

First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 27, 2009

Responsive Fund Request

Request:

The action before the Commission is to consider approving the recommendations of the Standing Subcommittee for Responsive Funds, comprised of Commissioners Skiljan and Wooten, for the following award: up to \$1,076,858 over a three year period to the San Diego County Office of Education for the Preschool Learning Foundations Project.

Background:

The 5-Year Allocation Plan commits a large majority of the Commission's resources to planned projects that support achievement of the "desired results" in the Commission's Strategic Plan. As most First 5 resources are allocated to focused multi-year efforts, the Commission decided to allocate up to \$3 million annually for responsive projects. Responsive projects are defined in policy as "*funds that can be used for new opportunities, urgent needs, pilot projects, or leveraging efforts that support the Commission's Strategic Plan.*"

The line item for Responsive Funds in the Commission's expenditure budget was developed to provide the Commission with an ability to promptly fund projects that are not part of a planned initiative. In the past, the Commission has used Responsive Funds to augment projects like early childhood obesity prevention. The Commission has also directed responsive funds to discrete projects such as Reach Out and Read, 211 San Diego data base upgrade and Child Welfare Services Foster Parent Respite Services for Children 0-5.

Request for Funding and Grant Application Summaries:

The Responsive Funds Subcommittee convened on February 18, 2009 to review requests and is recommending the following award:

San Diego County Office of Education (in collaboration with Project Quality Consortium and the San Diego County Family Child Care Association): The Preschool Learning Foundations Project
(up to \$1,076,858 for three years)

The purpose of this project is to provide California Department of Education's *Preschool Learning Foundations* materials, training and professional coaching to local center-based and family child care providers who offer preschool services to children ages 3-5 and who are non-state funded. *Preschool Learning Foundation training* will be provided to state-funded preschool providers through the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) via state funding. This responsive fund request expects to serve approximately 200 early education providers in a series of group trainings each year for a total of 600 over a three year period. Sixty of the 200 providers that complete at least two workshops will also benefit from follow-up coaching sessions each year for a total of 180 providers.

The first 4 of 9 proposed California *Preschool Learning Foundations* were developed over a 3-year period and formally released on January 22, 2008. The purpose of California's *Preschool Learning Foundations* is to provide Early Care and Education (ECE) teachers and providers learning and development guidelines that are used to plan and facilitate preschool curriculum. The *Foundations* have been developed on researched and evidence based standards in conjunction with ECE experts across California. The materials address domains in critical areas of learning and development including: social-emotional development, language and literacy, English-language development (for English learners) mathematics, visual & performing arts, history & social sciences, physical development, health and science. The domains follow well established standards that most children can be expected to exhibit as they complete their first or second year of preschool. A series of trainings for state-funded preschool administrators and teachers started in 2008 with full implementation projected in 2010.

The funding will create a long-lasting, impact on children 0-5 through training ECE providers who will have learned meaningful skills to support the development of high-quality preschool experiences that impact not only children's school readiness but also other long-term positive outcomes such as later school achievement and high school graduation. The level of sustainability that will result from training these non-state funded ECE providers is the ongoing impact on potentially thousands of their future students, children ages 0-5.

Additional Information:

Additional information about each of these proposed projects and selection criteria are provided in Attachments:

- Attachment #1 – Responsive Fund Policy
- Attachment #2a – Request Summary for San Diego County Office of Education
- Attachment #2b – Evaluation Tool for San Diego County Office of Education

Commission History:

Following is a brief summary of Commission related activities regarding Responsive Funds to date:

- On October 16, 2006 (Item 8), the Commission approved a new Responsive Funds Request Policy CFC-016, which includes a provision to create a standing subcommittee of two commissioners to review and recommend Responsive Fund requests to the Commission.
- On December 4, 2006 (Item 7) the Commission approved the first Responsive Fund request to American Academy of Pediatrics to strengthen and expand the Reach Out and Read program in San Diego County.
- On April 2, 2007 (Item 8) the Commission approved a second Responsive Fund request to Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) to implement a training program using the book "What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick?" in San Diego County.
- On May 5, 2008 (Item 6) the Commission revised the Responsive Funds Policy to allow the Commission to appoint an alternate to the Standing Committee to facilitate review of applications in a timely manner.
- On June 2, 2008 (Item 5) the Commission approved a Responsive Funds request to 211 San Diego to improve public access to the 2-1-1 on-line database including information that supports children ages 0-5 and their families.
- On December 16, 2008 (Items 1 & 2) the Commission revised the Responsive Funds Policy to update information regarding ineligible proposals/projects and approved Responsive Funds requests for South Bay Community Services to support services for their therapeutic preschool, for Child Welfare Services for foster parent respite services for young children and Horn of Africa for a health care and parent support program for East African women with children 0-5.

Staff Recommendations:

- 1) Find that the proposed grant activities are 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) Approve the recommendations of the Standing Committee for Responsive Funds to award up to \$1,076,858 as a project length budget over a three-year period to the San Diego County Office of Education for the Preschool Learning Foundations Project.
- 3) Authorize the Commission's Interim Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute a contract with the San Diego County Office of Education.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$1,076,858 from the Responsive Funds line item in the approved FY 2008-09 budget. If approved, this will use the remaining balance of the Responsive Funds for FY 2008-09.