



To: First 5 Alameda County Executive Committee
From: Mark Friedman, CEO
Date: Sept. 16, 2009
Subject: Emergency Response Fund

REQUESTED ACTION

To review the need for emergency response funds caused by recent state budget cuts and allocate up to \$500,000 for programs that meet the designated criteria.

BACKGROUND

At the June 2009 Commission meeting the Commission voted to establish an Emergency Response Task Force to review the possible need for First 5 Alameda County to provide funding to preserve vital services for children from birth to age 5. Commissioners Wang and Stark joined Chief Executive Officer Mark Friedman and Deputy Director Janis Burger on the task force. Additionally the CEO and Deputy Director met with agency directors including Alex Briscoe of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Tony Iton of the Alameda County Public Health Department, Yolanda Baldovinos of the Alameda County Department of Social Services, Barbara Bunn McCullough of Brighter Beginnings, and Joel Garcia of Tiburcio Vasquez to identify areas of potential need.

So far it appears many of the programs are finding sufficient funds to continue operation. Several programs are waiting to see what the final budget figures are from Sacramento. These include the Regional Center of the East Bay and the two Adolescent Family Life Programs (AFLP) operated by Brighter Beginnings and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center. Based on what they know so far, Brighter Beginnings is requesting \$125,000 in emergency funding and the accelerated payment of \$150,000 that they are due to receive from us in the coming fiscal year.

The task force met and reviewed potential criteria.

The following criteria are proposed to determine emergency funding allocations:

- Agencies must demonstrate a loss of funds from state or local sources
- Agencies must comply with The Proposition 10 prohibition on supplantation.

- Funded services and programs must be consistent with the Strategic Plan for 2009-2013
- Funding must be for services for children from birth to age 5 and their families.
- An agency must be reviewed for its standing and stability.
- Funds should be for at least one and preferably more of the following purposes:
 - Direct services for young children and families that focus on early intervention/prevention leading to long term savings
 - Services and programs where First 5 funds can lead to longer term sustainable funding from other sources, not just putting a First 5 finger in a dyke that will be breached as soon as First 5 funding terminates
 - Programs that contribute to systems change/collaboration and greater efficiency
 - Programs that leverage our investment by using it as a match for federal or other matching funds
 - Programs that focus on children and families at the greatest risk

Process for Allocation of Funds

Programs that are identified for possible receipt of emergency response funds will be asked to submit a request for funding that addresses the above criteria. Budget information, an annual audit, and most recent bank statements must also be submitted. Staff and the Commission members of the Emergency Response Task Force will review the submissions and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and full Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

Given what is known now about the emergency response need an allocation of up to \$500,000 is requested. Any funds allocated for this fund will have to come out of the Sustainability Fund and will impact the Commission’s long range financial plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee recommend that the Commission approve the establishment of an Emergency Response Fund and allocate up to \$500,000 for the fund as recommended by the Emergency Response Task Force.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Mark Friedman, Chief Executive Officer

Janis Burger, Deputy Director