

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of November 29, 2012

Nearly 800 Homeless Families to be Assisted by Permanent Supportive Housing Countywide Initiative Grants and Loans

The First 5 LA Commission approved a package of \$22,650,000 in grants and loans that will provide permanent housing and supportive services to 790 families with children aged prenatal–5 that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and that have had involvement with the County’s child welfare system.

Specifically, the Commission approved the following:

1. Five applications for Capital Development loans totaling \$14,600,000 to finance 232 new units of affordable service-enriched multifamily housing across five developments with 86 of the units restricted for use by the target population of this initiative. Significantly, First 5 LA’s funding will help to leverage \$51.8 million in other funding sources. Funded projects are:
 - a. Beverly Commonwealth Apartments – Los Angeles
 - b. Cedar Ridge Apartments – Lancaster
 - c. Vermont Manzanita – Los Angeles
 - d. Whittier Supportive Housing – Unincorporated LA County
 - e. Mar Vista Union - Pasadena
2. Seven applications for Rental Assistance, totaling \$7,564,390, to serve an average of 345 homeless or at risk families with children prenatal–5 who have had involvement with the child welfare system per year for two years. Funded projects are:
 - a. House of Ruth – Los Angeles
 - b. Beyond Shelter – Los Angeles
 - c. Upward Bound House – Santa Monica
 - d. YWCA San Gabriel Valley – Covina
 - e. Special Service for Groups – Los Angeles
 - f. Harbor Interfaith Services, Inc. - San Pedro
 - g. St. Joseph Center - Venice

Highlights

- Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative to help nearly 800 homeless families
- Local dental schools partner to serve over 100,000 more children
- Healthy Kids Program Expanded

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USC, UCLA and Western University to Partner with First 5 LA's Children's Dental Care Program

107,000 additional children in Los Angeles County will receive preventative or acute dental treatment services as a result of strategic partnerships with the USC, UCLA and Western University schools of dentistry approved by the First 5 LA Commission. The universities will be implementing First 5 LA's Children's Dental Care Program (CDCP) and will receive over \$10,500,000 in funding as follows:

1. University of California Los Angeles (UCLA): \$ 3,230,661
2. University of Southern California (USC): \$ 4,326,908
3. Western University (Western): \$ 3,205,751

This partnership provides First 5 LA with an innovative opportunity to address the challenges facing pediatric dental health in L.A. County. CDCP focuses on providing services to children in greatest need of dental care and has been designed as a collaborative, integrated effort with the three dental schools in L.A. County — the Strategic Partners — working together to create collective impact. First 5 LA sees this effort as a bridge toward making sure that every child aged prenatal to 5 in L.A. County is covered by dental insurance and has access to dental care. The Commission will be working with its partners and stakeholders to leverage the opportunities provided by the Affordable Care Act while addressing the prevention and capacity challenges, promoting changes in practice patterns and pursuing a strong policy agenda.

The partnerships will be the first time the three dental schools in L.A. County will be working together and is a unique opportunity to develop a collaborative working relationship among them as they begin to view, and take steps toward solving, L.A. County's pediatric oral health challenges as a county-wide ecosystem. The strategic partners are committed to treating all children who require treatment and/or referring them to another provider for services (e.g. a dental home). The Commission also approved an amendment to the fiscal year 2012-13 budget of \$3,244,420 to accommodate expenses associated with the CDCP grants from December 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Healthy Kids Coverage Income Eligibility Modified

The First 5 LA Commission voted to expand income eligibility for the Healthy Kids program to children living at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) from current income eligibility, which includes children living at or below 300% FPL. The Healthy Kids Program is designed to provide access to low- or no-cost health insurance for children ages 0 through 5 in L.A. County.

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The expansion is expected to help stabilize the Healthy Kids 0 through 5 Program at current enrollment levels (October enrollment is 1,385). In addition, the expansion to 400% FPL will allow Healthy Kids to serve as a bridge to federal health reform for many families who will become eligible for coverage under the Affordable Care Act in 2014. The parents of children 0 through 5 who will qualify for the expanded Healthy Kids Program are also likely to be uninsured. These parents, though not eligible for the Medi-Cal expansion in 2014, will be eligible for subsidized insurance through the California Health Benefit Exchange. By enrolling their children in the expanded Healthy Kids Program now, these parents will become familiar with an insurance structure and will be reachable and better prepared to enroll themselves and their children in the Health Exchange in 2014.

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):

- Research & Evaluation – Family Survey
 - National Opinion Research Center - \$719,027
- Research & Evaluation – Healthy Kids
 - Special Services for Kids/Eric Wat - \$31,000*
- Grants Management – Oral Health and Nutrition – Safety Net Dental Care Infrastructure
 - VIP Community Mental Health Center - \$163,702*
 - Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero - \$138,391*
- Information Technology – Information Technology
 - Viatron Systems, Inc. - \$27,143*

*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:

- Approved the position of Chief Operating Officer reporting to the Executive Director
- Authorized staff to continue using funds and extend agreements for services for Best Start Evaluation, Communications and Partnership Support Components through March 31, 2013

- Approved amendments to the Commission’s bylaws that would make them consistent with the changes the Board of Supervisors adopted earlier this year relating to the appointment of alternate members and making the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services a voting member of the Commission
- Approved a change to the bylaws that would allow Commission officers to be elected “not later than January” of each year to allow elections to take place in December or January.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 17 members (nine voting, four ex-officio, four 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 17-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.