

**First 5 Commission of San Diego**

October 5, 2009

**Emerging Critical Needs Funding**

**Request:**

The purpose of this item is to provide the Commission with an update on the development of the policy to award funds for Emerging Critical Needs.

**Background:**

As part of the strategic plan adopted in August for FY 2010-15, the Commission supported a key strategy to support a “targeted response to critical needs emerging from state and local economic conditions.” The intent of the strategy is to designate flexible funding for addressing urgent needs that arise out of current state and local economic conditions and, in particular, to support projects that address the most critical gaps in the safety net for young children and families. At its meeting on September 11, 2009, the Commission adopted a 5-year spending plan that identified annual funding levels for the Emerging Critical Needs Fund. At that time, Interim Executive Director Zinser informed the Commission that staff would develop a policy for the award of such funds.

**Progress Report:**

A subcommittee of staff has met and reviewed past policies and protocols and the criteria for recommending awards for responsive funds, innovative grants, safety net funding as well as the criteria used by the strategic planning team. These were examined in view of the Commission’s new strategic plan.

At this time, staff has developed draft criteria for evaluating proposals, eligibility requirements for funding, processes for submittal and proposal review processes. The remaining activities include a review of the draft policy by County Counsel and a review of the submittal and proposal review process by County Purchasing and Contracting. It is anticipated that the draft policy will be presented to the Commission for approval at its November meeting.