolio Implementation Strategy and Authorize Implementing Actions for CARES Plus Matching Fund Program

SUMMARY:

In 2011, the Commission authorized participation in the CARES Plus program. Today’s agenda requests Commission to approve applying for an additional three years of funding. In their Early Learning Portfolio Report, The Bridgespan Group recommended that the Commission “focus on investing in promising instructional approaches and fostering their use across care settings, which have the potential to increase the quality of instruction in preschool and early learning settings”. One strategy for implementing this recommendation has been to access matching funds available through the First 5 California Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus Program. This funding is intended to support improving teacher effectiveness by improving the quality of interactions with young children and is being requested in partnership with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE).

CARES Plus Program

The CARES Plus Program assists the school districts and other community providers to improve teacher and classroom quality, and expand the statewide utilization of CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) as a measurement tool for evaluating the quality of preschool programs. Use of the CLASS instrument is anticipated to be an eligibility criterion for future state and federal funding. Project funding awarded to date from First 5 California includes:

Phase I – Planning and Development July – December 2011	Phase II – Implementation July 2011 – June 2013
\$150,000 funding No match requirement.	\$300,000 annually for 2 years 3 (local): 1 (state) match. Match currently achieved through local Race to The Top funding.
Develop implementation process through a community planning process. Identify Professional Growth Advisors. Design website and training program. Develop project “Effectiveness and Access Plan”.	Train center based and family child care providers, depending on participant qualifications and program component. Tiered approach to participation focuses on providers serving high need children in low Academic Performing Index schools (Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana).

Commissioners

Executive Director

Status of CARES Plus Phase II Participation

Orange County CARES Plus has served 632 early educators to date. These educators work in family child care homes, faith-based centers, fee-based centers, and state or federally subsidized programs. In year one, all stipend participants worked in the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Anaheim; while in year two, eligibility was expanded to include Westminster, Orange, Fullerton, and Costa Mesa.

- All participants are required to complete the Core requirements in the first year of their participation. This includes 25 hours of on-line CLASS training, a local Help Me Grow/Developmental Screening training, and two meetings with a trained professional growth advisor.
- Component “A” consists of 21 hours of state-endorsed in-person trainings (California Preschool Instructional Network CPIN, West Ed Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers PITC, Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning CSEFEL, and the Desired Results Developmental Profile DRDP).
- Component “B” focuses on higher education towards a degree - Orange County does not participate in Component B.
- Component “C” trains participants that have a Bachelor’s degree to become professional growth advisors and to provide advising to CARES Plus participants.
- Component “D” is a “My Teaching Partner” CLASS training which consists of bi-monthly video coaching sessions with a CLASS coach.
- Community CARES is a non-stipend program made available to non-qualifying applicants throughout Orange County. These are participants that do not work in the seven eligible cities, are substitutes or “floaters”, students, or center directors. Community CARES offers many of the same free services such as training, advising and access to resources, but participants are not eligible for a stipend.

Component	FY 11/12 Participants	FY 12/13 Participants
Core Only	78	113
Core + A	53	62
Core + C	20	29 **
Core + D	62	33
Total Stipend*	213	209
Community CARES*	83	127
Year 1 Continuing	N/A	124

* Community CARES is the non-stipend program offered county-wide

**28 of the C participants are also enrolled in an additional component
Total 2 year stipend and non-stipend participants is 632

CARES Plus Request for Application (RFA) Round 2

This past month, First 5 California announced the availability of matching funds to extend the CARES Plus program for three additional years. The letter of intent to participate was due to First 5 California on March 26. A letter of intent was submitted for continued participation,

pending the Commission's authorization. Staff has reviewed the CARES Plus Request for Applications (RFA) and recommends continued participation based on several factors including:

- The strategy can be implemented consistent with the Bridgespan recommendation to shift more dollars to low API/early learning strategies. CARES Plus provides evidence based instructional tools and approaches without shifting funds in Commission's existing portfolio.
- CARES Plus provides a vehicle to engage the early care community (including family child care, faith based and for profit centers) in Commission priorities. This is the only Commission project to do this. The program platform has been used to assist Commission staff in 1) prioritizing the importance of early developmental screening and optimizing each child's healthy development and 2) linking early care providers to Help Me Grow and an array of community resources. A focus on STEM and additional Commission priorities could be incorporated into the trainings in the future. Attachment 1 provides a snapshot of the status of provider knowledge about community resources at the end of the first year of participation.
- The Orange County Department of Education has provided Race to the Top funds to meet the local 3:1 match requirement.
- It is anticipated that future state and federal funding will include CLASS scoring as a condition of funding and will assist Orange County preschools in being prepared for this transition.

During Phases I and II, CARES Plus has been implemented as a partnership that leverages expertise of what each partner entity does best. The Orange County Department of Education has a strong relationship with subsidized programs, Children's Home Society has effective interactions with family and faith based programs, and the Commission is a convener with an early learning focus and an array of supportive services.

Proposed Process for Implementing CARES Plus RFA 2

Should the Commission approve the recommended actions to participate in the CARES Plus program for three additional years, staff would:

- Develop a responsive application to submit to First 5 California by the May 10, 2013 submission date
- Amend the FY 2013/14 Adopted Budget to include the CARES Plus matching fund revenues and expenses
- Amend contracts with the Orange County Department of Education and Children's Home Society of California for extended CARES Plus scope, as indicated on Attachment 2.
- The balance of the First 5 CARES Plus funds would reimburse the costs for Commission evaluation and early learning consultants.

Recommended funding would support continued implementation of Phase II of the project for three additional years. Full utilization of First 5 California CARES Plus program funds is dependent upon achieving the required match through both Commission support and other community match commitments. If the match is not fully achieved, total project funding and estimated providers engaged would be reduced proportionately.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The recommended action presented in this staff report has been reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with applicable goals. Round 2 CARES Plus program funding would represent \$300,000 per year of program revenue for three years FY 2013 – 2016. If continued participation in the CARES Plus program is authorized by the Commission, program funding would be included in the FY 2013-14 amended budget within the Early Learning budget category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- March 2012 – Received CARES Plus program update.
- July 2011 – Authorized participation in CARES Plus matching fund program.
- January 2011 – Received Early Learning Portfolio update and requested authorization to submit a proposal to participate in the CARES Plus matching fund program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Receive CARES Plus Matching Fund Program update and authorize submission of a CARES Plus Program Round 2 application to First 5 California.
2. Adopt resolution (Attachment 3) authorizing the Executive Director, or designee, and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate amendments to agreements with designated organizations to provide CARES Plus services for the terms, in the amounts, and on the conditions as specified in Attachment 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Orange County CARES Plus Intake and Exit Survey Analysis
2. CARES Plus Program Amended Scope Term Sheet
3. Resolution to amend existing Agreements for CARES Plus Program services

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

Orange County CARES Plus Intake and Exit Survey Analysis

There were 162 CARES Plus providers who completed both an Intake and Exit interview during Year 1 implementation. Their data are presented in these charts.

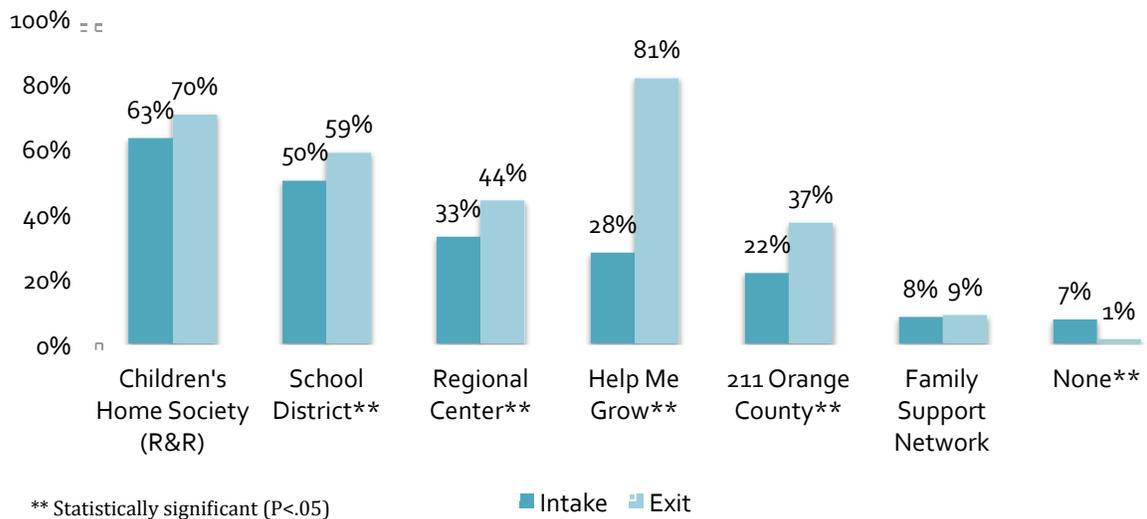
It should also be noted that CARES Plus providers in the FY 12/13 year have been completing the Year 2 Intake survey, part of which has them reflect further on their first year participation and implementation. Those results will be combined in future reports.

Preliminary data indicate that after participating in the CARES Plus program, participants:

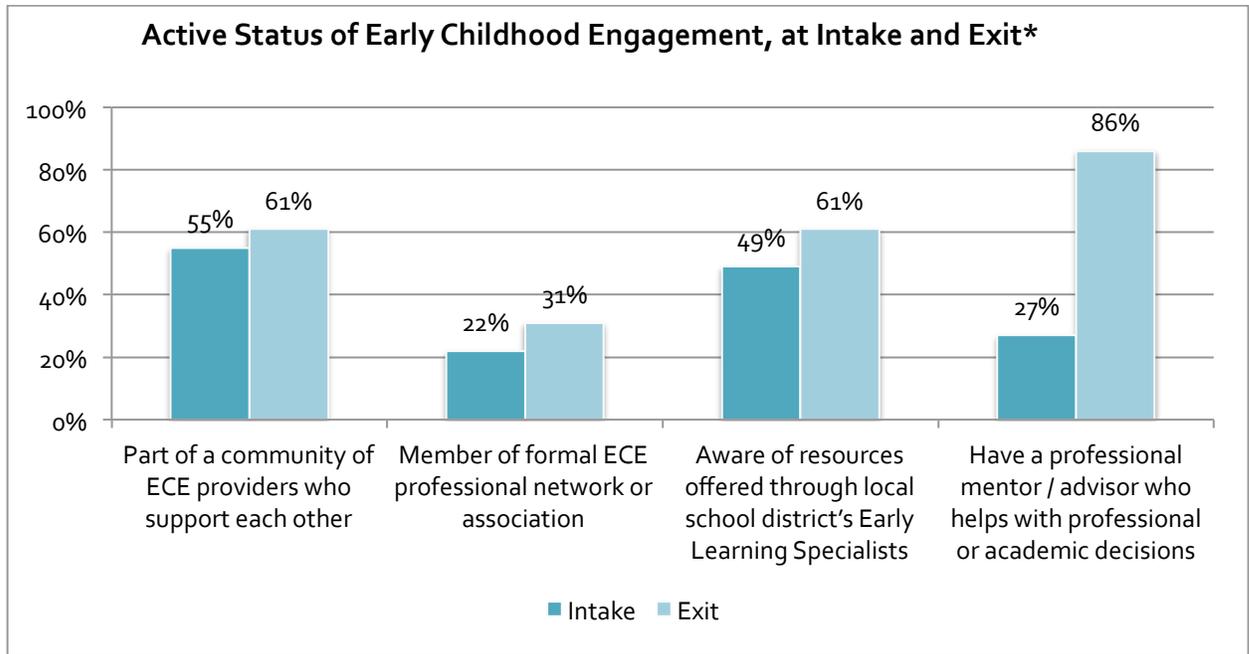
- Are more familiar with community resources
- Are more actively involved with the early childhood community
- Are more aware of and are using developmental screening tools including the ASQ, ASQ:SE, and PEDS

Overall, participants value the CARES Plus experience in that it improved the effectiveness of their teaching in the classroom. In addition, participants indicated that they would be more likely to enroll in college-level early childhood education classes because of the CARES Plus experience.

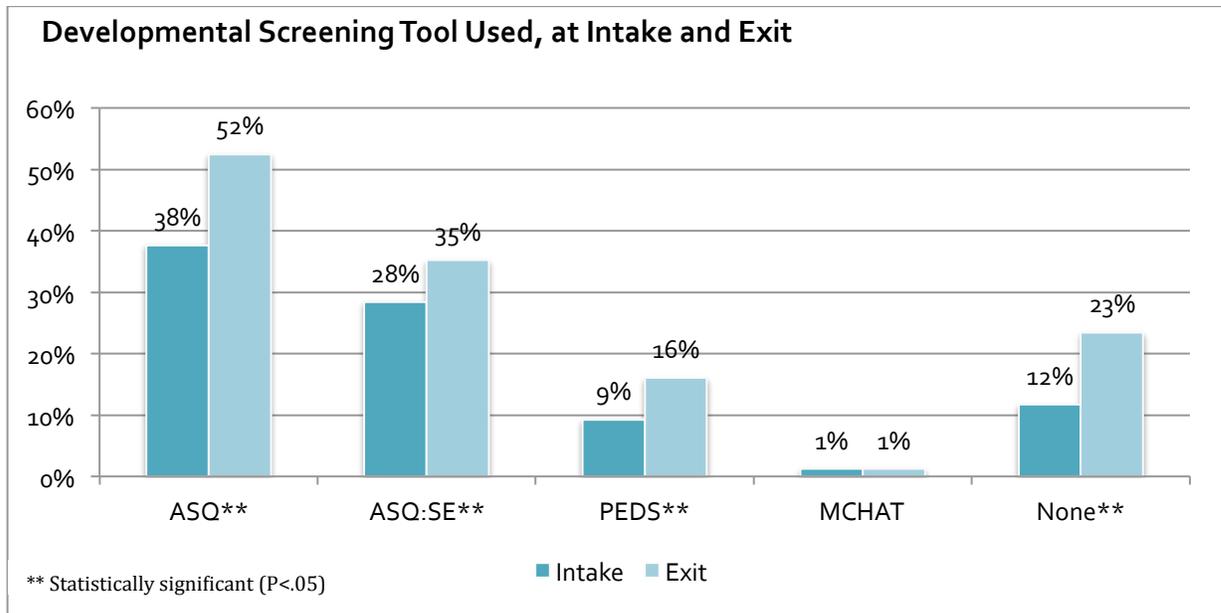
Familiarity with Community Resources, at Intake and Exit



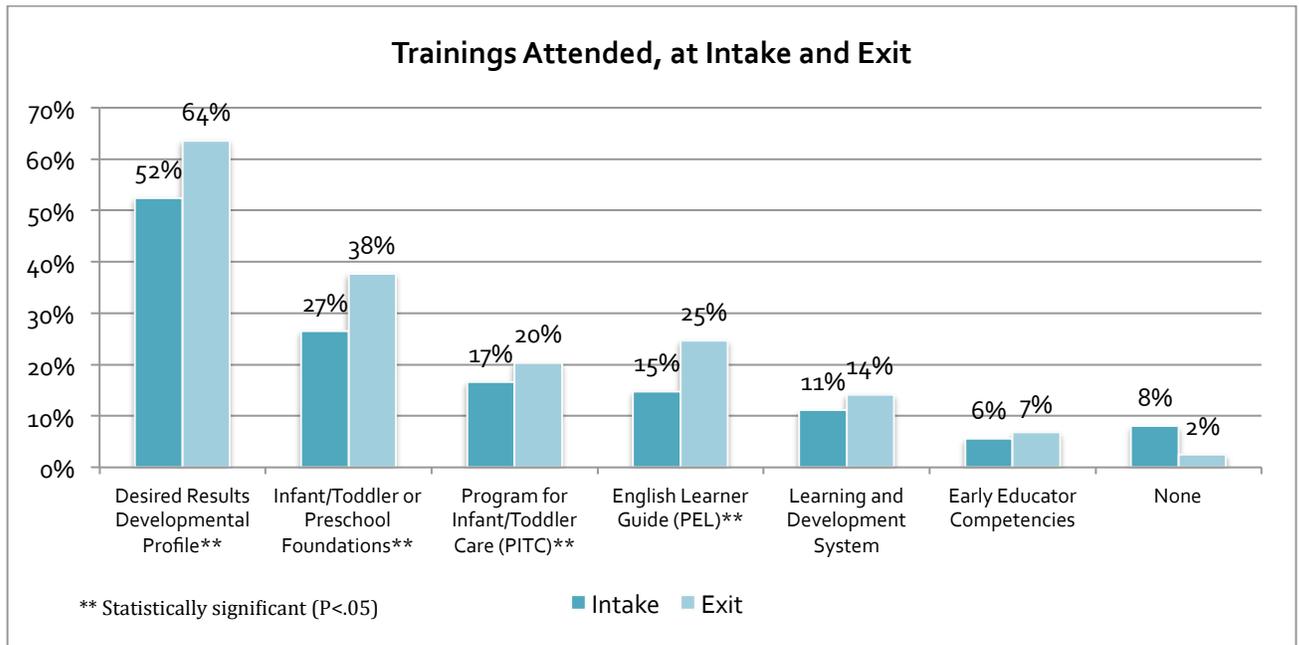
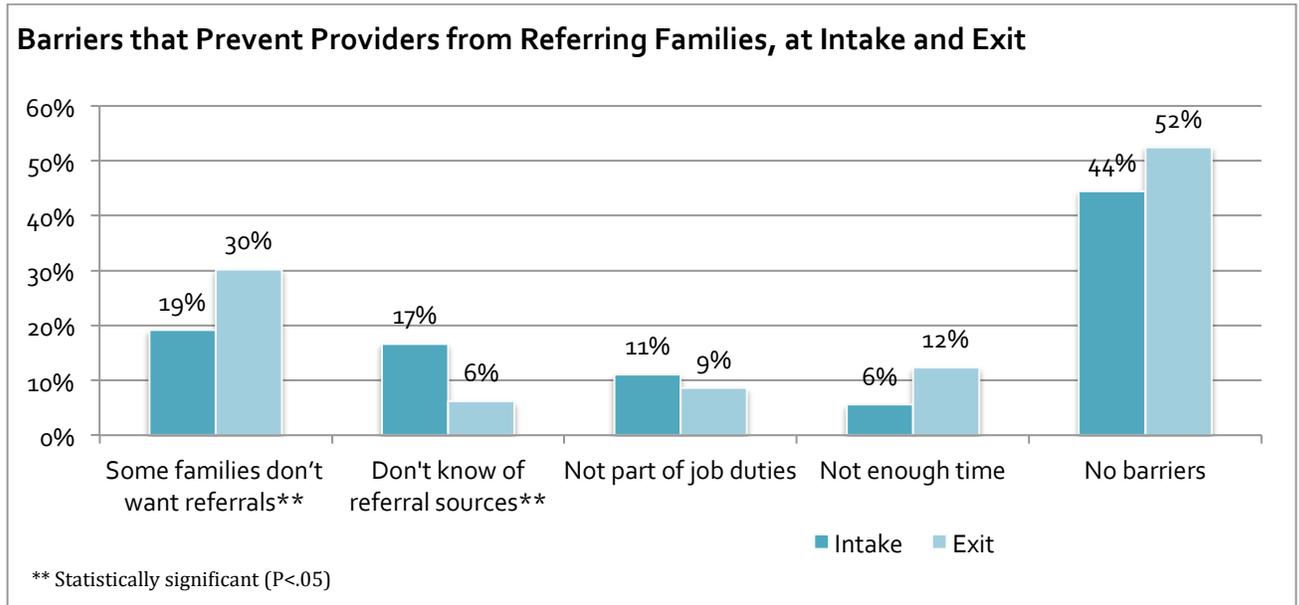
Orange County CARES Plus Intake and Exit Survey Analysis



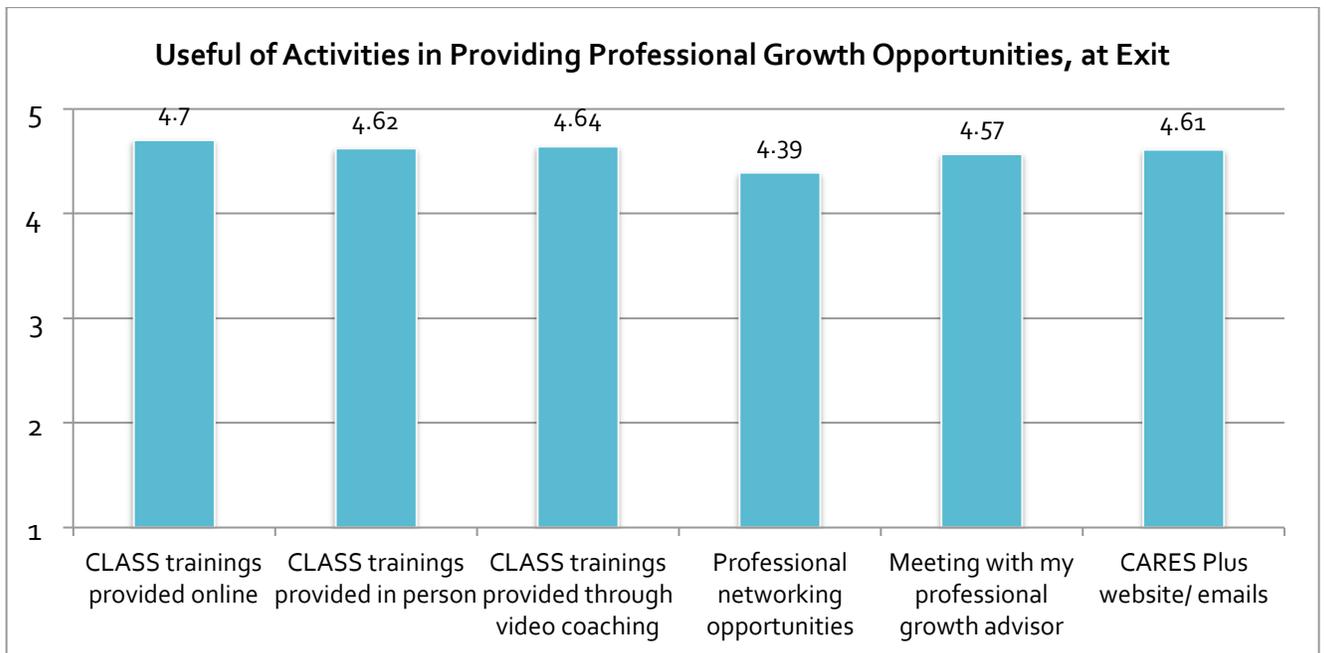
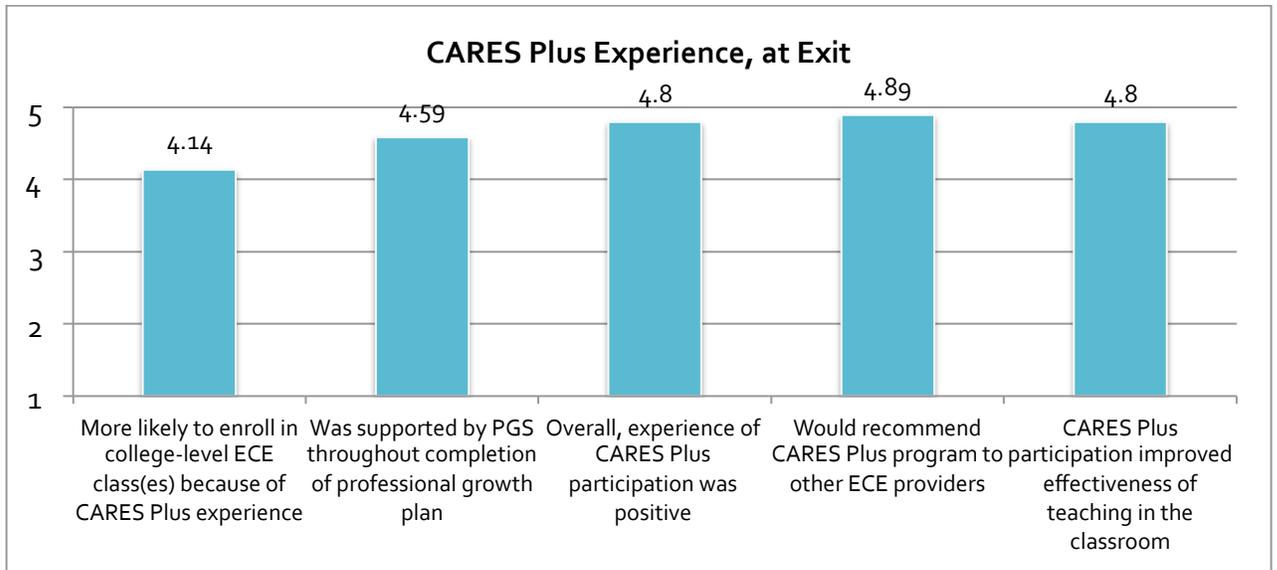
* These 4 questions had 5 response options each: Don't know; Yes, Active; Yes, Not active; No, but would like to be; and No, not interested. Only "Yes, Active" was included in the above chart and the Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test was not applied to these questions.



Orange County CARES Plus Intake and Exit Survey Analysis



Orange County CARES Plus Intake and Exit Survey Analysis



**CARES Plus Program – Round 2
Amended Scope Term Sheet: FY 2013/14 – 2015/16**

Agreement Number	Organization	CARES Plus Scope	Additional Annual Funding FY 2013/14 – FY 2015/16	Round 2 Total Funding FY 2013/14 – FY 2015/16
FCI-SD-26	Orange County Superintendent of Schools	<p>Phase 2 - Program Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and maintain CARES Plus website • Leverage expertise through the California Preschool Instructional Network, SEED: Services for Early Education and Development • Provide access to training resources that may include PITC: Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers and Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFL) • Ensure consistency with AB 212 program administration and collaboration with the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council 	\$38,000	\$114,000
FCI-EL-02	Children’s Home Society of California	<p>Phase 2 - Program Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer payment of provider stipends (annual funding includes stipend funds) • Outreach to providers • Convene provider trainings 	\$215,000	\$645,000
C-250	Limor Zimskind <i>Limor Consulting, Inc</i>	Implement evaluation requirements of CARES Plus program.	\$10,000	\$30,000
C-291	Jennifer Burrell <i>Knowledge, Ideas, Dedications & Solutions, Inc.</i>	<p>Implement the CARES Plus “Effectiveness and Access Plan” including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program management • Service planning • Coordination and collaboration • Other needed technical assistance 	\$37,000	\$111,000
		TOTAL First 5 CA Project Funding	\$300,000	\$900,000

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-13-C&FC

April 3, 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS WITH DESIGNATED ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE CARES PLUS PROGRAM SERVICES; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the “Act”) implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County (“Commission”); and

WHEREAS, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County’s children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director and Commission Counsel have prepared a standard Master Agreement for Services (“Master Agreement”), which was approved by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to enter Amendments to Agreements with each of the Organizations identified in the staff report for the April 3, 2013 Commission meeting to provide CARES Plus Program services for the terms, in the amounts, and on the conditions as described in Attachment 2 therein; and

WHEREAS, each organization desires to enter into the applicable Amendments to Agreements in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan on the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable Agreements; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the staff report for the April 3, 2013 Commission meeting relating to the scopes of services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendments to Agreements are in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Commission Chair and Commission Clerk to execute the Amendments to Agreements with each of the organizations for the terms, in the amounts, and on the conditions as specified in Attachment 2 to the April 3, 2013 staff report for this Agenda Item; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2 Commission authorizes the Executive Director, or designee, and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate Amendments to Agreements with each of the organizations as described in Attachment 2 to the April 3, 2013 staff report for this Agenda Item to provide CARES Plus Program services for the terms, in the amounts, and on the conditions consistent with the April 3, 2013 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The form of any Amendments to Agreements with the organizations, for the terms and in the amounts specified in Attachment 2 to the April 3, 2013 staff report for this Agenda Item shall be substantially similar to the form of the standard Master Agreement, subject to minor, non-substantive revisions as reviewed and approved by the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel. The approval by the Executive Director or designee of the Amendments to Agreements shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such Amendments by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves the Amendments to Agreements with each of the organizations as described in Attachment 2 to the April 3, 2013 staff report for this Agenda Item to provide CARES Plus Program services for the terms, in the amounts, and on the conditions as specified in the April 3, 2013 staff report for this Agenda Item.

Section 5 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest the Amendments to Agreements on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of each final Amendment to Agreement when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. Each final executed Agreement shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 7 In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director, or designee, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Agreement(s), (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement(s), and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement(s) in the furtherance thereof.

Section 8 The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County on April 3, 2013 to wit:

AYES Commissioners: _____

NOES: Commissioner(s): _____

EXCUSED: Commissioner(s): _____

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s) _____

CHAIR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, SUSAN NOVAK, Clerk of the Commission of Orange County, California, hereby certify that a copy of this document has been delivered to the Chair of the Commission and that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and seal.

SUSAN NOVAK
Clerk of the Commission, Children and Families Commission of
Orange County, County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: __-13-C&FC

Agenda Date: April 3, 2013

Item No. __



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the

SUSAN NOVAK, Clerk of the Commission

By: _____
Deputy

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION

(Attach copy(ies) of final executed Amendments to Agreements)