

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of April 12, 2012

Revisions to Commission Policies and Procedures Approved

The First 5 LA Commission approved amendments to the agency's policies and procedures in the areas listed below. The changes are intended to formalize and more completely document decisions of the Commission related to budget and fiscal matters as well as more clearly define other policies.

- Selection of strategic partners
- General procurement policies
- Policy against supplanting
- Conflict of interest

These are the latest in a series of changes to enhance the Commission's efforts to operate in a transparent manner and hold itself accountable.

Initial funding allocation of \$23.9 million approved for 14 Best Start communities

The First 5 LA Commission approved up to \$1.71 million for each of 14 Best Start communities for the first year implementation of various components of the Community Plans being developed by each Community Partnership. Communities can request up to this initial allocation to fund each of the five main plan components listed below:

- Family Strengthening (Community-Based Projects)
- Capacity Building
- Evaluation
- Communications
- Partnership Logistical Support

Community plans are expected to be presented to the Commission in June and July. Best Start is First 5 LA's place-based investment effort to focus on strengthening families while fostering each community's ability to create and sustain safe and nurturing places for children to grow and thrive.

Highlights

- Revised policies and procedures implemented
- Initial planning allocation for Best Start Communities approved
- 2012 Legislative Agenda authorized
- Benefit and Wage Compensation Study Approved

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2012 Legislative Agenda Approved

The First 5 LA Commission approved the 2012 Legislative Agenda, which represents the agency's positions as they relate to the state's 2012 legislative session and the current Congressional session. It will guide First 5 LA's Policy Department with respect to specific legislative priorities and activities.

The First 5 LA Legislative Agenda consists of state bills and federal items, which, if passed, will improve the health and well-being of young children in L.A. County. The agenda includes 14 recommended state bills and 9 recommended federal items. Three of the state bills on the list are two-year bills that were supported by First 5 LA in 2011 and are currently still active.

The criteria used to develop these priorities for action were those adopted by the Commission for the organization's first Policy Agenda in 2007 and reconfirmed in the adoption of the 2010-2015 Policy Agenda as part of the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan (June, 2010):

- **Alignment:** Aligns with FY 2009-2015 Strategic Plan goals and outcomes and supports First 5 LA current and planned investments.
- **Impact:** Demonstrates potential for significant educational, social, health and/or economic benefits for large numbers of children and families.
- **Timeliness:** Represents an urgent need and/or current window of opportunity for action.
- **Feasibility:** Potential exists for success in this policy area.
- **Prevention Approach:** Supports the Commission's focus on prevention and early intervention.
- **Value Added:** First 5 LA can make a difference in the success of the effort through its contribution.

The Legislative Agenda is balanced to ensure inclusion of public policy efforts to address each of the four (4) Strategic Plan goals and, to the extent possible, each of the Commission's ten (10) Policy Agenda goals. It contains high risk and lower risk items, as well as a mix of long, medium and shorter term potential time horizons for completion.

Authorized Items – New Contracts, Contract Renewals and/or Amendments to Existing Contracts

The following items were authorized by the Commission (all amounts are for FY 2011-12 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise):

- Best Start Communities (BSC) – BSC Partnerships and Plan Development
 - Royal Dining Catering, Inc. - \$75,000*
- Best Start Communities – BSC Support to Community Partnership
 - California Conference for Equity and Justice - \$40,000*
 - Community Action Resource Exchange - \$255,000*
 - Howell Consulting Group - \$60,000*
 - Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership - \$80,000*
- Public Affairs – Public Affairs Collateral Materials
 - Automation Printing Co. - \$12,000*
- Public Affairs – Family Guide
 - Diversified Printers, Inc. - \$36,000*

Summary of Commission Actions

- Information Technology – Annual Support – Net Service
 - Net Service, Inc. - \$5,894*
- Grants Management – Partnership for Families
 - The Help Group Child and Family Center - \$1,109,384*
 - South Bay Center for Counseling - \$815,696*
 - Saint John’s Health Center – Child & Family Development Center - \$600,000*
 - Southern California Indian Center - \$308,202*
 - Para Los Niños (SPA 4 PFF Collaborative) - \$1,486,731*
 - Shields for Families - \$1,378,592*
 - Spiritt Family Services - \$1,250,270*
 - Bienvenidos Children’s Center, Inc. - \$1,476,498*
 - Children’s Bureau - \$1,807,592*
- Grants Management – Black Infant Health
 - City of Long Beach, DHS - \$172,964*
 - City of Pasadena Public Health Dept. - \$172,964*
- Research and Evaluation – Family Strengthening Strategies Literature Review
 - Center for Nonprofit Management - \$9,770
- Research and Evaluation – Data Partnerships with Funders/LACDN Program Manager
 - Altmayer Consulting - \$189,980
- Research and Evaluation –Baby-Friendly Hospital
 - Barbara Aved - \$15,000
- Research and Evaluation – RAC Facilitation
 - John M. Love - \$20,000
- Research and Evaluation – SPSS Statistical Analysis Software
 - IBM/SPSS - \$5,166*
- Executive – Preparation of First 5 LA’s FY 12-13 Program Budget
 - Altmayer Consulting - \$57,600
- Executive – La Petite Academy
 - Learning Care Group Inc. (Extension of facility use agreement) – no cost increase
- Finance – FY 2011-12 Audit
 - Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP - \$68,391*
- Program Development – Tot Parks and Trails
 - Amigos de los Rios - \$65,699
 - Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) - \$40,795
 - Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust - \$24,742
 - Los Angeles Conservation Corps - \$29,815
 - Shane’s Inspiration - \$31,737
- Community Investments – 50 Parks Initiative
 - Los Angeles Parks Foundation - \$1,050,000

*Indicates contract amendment or renewal. Amount indicated is only amended amount, not new total contract amount.

Other Actions

The Commission also took the following actions:

- Adopted a resolution to approve mid-year amendments to the FY 2011-12 Program Budget totaling \$1,381,232 and raising the total budget amount to \$183,630,379
- Approved a policy and guidelines for approving the Commission's positions on state and federal bills and related advocacy activities
- Authorized the process for selecting and retaining an expert compensation consulting firm to conduct a wage and compensation study
- Approved revised Conference Funding Program protocols

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 15 members (9 voting, 4 ex-officio, 2 alternates). The board includes voting members appointed by each of the Los Angeles County Supervisors and the L.A. County Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health and Mental Health. The Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also serves as Chairman of the First 5 LA Commission.

The 15-member Board also includes representatives from other educational, children and families organizations throughout the county. The Board of Commissioners meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the First 5 LA offices. All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted [here](#) at least 72 hours in advance.