



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Employment and Benefit Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Renew Contract with First 5 for Thrive by Three Systems Services

Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

Recommended Action(s):

Approve agreement with First 5 Santa Cruz County, in the total amount of \$200,000, for the provision of Thrive by Three systems capacity and childcare grant coordination and authorize the Human Services Director to execute the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) administers a continuum of services to support the Santa Cruz County Thrive by Three (TBT) initiative, including partnerships with nonprofit contractors. HSD seeks the Board's approval to renew a contract with First 5 Santa Cruz County (First 5) for continued provision of system capacity, coordination and evaluation of Thrive by Three services provided throughout the County. Funds for this agreement were included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 HSD approved budget and approving the agreement does not require additional General Fund contribution.

Background

On January 24, 2017, the Board authorized implementation of TBT as a comprehensive local initiative to improve outcomes for the County's youngest and most vulnerable children and their families. Subsequently, the Board approved recommendations to ensure funding for systems development and oversight, and an ongoing advisory body. On December 12, 2017, the Board approved a contract with First 5 to build capacity, coordinate the system, and facilitate evaluation of TBT. Since implementing the contract, First 5 has convened and staffed an advisory body, facilitated development of a prototype system to coordinate the entry of families into services, administered infant/toddler care scholarships, and provided oversight of TBT evaluation. In FY 2019-20, First 5 further developed a Coordinated Care System (CCS) for TBT linked to the Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange, and began working with a new, more effective referral tool to better connect families to quality early services.

In response to the impacts of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the FY 2019-20 agreement with First 5 was amended in May of 2020. The amendment reduced activities, trainings and system purchases that would otherwise have gone underutilized due to the pandemic. As a result, the associated costs were reallocated to pay for an Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for childcare providers who could serve children of essential workers and at-risk populations, to help them deal with the extraordinary costs and challenges associated with providing childcare during the COVID-19 crisis. Five subsequent rounds of ERF payments have been provided to qualified childcare

providers since May 2020.

Analysis

HSD recommends the Board approve a renewing contract with First 5 in the total amount of \$200,000 to provide TBT coordination and continued capacity building. Through this agreement, First 5 will continue to convene and staff a TBT advisory body and will facilitate further development and deployment of a coordinated care system to improve how families engage with services that support the well-being of their children. First 5 will also continue administering childcare grant funds for high-risk families to support the provision of care and will continue overseeing the evaluation of the TBT initiative. The performance of the renewing contract will be measured by the implementation of a CCS “Together We Care” automated referral system; the completion of Healthy Steps implementation in Santa Cruz County; providing Recommendations for “Dyadic Care” model adaptation for Santa Cruz County; and by the number of families served by childcare grants to support the provision of care.

Financial Impact

County General Funds allocated to fund the Thrive by Three initiative will fund services provided by First 5. Approval of the agreements does not result in an additional General Fund contribution.

First 5 Santa Cruz County
Thrive by Three System Capacity,
No. 21W4049 – Index/GL Key: 392100-62381

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1.B (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support) - HSD advances the comprehensive health and safety of young children through its agreement with First 5 for Thrive by Three systems capacity, by improving outcomes for the County’s youngest and most vulnerable children and their families.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Contract 21W4049 First 5 Santa Cruz County
- b ADM-29 21W4049 First 5