

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of July 12, 2012

Landmark Expanded Strategic Funding Plan Approved

The First 5 LA Commission approved a spending plan that will enable it to spend millions of dollars of funds more quickly and culminate in providing nearly \$400 million in desperately needed services for children 0-5 in Los Angeles County. “In these times of budget cuts and reduced revenues, First 5 LA is stepping up to make a significant difference for our youngest children,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and First 5 LA Commission Chair Zev Yaroslavsky. “Los Angeles County kids need these health, dental, vision and other services, and our Commission has taken a bold step in approving these actions today.”

By combining nearly \$200 million from its 2012-13 programs/operating budget approved in June with the \$110 million for long-term contracts for existing programs and \$70 million in new long-term investments approved today, the new First 5 LA funding strategy will accelerate the expansion and implementation of new and existing programs and start providing desperately needed services almost immediately. The elements of the plan approved today include:

- A multi-year master agreement with Los Angeles County to fund and implement \$87.2 million of existing initiatives in the following areas:
 - Reduction of childhood obesity
 - Parent Child Interaction Therapy
 - Substance abuse treatment services
 - Healthy Kids health insurance coverage for children
- Multi-year agreements totaling over \$22 million to fund another component of the Healthy Kids program and existing dental health initiatives
- A new allocation of \$40 million over 5 years to fund an expansion of First 5 LA’s dental care program for children 0-5 and implement a public education campaign promoting water as a beverage of choice for families
- A new allocation of \$4.1 million to implement a countywide vision services plan for children 0-5
- A new allocation of \$25 million to provide Permanent Supportive Housing for women and families with children 0-5

Highlights

- Expanded Strategic Funding Plan Approved
- First of its kind homelessness report presented
- Additional six months of funding for Best Start place-based effort authorized

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Focusing on services, the First 5 LA funds will be used for a wide variety of programs ranging from vision and dental screenings for some 200,000 young children to additional housing options for women and families with children 0-5 at risk of homelessness as well as trainings and other support for service providers.

First of Its Kind Report on Homeless Children 0-5 in LA County Presented

First 5 LA Research & Evaluation Department staff presented a recently completed report requested by the Commission that looked at the current state of homelessness for children 0-5 and their families in Los Angeles. The report, the first one done on this topic, revealed several significant findings:

- On any given night, at least 3,000 children ages 0-5 in LA County are homeless. They are living with their families in shelters, transitional housing, on the street or somewhere else not fit for human habitation
- There are some sources of data that indicate the number of families with young children who are homeless and/or at risk of become homeless has increased in recent years
- Nearly one-third of LA County's homeless children 0-5 are in LA County SPA (Service Planning Area) 6 in South LA
- Homelessness places children at risk of poor outcomes in all of First 5 LA's goal areas
 - Research shows that homeless children are 12 times more likely than other children to go into the foster care system, are more likely to be overweight and obese than other children, are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as children who are not homeless

The report can be downloaded [here](#).

Continued Funding for Best Start Place-Based Effort Authorized

The Commission authorized six months of continued funding for implementation of the evaluation, communications and partnership support components of the Community Plans for the 14 Best Start Communities. Staff had requested funding for the entire current fiscal year to provide time and resources to allow Best Start Communities to continue to build capacities and strengthen parent/resident engagement. The approval released up to \$280,000 for use by each community of the \$1.7 million the Commission had already approved for each community's activities while Community Plans are being refined. During the next six months, the Commission will discuss the goals and objectives of the place-based effort with a focus on more clearly defining priorities, desired outcomes and measurement tools to track progress of the community efforts.

Strategic Partnership to Create and Administer Recoverable Grant Fund

The Commission approved a strategic partnership with the California Community Foundation for a total allocation of \$2,075,000 to create and administer a recoverable grant fund to bridge payments to center-based child care operators that serve approximately 50,000 low-income children in Los Angeles County. The allocation was originally approved by the Commission in June under the Resource Mobilization-ECE Recoverable Grant Fund Countywide Strategy.



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Delays in the approval of the California state budget create an increasing threat to low-income families and to the child care infrastructure of L.A. County. The State of California Department of Education (CDE) is a major funder of child development programs serving low-income working families and families where children are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Until the state budget is approved and contracted funds are disbursed each year, these CDE contractors receive no revenue. This “temporary gap” in funding can extend for a period up to four months, and may lead to drastic consequences for the communities which the child development programs serve and employ. Access to temporary bridge funds made available by First 5 LA and its partners until state funds are dispersed will prevent local contractors from taking extreme measures that suspend, reduce or eliminate services to hundreds of families in L.A. County, and jeopardize employment for parents and child care providers.

The recoverable grants will be up to \$200,000; zero interest and terms will be for the duration of the budget impasse or delays in the disbursement of first quarter contracted funds, estimated to be no more than six months. The recoverable grants to CDE contractors will be repayable within 30 business days of receiving payment from the State for child development services rendered.

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 2012-13 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise):

- Best Start Communities – Community Capacity Building
 - Center for the Study of Social Policy - \$700,000*
- Best Start Communities – BSC Support to Community Partnerships (6 months only)
 - Long Beach Non Profit Partnership - \$37,500*
 - California Conference for Equity and Justice - \$27,000*
 - Howell Consulting Group \$80,000*
- Best Start Communities – BSC Support to Community Partnerships (Requests were for one year renewals but Commission authorized only 6 mos. of funding. Final amounts to be adjusted at a future date)
 - Original request for one year renewals of contracts with 21 different entities totaling \$4,255,500*
 - United Way of Greater Los Angeles
 - First New Christian Fellowship Baptist Church
 - Spiritt Family Services
 - At The Brunch, Inc.
 - Café and Stuff Catering
 - A-Plus Homewerx
 - Foothill Learning Center
 - Royal Dining Catering, Inc.
 - Catering by Herach and Ara

- The Palmdale Hotel
- ACI Pro-Audio
- Student Transportation of America
- American Language Services
- TMO, Inc.
- Guzman Translating and Interpreting
- Los Angeles Education Partnership
- New Horizons SFVAR
- University of the Antelope Valley
- Learn Through Play Mobile Childcare
- AGF Media Services
- Continental Interpreting Services
- Chief Administrative Office – Facilities
 - Morlin Asset Management - \$540,246*
- Chief Administrative Office – FY 2012-13 Budget Development Services
 - Altmayer Consulting, Inc. - \$97,500*
- Community Investments – Oral Health Nutrition Expansion and Enhancement Project
 - Henry Schein Cares Foundation - \$916,560
- Grants Management – Matching Funds Program
 - Child Care Resource Center - \$50,000
 - Child Development Institute - \$27,500
 - Jumpstart for Young Children - \$125,000
 - Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic - \$43,165
 - LA Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center - \$41,000
- Grants Management - Oral Health Nutrition Expansion and Enhancement Project
 - Western University of Health Sciences - \$500,000*
- Information Technology – Data Architect
 - LA Butler & Associations - \$174,800* (extension of 4 mos. and additional \$74,800 in funds)
- Policy – Policy Advocacy Fund
 - Occidental College Urban and Environment Policy Institute - \$106,096*
- Policy – Community Opportunities Fund
 - Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance - \$108,743*
 - Search to Involve Pilipino Americans - \$125,492*
 - California Center for Public Health Advocacy - \$102,525*
 - LA Best Babies Network - \$87,013*
- Program Development – P-3 Workforce Development Project
 - Zero to Three - \$558,553*
- Public Affairs – First 5 LA Public Education
 - Daniel J. Edelman, Inc. - \$1,547,850
 - Match Creative Talent, Inc. - \$375,000
- Research and Evaluation – High School Recruitment Evaluation
 - Evaluation and Training Institute - \$26,500

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

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Other Actions

The Commission also approved the minutes of the previous two meetings and the agency's financial statements for March 2012.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 15 members (nine voting, four ex-officio, two 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 L.A. 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 p.m. unless otherwise indicated at the First 5 LA offices. All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted [here](#) at least 72 hours in advance.