

First 5 Commission of San Diego

March 5, 2012

Recommendation for Award: The First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative

Request

The request before the Commission is to consider approving the Source Selection Committee's (SSC) recommended award for The First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative project.

Background

The Commission approved a total of \$30 million to fund the Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project for six years (FY 2006-07 through FY 2011-12). The goal of PFA has been to provide high quality preschool services, completely tuition free regardless of family income, in eleven high need communities (Borrego Springs, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido, Lemon Grove, Mountain Empire, National City, San Ysidro, South Bay, Valley Center/Pauma and Vista).

In September 2011, the Commission was provided an overview of a summative study of the PFA Demonstration Project in which the accomplishments and challenges for the project were identified. In October 2011, the program design for the new First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (QPI) was finalized. The overall purpose of the QPI is to use a multi-tiered service delivery model to implement high quality preschool programs. The initiative will build upon the PFA project with an expansion into Central San Diego. The ultimate goal of the QPI is to reduce the school readiness gap in high-need communities and improve school achievement in San Diego County. The primary strategy to achieve this goal is to expand access to high quality preschool programs that promote school readiness. Key components of the program include:

- A "dosage" of preschool services sufficient to promote school readiness;
- Pre- and post-assessment of child outcomes;
- Developmental screening to ensure early detection and timely referrals to ensure early intervention;
- Preschool services provided in a fully inclusive setting;
- Support of *Live Well, San Diego!* by providing healthy, nutritious snacks and meals, and opportunities to embrace healthy behaviors for preschoolers and their families;
- Family engagement, parent education, and parent empowerment provided using culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies;
- Activities to promote successful kindergarten transition;
- Service delivery in a range of program settings to promote parental choice;
- An external review system to assess preschool program quality, augmented by basic health and safety checks;
- Use of research-based classroom curricula;
- Financial incentives, including a tiered system for provider reimbursements and teacher stipends, to motivate quality improvements; and
- Coaching, training and other professional development activities to help programs improve.

In October 2011, the Commission approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the QPI.

Solicitation Release and Proposal Review

Solicitation. On October 17, 2011, in coordination with the County Department of Purchasing and Contracting (P&C), the First 5 Commission of San Diego released an RFP that detailed the specific services to be provided. The proposals were due on or before December 1, 2011. The RFP provided the following evaluation criteria (in descending order of importance) in three main categories:

- Experience, Proposed Organization, and Management
- Project Description, Linkages, Implementation, Evaluation and Quality Assurance Plan
- Fiscal

Award Recommendation. After a thorough evaluation of the materials submitted and in consideration of the requirements of the RFP and the evaluation criteria, the SSC recommends the following organization for award (pending successful negotiations):

- San Diego County Superintendent of Schools (San County Office of Education [SDCOE])

SDCOE provided a proposal that builds upon the PFA project and includes: a comprehensive description of services to be provided; a thorough program evaluation and systems in place to collect and report data; and history of their knowledge and experience in providing project services. Additionally, the proposal provides how the QPI project will link, coordinate and collaborate with other key initiatives, systems, and programs in the county.

Commission History

- October 10, 2011 (Item 3): Commission authorized the release of a solicitation for The First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative for a total of up to \$47.1 million over three (3) years.
- May 9, 2011 (Item 1): Commission approved the reduced allocation of \$15.7 million per year for three years (FY 2012-13 through FY 2014-15), a total of 47.1 million for Quality Preschool.
- September 11, 2009 (Item 1): Commission approved a 5-Year Strategic Plan that supports Learning as a critical Strategic Goal Area and allocated up to \$50.5 million for three years (FY 2012-13 through FY 2014-15).

Link to the Strategic Plan

The following objectives from the Commission's 2010 - 2015 Strategic Plan will be directly addressed by the First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative:

- **Key Objective (3):** Decrease the percentage of children entering kindergarten with undetected and/or untreated developmental, social emotional or behavioral delays or problems.
- **Key Objective (4):** Increase the percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in quality early care and education (ECE) programs.
- **Key Objective (5):** Increase the number of households with children ages 0 through 5 that regularly engage in age-appropriate parent-child activities that promote early learning.
- **Key Objective (6):** Increase the use of positive parenting practices to promote the healthy social emotional development of children 0 through 5.

Link to *Live Well, San Diego!*

The First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative supports *Live Well, San Diego!* by providing a variety of opportunities to promote healthy behaviors for children and families in First 5 funded early childhood education (ECE) programs and by providing early identification of health related issues for preschool students which can then be addressed prior to entering kindergarten. Additionally, QPI supports efforts to promote healthy nutrition, physical exercise and safe environments for preschool children and their families.

Staff Recommendations

- 1) Find that the proposed First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative allocation is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit.
- 2) Receive and approve the recommendations from the Source Selection Committee for contract award to San Diego County Superintendent of Schools (San Diego County Office of Education [SDCOE]).
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute a contract with San Diego County Superintendent of Schools (SDCOE) for up to \$47.1 million project length budget for FY 2012-13 through FY 2014-15 for The First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative. Approval of this request will obligate funds for three (3) years.
- 4) Authorize two additional option periods (one-year each) for FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 with funding to be approved as part of each of these fiscal year's budget approvals.

Fiscal Impact

Up to \$47.1 million for FY 2012-13 through FY 2014-15 from the Commission's allocation for Quality Preschool. These funds are included in the 5-Year Program Allocation Plan approved by the Commission.