

**First 5 Commission of San Diego**  
**October 5, 2009**  
**Healthy Development Services Solicitation**

**Request:**

The action before the Commission is to approve solicitation of the Healthy Development Services (HDS) six regional networks and countywide coordination contracts. Since January 2005, this project has provided focused early identification and intervention of developmental delays and social emotional issues through regional networks. The current contracts are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2010. The request is to approve solicitation of six Regional Service Networks and one Countywide Coordinator multi-year contract for 5 years of services. The estimated annual budget will be up to \$13 million dollars per year for a combined estimated project length budget of up to \$65 million dollars.

**Background:**

While 17% of children nationally have developmental or behavioral disabilities, only 50% are identified prior to entering school. This negatively affects a child's ability to learn during the most critical period of brain development. The purpose of the Healthy Development Services (HDS) Project is to promote children's optimal development and learning by: (1) improving access to developmental and behavioral screenings and treatment, and (2) identifying and addressing problems that can affect children's learning as early as possible. HDS fills a needed gap by providing services to children with mild to moderate delays, and services not covered by other systems. HDS consists of a Regional Services Network (RSN) in each of the six Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, and one countywide contractor to oversee and coordinate the continued successful implementation of the project

In the first 3 ½ years, this project has successfully provided health and developmental services to a conservative estimate of over 100,000 children and their families. HDS has provided:

- Early identification and treatment of special health, developmental, speech and behavioral needs; Almost 23,000 children -- 73.4% of the children identified as needing treatment completed it
- Over 42,000 developmental screens and over 29,000 vision and hearing screens
- Over 2,800 developmental screens for children in foster care services;
- Newborn and at risk home visitation. Breastfeeding rates for home visitation families reached 68% at 6-months, exceeding state and national averages;
- Increased knowledge, skills and abilities to assist their child's development of over 98% parents participating
- Increased capacity by training pediatricians, early care providers and parents to provide early screenings;
- Increased access to services for children and families of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds and children with special needs;
- Increased coordination and integration among existing systems, including the Regional Center and the school districts;
- Leveraged a 20% match of community funds to support sustainability and system integration of these services.

To accomplish this, HDS has partnered with existing networks and providers in each of the HHSA regions to build a comprehensive system of services for children's health, developmental and behavioral needs. This system has provided a platform to support and leverage the Commission's targeted and focused investments by the Commission in Child Welfare Services, KidSTART and Preschool For All. HDS has worked to help families bridge services with San Diego Regional Center and the school system's Individual Education Plans (IEP) for special needs children. These supportive services have been crucial in the current period of budget cuts and service reduction. Early identification and treatment of development and behavioral problems through HDS also supports the success of children as they enter childcare and preschools throughout San Diego County.

The First 5 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, approved on August 17, 2009 (Item 1), commits to continued *early identification and intervention of developmental delays and social emotional issues through regional networks*.

Home visiting and smoking cessation, originally incorporated into HDS, were identified to be continued as separate initiatives.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW SOLICITATION**

Commission staff will work with County Purchasing and Contracting to competitively procure six contracts for the Regional Service Networks and one contract for a countywide coordinator. These HDS contracts will be responsible for meeting the indicators and targets listed in the strategic plan that support the following objectives:

- *Decrease the percentage of children entering kindergarten with undetected and/or untreated developmental, social emotional or behavioral delays or problems.*
- *Increase the number of households with children ages 0 to 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 to 5.*

### **HDS Regional Service Network (RSN) Lead Agencies:**

The HDS project includes six lead agencies representing each of the HHS regions in San Diego County. Each RSN is responsible for working within their geographic region to build and sustain a network of subcontracted services. This network provides a continuum of developmental and behavioral services that are region specific and integrated with existing community services. Regional Service Networks Contractors shall be responsible for the continued implementation of:

- Developmental screening, assessment and treatment
- Developmental screening for all foster care children
- Speech and language screening, assessment and treatment
- Behavioral screening, assessment and treatment
- Parent support and empowerment through group and individual services
- Vision screening and referral to treatment
- Hearing screening and referral to treatment
- Behavioral health coaching for parents and childcare providers
- Regional service network coordination
- Coordination of complex high-need developmental and behavioral services.

### **Countywide Coordinator:**

The countywide coordinator performs the functions of the RSN on a broader, county wide basis. They ensure consistency and coordination within and between the regional networks, and existing County of San Diego, First 5 San Diego, and community services. In addition, they work to provide and coordinate leveraging, partnering, sustainability, and capacity building for a countywide system of developmental and behavioral care for all children birth through 5 years old.

The Contractor shall be responsible for coordinating the continued implementation of:

- Established uniform screening protocols, clinical pathways, referral guidelines, and reporting that promotes standards of care;
- Coordination of data collection and evaluation;
- Promotion of developmental screenings in home, medical and early education settings to meet national AAP guidelines.
- Training for subcontractors, physicians, childcare providers and others on screening tools, assisting families to access services, clinical protocols, systems integration, providing culturally sensitive and family-centered services and other topics relevant to the success of the Project.
- Communication and cross-coordination across the six regional networks including facilitation of regular meetings to plan, problem solve, and share best practices;
- Linkages and coordination with other key initiatives, systems and programs in the county;
- Countywide coordination with physicians, the childcare community, preschools, and others relevant service providers regarding services available and how to access them;

- Parent education support materials to promote children’s health and development and access to services;
- Development of strategies for increasing the number of qualified providers, such as behavioral health providers and speech and language therapists;
- Fiscal leveraging to secure other sources of funding and resources to sustain and expand needed services;
- Linkages to relevant state and national efforts.

**Commission History:**

- On December 6, 2004 (Item 10), the Commission approved a concept paper to address the health and developmental strategies outlined in the Commission’s 2004-2009 Strategic Plan.
- On May 2, 2005 (Item 8) the Commission authorized the Child Health and Developmental Services Project.
- On October 3, 2005 (Item 9) the Commission approved up to \$51,601,575 for a four-and-a-half year Children’s Health and Developmental Services Project:
- On October 3, 2005 (Item 9) the Commission approved regional, countywide coordination and smoking cessation contract awards.
- On November, 3, 2008 (Item 8) the Commission approved adding \$4,992,000 to HDS for care coordination and additional behavioral services.
- On August 17, 2009 (Item 1) the Commission approved the 5-year Strategic Plan which commits to continued early identification and intervention of developmental delays and social emotional issues through regional networks.
- On September 11, 2009 (Item 1) the Commission approved the 5-year fiscal allocation plan that allocated up to \$13 million dollars per year to Healthy Development Services from FY2010/11 through FY2014/15.

**Staff Recommendations:**

- 1) Find that the allocation is consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early child development with the county and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director or her designee to work with the County Director of Purchasing and Contracting to release a request for competitive solicitation for Countywide Coordination and 6 Regional Service Networks for Healthy Development Services for up to five (5) years.
- 3) Allocate funds for the five years (total of 7 contracts) as follows:
  - a. Up to \$59,425,000 for 6 Regional Service Networks (an estimated \$11,885,000 per year for 5 years) broken out by region:
    - North Coastal, up to \$9,255,704 (an estimated \$1,851,141 per year for 5 years)
    - North Inland, up to \$8,760,672 (an estimated \$1,752,134 per year for 5 years)
    - North Central up to \$10,202,989 (an estimated \$2,040,598 per year for 5 years – includes \$400,000 per year Foster Care screening)
    - Central up to \$12,294,678 (an estimated \$2,458,936 per year for 5 years)
    - East up to \$8,468,867 (an estimated \$1,693,773 per year for 5 years)
    - South up to \$10,442,090 (an estimated \$2,088,418 per year for 5 years)
  - b. Up to \$5,575,000 for Countywide Coordination (an estimated \$1,115,000 per year for 5 years)

**Fiscal Impact:**

The project will expend up to \$65 million at the conclusion of the 5-year contract period (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015). The total funding was approved as part of the First 5 Commission 5-Year Program Allocation Plan on September 11, 2009.