



DATE: March 24, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Resource Network/Prevention and Early Intervention

ACTION: Receive status report on the Neighborhood Resource Network/Prevention and Early Intervention Program

SUMMARY:

During fiscal year 2015/16 the Children and Families Commission of Orange County approved \$525,000 of round two catalytic funding to support the evaluation and implementation of the Neighborhood Resource Network program, formerly known as the Prevention and Early Intervention Program. The program design included both a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) evaluation and a payment structure that heavily leveraged the Commission's learning's on *Pay for Success*. Grant support was pursued, and full funding was approved by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to provide technical assistance to forward the *Pay for Success* program model and implement the RCT evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Commission funding is intended to be one-time launch funding, and sustainability planning has been done in parallel with program planning and implementation. From the outset, Commission staff has explored opportunities to fund the evaluation and expand the implementation of the *Pay for Success* model within this program. In February, submitted two applications were submitted. The progress on each of these grant applications are detailed below.

- ***Pay for Success* Technical Assistance Grant**- An application to the Institute for Child Success was submitted for technical assistance to explore how a *Pay for Success* model could be integrated within this program. The Institute for Child Success is a recipient of a federal grant designed to expand the use of *Pay for Success* financing as a means of driving government resources toward evidence-based social programs that prove effective at achieving results for the people who need them most. The design of the Neighborhood Resource Network program includes success payments that will be made to community service providers for successful outcomes, such as engagement of families into services, retention of families through the completion of services, and achievement of the program goal. These metrics are indicators of progress toward the ultimate outcome of reducing substantiated reports of child abuse or maltreatment six months post service completion.

The potential technical assistance provided through this support would likely focus on identification of all potential end payors and the potential structure of a *Pay for Success* project. Commissioner and Social Services Agency Director Mike Ryan and Commission staff participated in a finalist interview on March 14, 2016. At the time of writing this item,

final determination had not been received. A verbal update will be provided to the Commission should more information be available at the April meeting.

- **Evaluation Plan Implementation** – The Commission successfully submitted a grant to the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to implement the planned Randomized Control Trial (RCT) evaluation. In partnership with Dr. Emily Putnam Hornstein and her team at the University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Children’s Data Network the Commission submitted a proposal to fully fund the RCT for the Neighborhood Resource Network program. The Arnold Foundation is particularly interested in investing in low-cost randomized controlled trials that build evidence around policy research, and that can help drive effective social spending through the randomized controlled trial.

Dr. Putnam Hornstein and her team will: 1) independently determine the extent to which community-based services measurably reduce rates of child maltreatment; and 2) measure the impact of specific elements of the intervention on referral rates, willingness of families to participate in services, and program completion rate. The Arnold Foundation will provide \$139,000 directly to the University of Southern California for the implementation of the four year RCT (four years will allow for the tracking of family outcomes for two years post intervention).

The Neighborhood Resource Network program launched on March 21, 2016 with community service providers receiving referrals of eligible families from the Orange County Social Service Agency starting the last week of March. Children’s Home Society, the program hub agency has ensured that all necessary agreements and training have been completed for all service providers.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed project has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission Strong Families goal area. Round 2 Catalytic Funding and unspent funding from fiscal year 2014/15 in the amount of \$500,000 has been allocated. An additional \$25,000 has been allocated to support the evaluation design from unspent funds in fiscal year 2014/15.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- October 2015 – Approved Funding for Program Implementation
- July 2015 – Approved evaluation design
- April 2015 – Program Update
- December 2014 – Approved release of the Request for Proposal
- October 2014 – Released contingency on Title 4E waiver and confirmation of prevention early intervention scope
- January 2013 – Programmatic update and funding set aside
- March 2012 – Funding Allocation as part of the Round 2 Catalytic Investment

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive status report on the Neighborhood Resource Network/Prevention and Early Intervention Program.

Contact: Kim Goll