



**To:** First 5 Alameda County Commission

**From:** Janis Burger, Deputy Director  
Malia Ramler, Community Grants Administrator

**Date:** February 26, 2009

**Subject:** Community Grants Initiative: Selection of Funding Priorities

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## INFORMATION ONLY

### BACKGROUND

The Community Grants Initiative (CGI) promotes and advances the mission of First 5 Alameda County through grantmaking to, capacity building with, and convening of community partners. In January the Commission approved an allocation to the Community Grants Initiative for the 2009- 2010 fiscal year. The current grant cycle has a portfolio of 46 grants, whose term will end on June 30, 2009. Current grantees will have an opportunity to request an extension of their grant through December 31, 2009. This extension allows time to develop funding priorities for the next grant cycle that are in alignment with the outcomes and strategies selected for the 2009 – 2013 Strategic Plan. The next round of CGI funding will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, with a request for proposals (RFP) released in July of 2009. This memo describes how staff will develop funding priority recommendations to bring to the Commission.

### FUNDING PRIORITY SELECTION PROCESS

In order for an RFP to be released in July of 2009, specific funding priorities will be brought to the Commission for approval in May of 2009. In February and March, a small staff workgroup will be meeting to advise the grants team on the selection of recommended funding priorities. In making these recommendations the grants team and the workgroup will consider the following:

- Community input gathered as part of strategic planning
- Past performance of CGI approaches/strategies
- Gaps in programmatic support of desired First 5 outcomes

The recommended funding priorities will be targeted in order to focus the activities supported through the CGI so that they may be more effective at achieving priority

outcomes. While the majority of the CGI awards will be made within the parameters set by the funding priorities, there will be some portion of the awards that will be open to support innovative, and community driven approaches. All of the awards, both those that are targeted and those that are responsive to community initiative, will align with the outcomes and strategies set forth in the Strategic Plan.

The Community Grants Team welcomes the input of Commissioners in the process of selecting funding priorities. We are recommending that a full presentation of the funding priorities recommendation be discussed with the Commission Strategic Planning Task Force in April and be brought to the full Commission in May. The Grants Team staff would be happy to provide work group status updates to any Commissioner who would like to receive them.

**TIMELINE**

February and March 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Work Group Develops Funding Priorities Recommendations</li> </ul>
April 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding Priorities Recommendations go to Commission Task Force for discussion</li> </ul>
May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding Priorities Recommendations go to Commission for Approval</li> <li>• Finalize RFP</li> </ul>
June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Application Development</li> </ul>
July 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP Released</li> </ul>
September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP Due</li> </ul>
October and November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Review Panels</li> </ul>
December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding recommendations to the Commission for Approval</li> </ul>

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

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Janis Burger, Deputy Director

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Mark Friedman, Chief Executive Officer