

## First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 4, 2011

### CARES Plus – Release of Solicitation

#### Overview

The request before the Commission is to authorize staff to release a procurement to provide the First 5 California's CARES Plus (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) Program services in San Diego County.

#### Background

The CARES Plus Program is a First 5 California statewide professional development program for early educators designed to improve the quality of early learning programs by focusing on increasing the quality, effectiveness, and retention of early childhood educators.

CARES Plus History and Timelines. First 5 California's original CARES Program funding concluded in December 2009 as the State Commission focused on determining which First 5 California programs should be developed into the new State Signature Programs. [San Diego First 5 Commission participated in the CARES Program from 2001-2009 and continued funding the program for an additional year, to June 2010, as noted in the Commission History section below.] In April 2010, First 5 California approved up to \$34 million for implementing the CARES Plus Program through June 30, 2013, and officially acknowledged it as the "Signature Teacher Program". Additionally, First 5 California noted that *"continuing and enhancing the CARES program (through CARES Plus) allows First 5 California to build on the organizational infrastructure and positive momentum already created by the original CARES program throughout the state and support the alignment of CARES with California's major early childhood education initiatives."*

First 5 California released its Request for Application (RFA) for the new CARES Plus program on November 4, 2010 and the chart below summarizes the key activities, due dates and First 5 San Diego's response to date:

Key CARES Plus Activity	Due/Target Date(s)	First 5 San Diego Response
Deadline to submit 'Letter of Intent' to First 5 California	December 13, 2010	Submitted December 13, 2010; First 5 Commission of SD is noted as the Lead Agency to administer the program
Deadline to submit Final Application to First 5 California	January 18, 2011	Submitted January 14, 2011 as Lead Agency noting that the implementation of CARES Plus Services will be contracted out
First 5 California to post awards	Mid-March 2011	No response received to date.
Phase 1-Planning & Development of local CARES Plus Program	Mid-February through June 30, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARES Plus Planning consultant identified and contract executed</li> <li>• Questionnaire released on County Purchasing &amp; Contracting Buy Net to determine list of possible qualified Offerors</li> <li>• Statement of Work for CARES Plus services under development to incorporate into a full RFP to be released pending Commission approval*</li> </ul>
CARES Plus Services contractor must be in place	July 1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending release of the RFP*</li> </ul>
Phase II-Program Implementation & Operation	July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending release of the RFP*</li> </ul>

Lead Agency evaluation, collaboration + Effectiveness & Access (E&A) plans for implementing the Core and all selected Components of the CARES Plus Program	July 15, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under development by planning consultant</li> </ul>
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**Note:** \*If it is determined that First 5 California will not award for CARES Plus services and/or if First 5 San Diego will not be funding these services, the RFP may be cancelled at any time.

Funding and Match Information. In the previous First 5 California CARES Program, the State provided a 20% (1:5) match. In the CARES Plus Program, the State will provide a 25% (1:4) match. In FY 2009-10 the First 5 Commission of San Diego allocated \$2 million to support the CARES Program. The proposed funding for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 is \$1.2 million annually which will produce a match of approximately \$300,000 annually. Additionally, First 5 California will also provide up to \$150,000 for the Planning and Development Phase of the CARES Plus Program.

Tie-In with Preschool for All Demonstration Project. At the Commission meeting in December 2010, it was noted that there are a number of the same program requirements in the San Diego County Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project, and the CARES Plus program. Mentoring, coaching, professional development plans, and research-based approved trainings (all identified in the CARES Plus Program) are key elements of the current PFA Demonstration Project. The Commission’s authorization to submit the Letter of Intent and the Application for the CARES Plus Program in December 2010 also included the intent to fund CARES Plus services from the Preschool for All line item in the 5-Year Allocation Plan in FY 2011-12 [which will not be used for PFA] to fund these services. CARES Plus services will be fully aligned with the PFA Project to maximize the dollars for both programs.

**Commission History**

**For CARES Plus:**

- **December 13, 2010 (Item 5):** The Commission authorized the Executive Director to submit a Letter of Intent and an application to First 5 California no later than January 18, 2011; approved up to \$150,000 to be designated for consulting services to assist with Phase 1 Planning & Development for CARES Plus and negotiate and execute a contract with the consultant.

**For CARES:**

- **November 3, 2009 (Item 8), June 2, 2008 (Item 1), April 2, 2007 (Item 12), June 19, 2006 (Item 9):** The Commission approved contract extensions for FY 2009-10, FY 2008-09, FY 2007-08, FY 2006-07.
- **June 20, 2005 (Item 14):** The Commission approved applying for the third round of funding from the State Commission for three additional years of funding beginning in FY 2005-06.
- **June 24, 2004 (Item 8), June 3, 2003 (Item 9), May 7, 2001 (Item 11), :** The Commission authorized the Executive Director to execute a 2-year contract to implement the CARES Program in San Diego County (May 2001) and contract extensions were approved for FY 2003-04, and FY 2004-05.

**Link to the Strategic Plan**

The CARES Plus Program links to the Strategic Plan Learning Goal objective to “*increase the percentage of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in quality early care and education programs.*” The indicator states “*percentage of First 5 funded early childhood programs with high ratings as measured by classroom quality assessment tool.*”

**Staff Recommendations**

- 1) Find that the proposed CARES Plus services are consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood education within the County and provides a public benefit.

- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract agreement with First 5 California to administer the CARES Plus Program for First 5 San Diego.
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director or her designee to work with the County Director of Purchasing & Contracting to release a competitive solicitation for CARES Plus Program services for up to \$2,400,000 for 24-months.
- 4) Allocate up to \$2,400,000 from the PFA line item in the Commission's approved 5 Year Program Allocation Plan for FY 2011-12 to fund CARES Plus for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 as a project length budget.

**Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 would be \$2.4 million (\$1.2 million per year) with a \$600,000 cost-reimbursement match from First 5 California for the two-year period. The net cost to First 5 San Diego would be \$1,800,000. By approving this action, the Commission is authorizing \$2,400,000 from the Preschool for All line item to fund CARES Plus for 24-months.