



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

Agenda Item No. 6
October 3, 2007 Meeting

DATE: September 25, 2007
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director *Michael M. Ruane*
SUBJECT: First 5 California School Readiness Program Cycle 1 Carryover Funds

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County participates in the First 5 California School Readiness Program. The State Commission program provides matching funds for enhanced school readiness programs in districts with under-performing schools. In Orange County 13 districts have schools which qualify for the matching funds.

The purpose of this item is to:

1. Request authorization to apply for carryover funds that are available from the prior funding cycle to county commissions participating in the State School Readiness program.
2. Utilize increased funding for the school nurse services at the participating schools as part of the local match.

Carryover Funds Proposal

In July 2007, the First 5 California Commission invited qualifying commissions an opportunity to access carryover funds available from unspent balances from the Cycle 1 School Readiness Program. Commission approval is requested to submit a proposal to First 5 California for \$1.2 million to use the one-time carryover funds to support expanding early literacy and school nurse programs in eligible school districts over the next three fiscal years. The carryover funds will be available for school districts participating in the School Readiness Cycle 2 programs through June 30, 2010 and requires a dollar for dollar new cash match. Commission authorization is requested to provide up to \$400,000 annually for three years for a total amount of \$1.2 million as the local commission match.

Recommended Funding Allocations

Since the Cycle 1 Carryover Funds will not be available on a recurring basis after 2010, it is important to identify potential expenditures that do not require ongoing commitment of staffing support, or are expenditures that may need to be made even if the carryover funds were not available. In the case of early literacy programs, most of the expenditures beyond start-up and training costs are for books, and while important, are not an ongoing financial obligation. In fact, they are often prime candidates for corporate and service organization donations once a program is established. The need for expanded school nursing services at the eligible school districts was the subject of a prior Commission directive; therefore any investment made can be leveraged as part of the local match requirements.

Expanded Early Literacy Programs

The 13 school districts currently participating in the Cycle 2 School Readiness Programs are eligible to receive carryover funds to expand early literacy and school nurse programs. The following early literacy programs were evaluated and recommended by an early literacy committee of school readiness coordinators. However, the expansion of early literacy can also include other early literacy programs approved by the Commission.

- *Parents and Children Together (PACT)* – The PACT program has an early literacy component in which families read together for a minimum of fifteen minutes each day typically prior to the start of the school day. Enhancements to this cost effective program would be the purchase of books.
- *Home-based Literacy Programs* – Designed to create a connection between home and school, literacy events are a popular and cost effective program that takes school readiness skill development into the home. Literacy events have a parent open their home to 10-15 other parents and children in the neighborhood. A trained leader brings a basket of educational materials and provides home-based education techniques to the parents on early literacy and parent education. The program cost is approximately \$150 for a basket of materials.
- *Family Literacy Programs* – This program introduces parents to concept of language and child development. It also supports the notion that parents are their child's first teacher. Program costs are approximately \$2,000 per 20 families and includes teacher training, parent materials and lending library books.

School Nurse Expansion at California School Readiness Sites

In Orange County, school nurses continue to have a vital role in supporting student learning. In addition to funding district-wide school nurse positions at each Orange County school district, additional school nurses are also included as part of Orange County's 13 First 5 California School Readiness programs. Recently, nine of the First 5 School Readiness projects were awarded AB 172 funds to expand preschool and family literacy opportunities in areas with low performing schools (Attachment 1).

In response to this recent award, the Commission directed staff to review the impact of the additional preschool enrollment as a result of AB 172 on health services and the school nurse initiative. Based upon the review of the ratios of budgeted school nurse positions to AB 172 enrollment slots, staff recommends that affected school districts be able to adjust staffing to maintain service levels. Any increased funding for school nurses at these sites will provide the Commission with the opportunity to use this additional investment as local match dollars to leverage available state dollars, even for the early literacy programs. A separate item on the funding levels for the countywide school nurse program will be included on the November 2007 Commission agenda.

**Early Literacy and School Nurse Expansion Budget Funding Model
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010**

Program	Cycle 1 Carryover Funds	Local Commission Match Funds	Annual Cost	3-Year Total Cost
School Nurse Expansion	0	\$200,000*	\$200,000*	\$600,000
Early Literacy Expansion	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$1,800,000
Total Cost	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$2,400,000

**The \$200,000 is a not to exceed amount. Any remaining funds would be allocated to early literacy programs.*

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The program has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is consistent with the Ready to Learn goal. This funding request is for the amount of \$1,200,000 from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010. The first year funding of \$400,000 for this item is included in the FY2007-2008 within the State/Local Partnership School Readiness Match budget category. Receipt of the additional state funds would be included in a mid-year budget adjustment for the FY 2007/08 Budget.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

1. The Commission approved four-year contracts with 13 eligible school districts for the Cycle 2 State School Readiness program on May 3, 2006 for the term of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2010.
2. On June 27, 2007 the Commission amended the School Nurse Initiative contracts with participating school districts and directed staff to review the impact of the additional preschool enrollment as a result of AB 172 on school nurse and health services.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit a proposal to First 5 California requesting up to \$1,200,000 carryover funds to expand early literacy and school nurse programs in eligible school districts.
2. Approve the annual allocation of up to \$400,000 from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010 for a total amount of \$1,200,000 for the Commission's State/Local Partnership School Readiness Match budget to satisfy the required cash match for the Carryover Funds as required by First 5 California.
3. Direct staff to return to the Commission with amendments to the 13 school district contracts to include additional First 5 California School Readiness Program Carryover Funding and matching Commission funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. First 5 California School Readiness Program Participating Schools

Contacts: Kelly Pijl & Alyce Mastrianni

**First 5 California School Readiness Program
Participating Schools**

District	Cycle 1 and 2	New Cycle 2	New AB 172 Preschool Slots
Anaheim City School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key • Olive (Formerly Jefferson) • Henry • Revere • Palm Lane • Franklin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinn 	310
Capistrano Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Palmas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Juan 	
Centralia School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danbrook 		
Fullerton School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richman • Maple • Commonwealth • Valencia Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodcrest 	192
Garden Grove Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinton-Mendenhall • Skylark • Eisenhower • Riverside 		288
Magnolia School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Schweitzer • Robert Pyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonas Salk • Juliette Low 	120
Newport-Mesa Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Park • Pomona • Whittier • Wilson • College Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonora 	192
Ocean View School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak View 		48
Orange Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esplanade • Fairhaven • Jordan • West Orange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handy • Sycamore 	48
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rio Vista • Ruby Drive • Topaz • Tynes • Melrose 		
Santa Ana Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis • King • Lincoln • Lowell • Pio Pico • Kennedy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington • Garfield 	192
Tustin Unified School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beswick • Heideman • Lambert • Thorman 		144
Westminster School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finley • Willmore 		