

Special Meeting of July 16, 2015 – 2:30-3:00 PM
601 Texas Street, Conference Room A, Fairfield, CA

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Consent Calendar** (5 min) **Action**
- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for July 16, 2015
- II. First 5 California IMPACT** (25 min) **Action**
- A. Consider approval to participate in the First 5 California Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) program to support the local quality improvement system to coordinate, assess and improve early learning settings; Approve an allocation of up to \$200,000 over five years (through FY2019/20) to leverage \$1,096,628 of First 5 CA funding for the Solano IMPACT Program; and Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and submit the Solano IMPACT Application in response to the First 5 CA IMPACT RFA
Source of funding: Long Term Financial Plan
- III. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**
- The next Commission meeting will be held on August 11, 2015 at 5:00 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports; Strategic Planning

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784.1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA during normal business hours.



CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

DATE: July 10, 2015

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director

CC: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **First 5 California Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT)**

Motion:

Consider approval to participate in the First 5 California Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) program to support the local quality improvement system to coordinate, assess and improve early learning settings; Approve an allocation of up to \$200,000 over five years (through FY2019/20) to leverage \$1,096,628 of First 5 CA funding for the Solano IMPACT Program; and Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and submit the Solano IMPACT Application in response to the First 5 CA IMPACT RFA (Source of funding: Long Term Financial Plan)

Summary/Background:

First 5 California has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for First 5 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) initiative supporting the local quality improvement system to coordinate, assess and improve early learning settings. The request today is a local investment of \$200,000 over five years which is the minimum match amount required to submit the RFA and draw down nearly \$1.1 million of First 5 CA funds toward this effort.

At the First 5 California Commission Meeting on April 23, 2015, First 5 CA approved \$190 million in funding over 5 years (FY2015/16 through FY2019/20) to improve the quality of early learning systems and settings throughout California. The First 5 IMPACT initiative is a coordinated funding approach designed to incorporate research on effective practices in early learning.

First 5 IMPACT consolidates First 5 CA's early learning funding which was previously distributed through programs such as CARES Plus and Child Signature Program (CSP) into a comprehensive initiative with the primary focus of developing a local quality system which coordinates, implements, and evaluates early learning programs.

First 5 IMPACT builds on and compliments quality systems already in place throughout California, including federal Race to the Top (RTT) and California Department of Education's (CDE) California State Preschool Program (CSPP) Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) block grant.

First 5 Solano intends to partner with Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) (who is applying as the lead agency of the CDE-CSPP QRIS block grant) and other

community partners to further develop a comprehensive quality early learning system in Solano.

Opportunity:

In early July 2015, First 5 CA released the Request For Applications (RFA) for First 5 IMPACT to support local quality improvement systems. The First 5 IMPACT RFA has 3 stages:

1. Letter of Intent (LOI)—Due July 13, 2015. First 5 local Commissions have first right of refusal. First 5 Solano staff submitted an LOI to reserve a spot as an applicant.
2. Phase 1 Application—Due August 10, 2015. Includes agreement to serve the target number of sites and an Inventory of Current Community Assets (Asset Map). Base layer of funding is accessible when this phase is completed and awarded.
3. Phase 2 Application—Due November 20, 2015. Includes High-Quality Action Plan, budget and budget narrative, and performance measure targets. Step layer of funding is accessible when this phase is completed and awarded.

Financial Impact:

First 5 Solano funding of up to \$200,000 leverages nearly \$1.1 million of First 5 CA funding to develop the Solano Early Learning System over the next five years.

In the previous funding cycle, First 5 Solano participated in the CARES Plus program for professional development with an annually investment of \$267,480 with a 1:2 state:local match. In addition, the CSP program for early learning site improvement provided \$105,000 annually from First 5 CA and had no match requirement. However, First 5 Solano provided approximately \$110,500 annually for site incentives. Overall, by consolidating the programs and providing a much higher state match, First 5 IMPACT decreases the local funds from over 50% to 15% of the total funding with a comparable level of service delivery.

First 5 CA IMPACT funding will be allocated to participating County Commissions and Local Public Entities based on numerous factors and will be distributed using a layered funding approach as follows:

- Base Layer: The funding for this layer is based on two equally weighted factors: 1) the number of children ages 0 to 5 in poverty; and 2) licensed facilities located within the county.
- Step Layer: The funding for this layer is based Implementation Step for the majority of participating sites (Step 1, 2 or 3). Implementation Steps have been assigned a multiplier to account for the increased costs associated with increased requirements at higher Steps.
- Match Requirement: The local match requirement is based on County size and only applies to the Step Funding. Solano is classified as a Large County with a local match requirement of 3:1 (State:Local). Match funding may include cash match or leveraged funds from the local Commission or participating partners.

First 5 CA has estimated the funding available to each County. Final funding amounts may vary based on County participation. Solano’s estimated funding allocation is as follows:

Base Funding	Step 2 Funding	First 5 CA Total	Local Match (3:1 for Step Layer)	Total	Avg/Year (over 4.5 yrs)
\$498,460	\$598,168	\$1,096,628	\$199,389	\$1,296,017	\$288,004

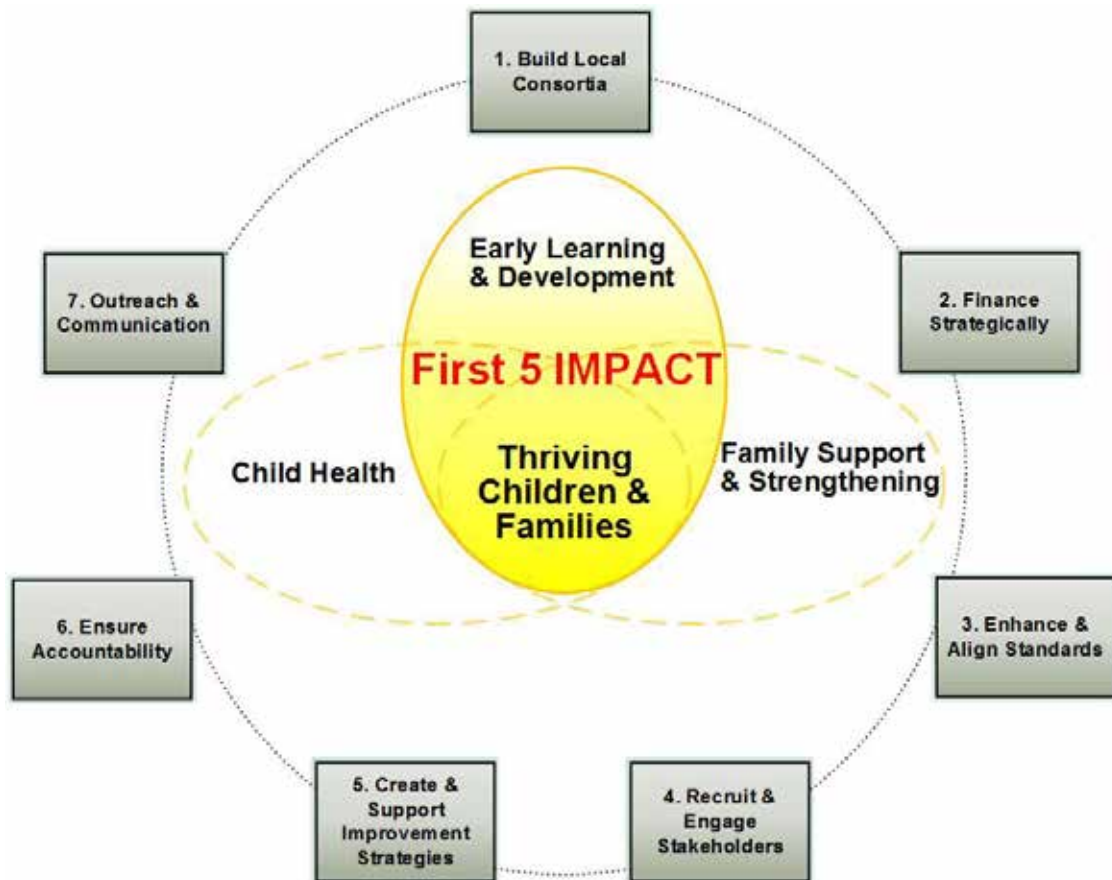
Funding does not need to be evenly distributed over the 5 year period and may vary by year depending on the activities designated in the High-Quality Action Plan.

Sufficient local funds were included in the FY2015/16 First 5 Solano budget in anticipation of the First 5 IMPACT program.

Program Requirements:

The First 5 IMPACT Program requires both systems level coordination as well as direct support to early learning sites.

First 5 IMPACT identifies 7 system functions of a quality early learning system which Counties must address in their High-Quality Action Plan:



First 5 CA recognizes that counties are at different levels in implementation of systems-level quality early learning standards, including the CA-QRIS Framework Elements. They have developed 3 Step implementation approach based on the level at which counties are able to participate (See Attachment A). Funding increases for Counties engaging at higher steps. Steps are as follows:

Step 1: Quality Improvement (QI) – Create early learning system and implement one quality element at participating sites

Step 2: Quality Improvement System (QIS) – Create/build on early learning system, implement four quality elements at participating sites, and draft quality improvement plans

Step 3: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) – Build on early learning system, implement 15 quality elements at participating sites, draft quality improvement plans, and rate sites.

Based on the work that has been done in Solano through CSP and CARES Plus, along with work in the community, Solano would qualify to apply at the Step 2 level.

First 5 CA has identified a target number of 56 early learning sites for Solano to engage in Continuous Quality Improvement. Of these, 10% of participating sites must serve infants and toddlers and 15% of participating sites must be Family Child Care Homes. If a fewer number of sites are engaged, funding will decrease proportionally.

Additional Supports

In addition to the funding for the local level, First 5 CA will also provide funding for:

- Regional Training and Technical Assistance Hubs
- State-Level System Supports and Statewide Training and Technical Assistance
- Evaluation, Data Collection, and Reporting
- Incentive funding for counties who serve participating sites above and beyond pre-determined targets or move to a higher step during the duration of the program.

Other Aligned Efforts

While a significant investment, First 5 CA recognizes that it is not enough funding to create and sustain a Quality Early Learning System. The intention is to align with other efforts in the community and braid funding to create a system-wide effort.

SCOE is the lead agency in applying for the CDE-CSPP QRIS grant which follows the same framework and provides funding for quality improvements in state preschool programs. First 5 IMPACT is intended to parallel this funding stream and provide funding for sites that cannot access other quality funding, which includes private centers, sites that serve infants and toddlers, and family childcare homes.

First 5 Solano intends to work closely with SCOE to align efforts and partner in key system areas as to maximize and not duplicate efforts.

Solano Early Learning System

Solano County Office of
Education
State Preschools

First 5 Solano
All Other Early Learning
Settings

Next Steps

Should the Commission approve participation in the First 5 IMPACT program, the next steps are:

- Submit the Phase 1 application due August 10, which includes an Asset Map.
- Submit the Phase 2 application due November 20, which includes the High-Quality Action-Plan. This will be developed in partnership with SCOE and community partners through a local consortium.
- Begin implementation in FY2015/16, including developing the system-wide framework and recruiting sites.

Attachment A: CA-QRIS Framework Elements and Implementation Steps

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Table 1: CA-QRIS Framework Elements

CA-QRIS Framework (15 total elements)	
Elements in the Rating Matrix (7 elements)	Elements in the CQI Pathways (8 elements)
CORE I: Child Development and School Readiness	
1. Child Observational Assessments 2. Developmental and Health Screenings	1. School Readiness 2. Social-Emotional Development 3. Health, Nutrition, and Physical Activity
CORE II: Teachers and Teaching	
3. Qualifications for Lead Teacher/FCCH Owner (Education and Professional Development) 4. Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®)	4. Effective Teacher-Child Interactions 5. Professional Development
CORE III: Program and Environment	
5. Ratios and Group Size (Centers only) 6. Environment Rating Scales (ERS) 7. Director Qualifications (Centers only)	6. Environment 7. Program Administration 8. Family Engagement

Table 2: Implementation Steps

Step	CA-QRIS Framework Elements	System Functions	Quality Improvement Plan	Tiered Rating
Step 1 - QI	Minimum of one element: Local decision	Minimum of six system functions, must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build Local Consortia Finance Strategically Recruit and Engage Participants Enhance and Align Standards Create and Support Improvement Strategies Ensure Accountability 	Not required	Not required
Step 2 - QIS	Minimum of four elements, must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher-Child Interactions Family Engagement 	Minimum of six system functions, must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build Local Consortia Finance Strategically Recruit and Engage Participants Enhance and Align Standards Create and Support Improvement Strategies Ensure Accountability 	Required of all sites	Not required
Step 3 - QRIS	All elements of Rating Matrix From Pathways, must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher-Child Interactions Family Engagement 	All seven system functions	Required of all sites	Required