



Agenda Item 7
September 7, 2016

DATE: August 26, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Kimberly Goll, Executive Director 

ACTION: Authorize expenditures for the Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC) convening

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County received a \$60,000 grant by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) for the Early Childhood Learning and Innovative Network for Communities (EC-LINC) Research to Action project. The project will document the lessons learned and recommendations of communities experienced in developing and tracking outcomes and metrics related to early childhood systems. The grant requires that the Commission host a convening for all participating EC-LINC communities. This agenda item requests approval to use the grant funding for all costs related to hosting the event.

DISCUSSION:

The Commission is a grant recipient and project lead for a \$60,000 EC-LINC Measuring Impact of the Early Childhood System grant. The participating communities including Denver's Early Childhood Council, First 5 Alameda, First 5 Ventura, Office for Community Child Health, Connecticut's Children in Hartford and Thrive in 5 Boston. All of these communities have been recognized for their investment, evaluation efforts and leadership on improving the systems of care for young children. The grant is focused on the development of a common measurement framework for evaluating child outcomes including systems and program level metrics.

In May 2016, the Commission accepted the grant and approved a contract with Parsons Consulting to facilitate working group sessions and develop recommendations for replication and implications for broader system change engagement. The grant requires the Commission to host a minimum of one in person convening and allows for up to \$10,000 of the grant funding to be used to cover the associated costs for all seven participating jurisdictions.

Existing Commission procedures to secure air travel and lodging for participants will be used. But existing Commission policies and procedures do not allow for the reimbursement of non-Commission staff for local ground travel or meals. This agenda item requests authority to reimburse individuals participating in the convening that are not commission employees. Commission approval for these reimbursements will be within the total budget of \$10,000 allocated in the grant and will be consistent with established county and/or federal meal per diems.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

This agenda item has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Capacity Building goal area. The total request is for \$10,000 and is funded through a grant from the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize Executive Director to approve travel expenditures and related reimbursements costs for participants attending the Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network Communities convening, not to exceed \$10,000.

Contact: Sharon Boles