

First 5 Commission of San Diego County
February 7, 2011
Emerging Critical Needs: Funding for Cal-SAFE Programs

Request

The request before the Commission is to approve Emerging Critical Needs funding of up to \$2,000,169, for three years, to support Cal-SAFE Programs in six local school districts. The six school districts are: Carlsbad Unified School District, Escondido Union High School District, Grossmont Union High School District, Oceanside Unified School District, San Marcos Unified School District, and Vista Unified School District.

Background

Emerging Critical Needs. The Emerging Critical Needs Policy (F5C-022) was approved by the Commission on January 20, 2010 (Item 3). The intent of the Emerging Critical Needs policy is to designate flexible funding to address urgent needs to fund *“projects that address the most critical gaps in the safety net for young children and families.”* This funding supports the Commission’s Strategic Plan to provide funding for a *“targeted response to critical needs emerging from state and local economic conditions.”* The policy allows for an organization to request up to three years of funding for an emerging critical need. The policy is provided in Attachment 1.

Cal-SAFE Program. The Cal-SAFE Program receives funding from the California Department of Education to serve teen parents and their children (0-5) at school sites. Without support programs, **two-thirds** of all school-age parents fail to graduate from high school (only **33%** graduate). This results in low paying jobs for these young parents and constant struggles to adequately support their children. The young children of these teen parents are more likely to suffer medical problems early in life, and enter school with developmental, social emotional, and behavior problems. Of teen parents enrolled in Cal-SAFE, **75%** graduate from high school. Cal-SAFE provides comprehensive educational, economic, social, and health support services to ensure their attainment of a high school diploma and post secondary aspirations. Additionally, for teen parents that have no other child care resources, the infant toddler care and development program provides the teen parent’s children, age 0-5, with appropriate developmental activities/environments and assessments, while the teen parents attend school. Cal-SAFE teen parents also receive parent education, health care education and access, and the knowledge, skills and ability to prepare their children for pre-school, and the best possible outcomes as the children continue their education, which research has shown as instrumental in the future success of all children. The Cal-SAFE program also partners with Early Head Start, San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy & Parenting Program (SANDAPP), Public Health and other community-based organizations. The school districts have noted that ‘the positive results of the Cal-SAFE program have lasting effect on two generations of students ranging from the womb to the graduating senior.’

The Need for Funding. There are currently seven (7) local education agencies (LEA’s) operating Cal-SAFE Programs in San Diego County; six of these agencies [as noted above] are requesting Emerging Critical Needs funding. Statewide, the Cal-SAFE Program sustained about a 20% cut to funding, due to the State fiscal crisis. Programs are currently operating on approximately 20% less than their FY 2007-08 funding levels. Services to students and their children, ages 0-5, have been significantly decreased due to critical losses in personnel from budget reductions. Not only has funding for the program decreased, but the number of children, ages 0-5, in need of services has increased. Due to the reduction of State funding, each district’s efforts to continue to provide the needed services to these teen parents and their children have been severely impeded.

The districts noted two sources of future funding: (1) State increase in future funding and; (2) the availability of Federal funding from HR 5894 (Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act) to help supplement State funding.

With the Emerging Critical Needs funding, the districts will be able to serve additional teen parents and children (annually) as follows:

District	Number of Teen Parents	Number of Children Served in Child Development Centers [at school sites]
Carlsbad Unified School District	15	11
Escondido Union High School District	200	50
Grossmont Union High School District	150	30
Oceanside Unified School District,	89	56
San Marcos Unified School District	122	99
Vista Unified School District	160	80
Total	736	326

Application Review Process

A Source Selection Committee (SSC) was convened to evaluate applications for each of the school districts requesting funding for the Cal-SAFE program in accordance with the evaluation criteria provided in the Emerging Critical Needs policy (F5C-022). The SSC determined that all six of these organizations met or exceed all funding criteria and recommend all organizations for three years of funding.

Commission History

- January 20, 1010 (Item 3), The Commission approved the Emerging Critical Needs policy (F5C-022).
- August 17, 2009 (Item 1), The Commission approved a five-year Strategic Plan that committed to funding a targeted response to critical needs emerging from state and local economic conditions.

Link to the Strategic Plan

In the six school districts the Cal-SAFE Program supports all nine of the Key Objectives from the Commission Strategic Plan:

- Decrease the percentage of pregnant women and children ages birth through 5 with untreated dental disease.
- Decrease the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy.
- Decrease the percentage of children entering kindergarten with undetected and/or untreated developmental, social emotional or behavior delays or problems.
- Increase the percentage of children ages 0 to 5 enrolled in quality early care and education programs.
- Increase the number of households with children ages 0 through 5 that regularly engage in age-appropriate parent-child activities that promote early learning.
- Increase the use of positive parenting practices to promote the healthy social emotional development of children ages 0 through 5.
- Increase parents’ and caregivers’ access to needed services for their children.
- Increase the public’s commitment to investing in services that support the healthy development of children ages 0 through 5.
- Increase the community’s capacity to identify, treat and support the need of young children and pregnant women.

Staff Recommendations

- 1) Find that the proposed Emerging Critical Needs allocation to provide Cal-SAFE services is consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Receive and approve recommendations from the Source Selection Committee for contract awards to the following organizations and authorize the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute a contract with the six organizations listed below for up to \$2,000,169 as a project length budget for three years to provide Cal-SAFE services and identify full funding for these projects to be allocated from the Emerging Critical Needs line in the approved FY 2010-11 budget:

School District	Total Funding (Three Years)
Carlsbad Unified School District	Up to \$ 90,000
Escondido Union High School District	Up to \$ 420,000
Grossmont Union High School District	Up to \$ 350,169
Oceanside Unified School District,	Up to \$ 375,000
San Marcos Unified School District	Up to \$ 450,000
Vista Unified School District	Up to \$ 315,000
Total	Up to \$2,000,169

Fiscal Impact:

A total of up to \$2,000,169 will be allocated from the Emerging Critical Needs line in the approved FY 2010-11 budget. If approved the balance in the Emerging Critical Needs line for FY 2010-11 will be \$166,624.