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Action**

CARES Plus – Release of Solicitation

Supporting Document

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) services in San Diego County.

CARES Plus is First 5 California's new 'Signature Teacher Program' that provides professional development for early educators to improve the quality of early learning programs. In December 2010, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to submit a Letter of Intent and an application to First 5 California (which were submitted on December 13, 2010 and January 14, 2011) to participate in the CARES Plus Program. The next step is to release a formal solicitation to identify a contractor to provide the CARES Plus services in San Diego County. This service contract must be in place no later than July 1, 2011 to meet the requirements of First 5 California.

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 and Contracting to release a competitive solicitation for CARES Plus 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.

**Executive
Director Jiménez**

**Grace Young
Contracts and
School
Readiness
Program
Manager**