



**Agenda Item 6
May 6, 2015**

DATE: April 26, 2015

TO: Members, Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: First 5 California Early Learning Programs

ACTION: Receive update on the Child Signature Program Transition Action Plan and approve process to apply for the First 5 IMPACT (California Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) program.

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County receives funding from First 5 California to implement the Child Signature Program (CSP) that will end on June 30, 2015. First 5 California approved First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive), a new five-year program to enhance a quality improvement system for early education. This agenda item is an update on the one-year extension of the CSP program and requests approval for the Commission to apply for funding under the First 5 IMPACT program.

DISCUSSION:

First 5 California's funding for the three-year Child Signature Program (CSP) will end on June 30, 2015 to be replaced by a new program, First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive). The Commission approved a one-year extension to transition from the CSP program to First 5 IMPACT on April 1, 2015. First 5 California approved \$190 million to fund the new First 5 IMPACT program on April 23, 2015. However, the program requirements as approved by First 5 California limit the implementation of a countywide quality improvement system. Further review of the First 5 IMPACT program and the expected impact in Orange County is recommended.

First 5 California Child Signature Program Action Plan

The Orange County Commission received a three-year funding award from First 5 California to implement the Child Signature Program effective July 1, 2012. The purpose of CSP is to increase the quality of early learning programs and improve children's healthy development and readiness for life success. The Commission, in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has implemented the CSP program in Orange County and currently provides high-quality early learning programs that promote children's healthy development and school readiness at 29 sites and 33 classrooms in high need areas. A summary of the services funded through the Child Signature Program is included as Attachment 1.

An action plan for a one-year extension of First 5 California's Child Signature Program (CSP) at 50 percent, or \$2,173,000, of the current annual allocation was submitted by May 4, 2015. The funding will support the transition process to move from direct services into a systems-level model that

aligns with the local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) implements the QRIS in Orange County with funding from the federal Race to the Top-Early Challenge grant. The Race to the Top grant funds will end on June 30, 2016.

The Action Plan was developed with the partners that are currently implementing the Child Signature Program to address the 50 percent reduction. The Action Plan for FY 2015/16 will transition direct services to other funding sources, reduce or eliminate positions that currently provide direct services, transition eligible costs to QRIS Block Grant funding, and move from a classroom based-model to a site-based model. The Action Plan funding is not contingent on receiving the new First 5 IMPACT funding.

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is the local leader for quality improvement for early education. With funding from the federal Race to The Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, OCDE implements the local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). A consortium of county representatives designed a five-star system to rate the quality of early care education programs, which are consistent with other rating systems throughout the state. The OCDE plans to continue implementing the QRIS at state preschool sites with State Child Care and Development Block Grant Funding Act of 2014. The OCDE will also pursue private funding and grant opportunities to continue implementation for non-state preschool programs that serve children and families with high needs. A long-term sustainability plan for the ongoing costs of evaluating and rating programs and providing technical assistance to providers to improve their QRIS rating needs has not yet been developed.

First 5 IMPACT

First 5 IMPACT is a five-year \$190 million investment to improve early learning systems in California funded by First 5 California. The initiative is intended to promote and support a comprehensive and coordinated early learning and development system for young children and families throughout the state. First 5 IMPACT is focused on promoting strong family engagement, developing a strong early learning and care work force, and leveraging existing local, state, federal, First 5 and county funding. A key component of the First 5 IMPACT program is to increase the quality of existing licensed and legally licensed-exempt early learning and care centers and homes. It is designed to support professional learning with a focus on continuous teaching improvement. It also encompasses child health and family support and strengthening components.

The First 5 California Child Signature Program currently funds 33 classrooms at 29 sites. The First 5 IMPACT program transitions the focus from direct services to improving quality systems and expands the focus from preschool classrooms to licensed, and legally licensed-exempt early learning sites. It is estimated that funding for Orange County could be \$800,000 to \$1 million annually; although final funding estimates are still being developed by First 5 California. Commission staff is working with First 5 California, in partnership with southern California executive directors, to adapt the program framework to a model that is workable within the largest counties, and reach the highest number of children and families in Orange County.

The Commission's Executive Director has expressed concern that the proposed structure which requires the funding investments be linked to specific early learning sites may limit the reach and impact of the program. Alternatively, Orange County has requested the flexibility to make system or

cross-cutting investments that will support early learning sites throughout the County, such as expansion of developmental screening and referral services through Help Me Grow.

First 5 California expects to begin funding by July 1, 2015. Commission staff will be outreaching to First 5 California to request more time to develop alternative options to address the targeted outcomes. Staff will report back at the July meeting on the status of the work and collaborative planning with First 5 California. In the interim, staff requests authority to submit a Letter of Intent and application, as required, to First 5 California for funding from the First 5 IMPACT program.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

This item and the recommended action presented in this agenda item have been reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and are consistent with the Early Learning goal. There is no funding requested for this item.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- April 2015 – Approved the submittal of the Child Signature Program (CSP) Extension to First 5 California
- May 2014 – Received First 5 California Matching Fund Program updates and approved proposed program and budget modifications to the CSP3 program
- September 2013 – First 5 California Child Signature Program Update and approval of revised contract amounts
- July 2013 – Approved agreements for Child Signature Program RFA 3
- May 2013 - Authorized submitting an application for participation in the First 5 California Child Signature Program RFA 3, consistent with the terms outlined in the staff report
- May 2012 – Authorized funding application and contracts to implement Child Signature Program 2

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Receive the update on the Child Signature Program action plan development and extension and report of services funded under the program.
2. Approve process to apply for the First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) and develop the grant application in cooperation with the Orange County Department of Education. Direct staff to report back at the July meeting on the final status of the grant application.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Child Signature Program Services Summary

Contact: Kelly Pijl

Child Signature Program Services Summary

1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Child Signature Program (CSP) is to increase the quality of early learning programs across the state and improve children's healthy development and readiness for life success. The Program focuses on three core program elements: instructional strategies and teacher-child interactions; social-emotional development; and parent involvement and support. The CSP serves young children at the greatest risk of school failure by supporting high-quality early learning programs that promote children's healthy development and school readiness. The CSP program aligns with the California Department of Education Infant/Toddler and Preschool Foundations and Frameworks, and link to implementation of California's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant administered by the Orange County Department of Education.

2 CSP FUNDING

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Year 1 (2012/13) | \$105,000 |
| Year 2 (2013/14) | \$4,416,000 |
| Year 3 (2014/15) | \$4,416,000 |
| Total Funding | \$8,937,000 |

3 CSP PARTNERS

| Funded Program Partners: | Participating Providers: | Match Partner Programs: | Consultants: |
|---|---|--|--|
| CHOC/UCI: Help Me Grow and Child Behavior Pathways (\$2,441,670) Orange County Department of Education (\$966,844) | Anaheim City (\$534,486) Capistrano (\$22,000) Fullerton (\$22,000) Irvine (\$11,000) Ocean View (\$22,000) Magnolia (\$33,000) Newport-Mesa (\$11,000) Orange (\$11,000) Santa Ana (\$44,000) Tustin (\$44,000) Fullerton Joint (\$33,000) Rancho Santiago Community College (\$27,500) Orange County Head Start (\$16,500) Hands Together (\$11,000) | School Readiness Nurses Early Learning Specialists Learning Links Center For Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders MOMS OC Early Development Index OCDE: Race to the Top | Jennifer Burrell (\$100,000) Arlene Turner (\$55,000) Limor Zimskind/Evaluation (\$10,000) |

4 CSP DEMOGRAPHICS

For the past two years, CSP has served children in nine cities (Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Ladera Ranch, Mission Viejo, Orange, Santa Ana, and Tustin) and encompassed twelve districts (Anaheim City, Hands Together, Newport-Mesa, Fullerton Joint, Magnolia, Ocean View, Capistrano, Orange, Orange County Head Start, Rancho Santiago, Santa Ana, and Tustin) across Orange County. Many of these areas lead the county not only in percentage of students qualifying for free-reduced lunch, data in Orange County Conditions of Children Report show that children who live in these cities and served by these districts lack access to healthcare, have high obesity rates, exhibit behavioral health issues, have poor housing, and are at risk for child abuse entering into the welfare system. Because of these vulnerabilities, CSP administrators, family support specialists and mental health specialists along with community partners work closely with families to provide a comprehensive early education experience. Additionally, early education specialists work directly with teachers to implement high quality teacher in order to optimally support school readiness for the kids and their families.

Number of CSP Enrolled Children Served:

- 2013-14: 661
- 2014-15: 704
- Total: 1,365
- 87% Hispanic/Latino
- 72% Speak a language other than English at home (Dual Language Learners)
- All qualify for subsidized services through State Preschool or Head Start (low income)

5 CSP SERVICES PROVIDED

| Help Me Grow | |
|---|---|
| FY 2013-14 | FY 14-15 (to date) |
| 415 CSP children referred - Total referrals 1,636 | 390 CSP children referred - Total referrals 1,621 |
| 96 CSP siblings referred - Total referrals for CSP siblings 222 | 98 CSP siblings - Total referrals for CSP siblings 210 |
| Average Home Visits - 1.1 | Average Home Visits - 1.07 (some are still pending for this year) |
| Top concerns for referral: | Top concerns for referral: |
| 1-Family Issues | 1-Family Issues |
| 2-General Development | 2-Parental Support (this covers the COPE classes) |
| 3-Behavioral Concerns | 3-Basic Needs |

| Child Behavior Pathways: | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----------------|
| FY 2013-14 | | FY 14-15 (to date) | |
| Observation count | 66 | Observation count | 114 |
| Total number classroom visits | 305 | Total number classroom visits | 393 |
| Overall classroom visit average | 9 | Overall classroom visit average | 12 |
| Number of Parents in COPE groups | 198 | Number of Parents in COPE groups | 240 |
| Number of Parent COPE sessions | 88 | Number of Parent COPE sessions | 63 |
| Number of Parent COPE groups | 10 | Number of Parent COPE groups | 7 |
| Number of individual parent consultations | 166 | Number of individual parents consultations | 58 |
| Number of children in COPE Social Skills groups | 130 | Number of children in COPE Social Skills groups | 126 |
| Number of COPE Social Skills group sessions | 104 | Number of COPE Social Skills group sessions | 63 |
| Number of COPE Social Skills groups | 8 | Number of COPE Social Skills groups | 7 |
| Number of providers trained | 278 | Number of children in School Based Social Skills groups | 49* |
| Number of provider trainings | 29 | Number of School Based Social Skills sessions | 8 |
| | | Number of School Based Social Skills groups | 4 |
| | | Number of providers trained | 160 |
| | | Number of provider trainings | 9 |
| Nutrition and Physical Activity: | | | |
| FY 2013-14 | | FY 14-15 (to date) | |
| Individual nutrition consultations: | 2 | Individual nutrition consultations: | 60 |
| Parent education classes: | 6 | Parent education classes: | 30 |
| CSP Essential staff trainings: | 5 | Parent physical activity series: | 1 (6 classes) |
| All preschool staff trainings: | 3 | CSP Essential staff trainings: | 7 |
| Teacher coaching: | 7 | All preschool staff trainings: | 4 |
| Nutrition ed in classroom: | 1 | Teacher coaching: | 0 |
| PA ed in classroom/ playground: | 6 | Nutrition ed in classroom: | 25 |
| Family Fun Days: | 15 | PA ed in classroom/playground: | 34 |
| Environmental survey: | 35 | Family Fun Days: | 13 (10 pending) |
| | | Environmental survey: | 0 |
| | | Stenciled playgrounds: | 3 (2 pending) |

Orange County Department of Education:

CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) conducted on all 33 classrooms

ERS (Environmental Rating System) on all 33 classrooms

Monthly observation and coaching to each of the 33 classrooms

Over 200 centrally located trainings offered (large group) annually

20 On-Site, all-staff trainings annually