



**Agenda Item No. 6
September 7, 2011 Meeting**

DATE: August 18, 2011

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Implementing Actions for CARES Plus Matching Fund Program

SUMMARY:

The Commission’s Early Learning Portfolio Implementation Plan provides a strategy for measurably reducing the educational achievement gap that exists in young children by the age of five in Orange County. 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 is to access matching funds available through the First 5 California Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus Program. Early this year, matching funds were awarded by the State Commission and at the July 2011 meeting, the Commission authorized participation in the CARES Plus program. Today’s agenda provides recommendations for implementing contract actions for the program.

Background

The CARES Plus Program would assist the school districts to participate in this quality improvement program, leverage other funding sources to improve 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.

Funding available from First 5 California includes:

Phase I – Planning and Development	Phase II - Implementation
\$150,000 funding No match requirement.	\$300,000 annually for 2 years 3 (local): 1 (state) match. Current investments in early learning programs count towards the match.
Develop implementation process through a community planning process. Identify Professional Growth Advisors. Design website and training program. Develop evaluation design. Develop Effectiveness and Access Plan for submission to First 5 California.	Annually, train an estimated 220 center based providers and 50 family child care providers, depending on participant qualifications and program component. Tiered approach to participation includes providers serving high need children in low Academic Performing Index schools (Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana).

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.

The Orange County Proposal for CARES Plus included two agencies, the Orange County Department of Education and Children's Home Society of California, with the capacity to carry out the CARES Plus scope of work consistent with their existing contract responsibilities. Commission staff recommends amending the current contracts for the addition of the CARES Plus scope, as indicated on Attachment 1. The balance of the First 5 funds will reimburse the costs for commission evaluation and early learning consultants. Recommended funding would support implementation of Phase I of the project along with the first year of Phase II. Staff would return to the Commission in early 2012 for an update and recommendations for renewal for the second year of program implementation.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The fiscal reports and recommended actions presented in this staff report have been reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and are consistent with applicable goals. This funding request is for \$339,300 for the term. Funding for this item will be included in the FY 2011/12 Amended Budget within the Early Learning category consistent with the Commission's July 6, 2011 authorization of participation in the CARES Plus Matching fund program.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- July 2011 – Authorized participation in CARES Plus Matching Fund Program
- January 2011 – Received Early Learning Portfolio Update and approved submission of application to First 5 California to participate in the CARES Plus program
- July 2010 – Adopted Early Learning Portfolio Implementation Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt resolution (Attachment 2) authorizing the Executive Director or designee 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 1.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CARES Plus Program Amended Scope Term Sheet
2. Resolution to amend existing Agreements for CARES Plus Program services

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-11-C&FC

September 7, 2011

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS TO CURRENT AGREEMENTS AT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SOLE DISCRETION, WITH DESIGNATED ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE CARES PLUS PROGRAM SERVICES; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AGREEMENTS AND/OR 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 New Agreements, or Amendments to Current Agreements at the Executive Director's sole discretion, with each of the Organizations, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor" in each of the Agreements or Amendments to Agreements identified in the staff report for the September 7, 2011 Commission meeting to provide CARES Plus Program Services for the terms and in the amounts and on the conditions as described in Attachment 1 herein; and

WHEREAS, each Contractor desires to enter into the applicable Agreements, or 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 September 7, 2011 Commission meeting relating to the scopes of services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Agreements, or 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 Agreements, or Amendments to Agreements with each of the Contractors, for the

terms and in the amounts and on the conditions as specified in Attachment 1 to the September 7, 2011 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 Agreements, or Amendments to Agreements, with each of the Contractors as described in Attachment 1 to the September 7, 2011 staff report for this Agenda Item to provide CARES Plus Program Services for the terms and in the amounts and on the conditions, consistent with the September 7, 2011 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The form of any New Agreements with the Contractors, for the terms and in the amounts specified in Attachment 1 to the September 7, 2011 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 New Agreements, and/or Amendments to Existing Agreements shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such Agreements by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves the New Agreements, or Amendments to Existing Agreements at the Executive Director's sole discretion, with each of the Contractors as described in Attachment 1 to the September 7, 2011 staff report for this Agenda Item to provide CARES Plus Program Services for the terms and in the amounts and on the conditions as specified in the September 7, 2011 staff report for this Agenda Item.

Section 5 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the New Agreements and/or Amendments to Current Agreements on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of each final New Agreement and/or Amendment to Existing 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 September 7, 2011 to wit:

AYES Commissioners: _____

NOES: Commissioner(s): _____

EXCUSED: Commissioner(s): _____

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s) _____

CHAIR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, DARLENE J. BLOOM, 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.

DARLENE J. BLOOM
Clerk of the Commission, Children and Families Commission of
Orange County, County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: __-11-C&FC

Agenda Date: September 7, 2011

Item No. __



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

DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission

By: _____
Deputy

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION

(Attach copy(ies) of final executed New Agreements and/or Amendments to Existing Agreements)