



AGENDA ITEM: 10  
DATE OF MEETING: April 23, 2015  
ACTION:   X    
INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CALIFORNIA HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY**

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST**

Staff requests authorization of funds up to \$1,700,000 over a two-year period to continue fiscal support of the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The two-year period will begin when the agreement is approved by the Department of General Services, and will ideally coincide with State Fiscal Years 2015–16 and 2016–17. First 5 California’s current contract with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Health Policy Research for CHIS, in the amount of \$1,500,000, will end on June 30, 2015. This request continues First 5 California’s support of CHIS and increases funding to address rising survey costs and support development of new data for AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition (NE).

### **BACKGROUND**

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research conducts CHIS as a comprehensive population-based survey of California households on a two-year cycle. While primarily a health survey, CHIS also includes a variety of important data related to the development of children ages 0 to 5.

CHIS is the largest state health survey in the United States. It is a collaborative project of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Health Care Services. Funding for CHIS comes from state and federal agencies such as the California Department of Public Health, California Department of Health Care Services, Covered California, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, as well as several philanthropic organizations, including The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, the California HealthCare Foundation, and The California Wellness Foundation. First 5 California has been a funder of CHIS since 2001.

The CHIS Principal Investigator is Dr. Ninez A. Ponce, Associate Director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The CHIS governance structure includes an Advisory Board and staff. The Advisory Board consists of approximately 35 members and is chaired by Diana Dooley, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency. Advisory Board members represent a broad array of organizations with a vested interest in public health. First 5 California’s Deputy Director of Evaluation, David Dodds, PhD, MPH, is a member of the Advisory Board.

Since 2001, First 5 California has provided funding to CHIS to capture data related to California's diverse population of children ages 0 to 5, including childcare and preschool participation, positive parenting activities, social-emotional development, developmental screenings, and health. It allows users to view statewide-, regional-, and county-level data by age, income, language, family structure, and ethnicity. Data from CHIS are critical to First 5 county commissions, state agencies, advocates, and researchers for activities such as needs assessment, program development, public health surveillance, policymaking, and research. First 5 California also uses these data to determine the penetration rate of media campaigns and messaging. Therefore, First 5 California's funding of CHIS supports critical data infrastructure for identifying, monitoring, and addressing the needs of young children and their families.

The following table documents First 5 California's support for CHIS since 2001:

Year	Supported Activities	Key Deliverables	First 5 California Funding	CHIS Total Cost
2001	Overall child survey, no specific questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Research Report: <i>Health of Young Children in California</i></li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>	\$2.1 M	\$14.1 M
2003	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$11.6 M
2005	First 5 California funded 39 specific questions covering children ages 0 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> <li>• Revised interview methodology</li> <li>• Summary report</li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>	\$1 M	\$13.5 M
2007	First 5 California funded 47 specific questions covering children ages 0 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> <li>• <i>HealthSnapshots</i>, Internet-based system displays key 0 to 5 health indicators by county/region</li> <li>• Policy Brief</li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>	\$1.5 M	\$16.1 M
2009	First 5 California funded 47 specific questions covering children ages 0 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> <li>• Exposure to Second-hand Smoke Policy Brief</li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>	\$1.5 M	\$16.9 M
2011-12	First 5 California funded content (approximately 45 questions) covering children ages 0 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> <li>• Policy Brief</li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>	\$1.5 M	\$14.7.4 M
2013-14	First 5 California funded content (approximately 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> </ul>	\$1.5 M	\$15.8 M

	questions) covering children ages 0 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First 5 California-funded content (approximately 45 questions) covering children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Policy Brief: <i>Ten-Year Trends in the Health of Young Children in California: 2003—2012</i></li> <li>• Data file</li> </ul>		
2015-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First 5 California funded content (approximately 45 questions) covering children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Ask CHIS Neighborhood Edition covering children ages 0 to 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversampling children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Strategies to increase sample of households with children</li> <li>• First 5 California-funded content (approximately 45 questions) covering children ages 0 to 5</li> <li>• Policy Brief</li> <li>• Data file</li> <li>• AskCHIS data query system; access by public</li> <li>• AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition internet query and mapping system for modeled data estimates including ages 0-5 for feasible geographies; access by public</li> <li>• Planning of 2017-18 Child Questionnaire</li> <li>• Data dissemination to child policy partners</li> <li>• Explore development of child well-being indices such as American Human Development Index, Child Opportunity Index, etc.</li> </ul>	\$1.7 M	\$16.6 M*

\* UCLA estimate

**DISCUSSION**

Financial support of CHIS falls within the intent of the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and First 5 California’s Strategic Plan:

- The California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code Section 130125(d) sets forth the duty of First 5 California to provide for independent research, including the evaluation of any relevant programs, to identify the best standards and practices for optimal early childhood development. CHIS allows First 5 California to meet its statutory mandate in a cost-effective manner and supports First 5 California and First 5 county commission decision-making.
- First 5 California’s Strategic Plan, adopted by the commission at its January 2014 meeting, supports capacity building for research and evaluation. Objective 2.1.2 directs staff to “Enhance research and evaluation capacity to inform practice and to demonstrate accomplishments in supporting services to families and children prenatal through age 5” and includes the specific activity to “Identify key areas in which First 5

California can better coordinate with and leverage local investments made by county commissions to improve evaluation and measure statewide impact, including where county commissions need local and statewide data.”

The child questionnaire content for 2017–18 will be reviewed in collaboration with the First 5 Association. Specific CHIS questionnaire content for 2015–16 sponsored by First 5 California will focus on the following topics:

- Child care and preschool participation
- Positive parenting activities
- Breastfeeding practices
- Use of the Internet for parenting resource information
- Additional oral health (sleep with bottle, content of bottle)
- Child nutrition and obesity prevention
- Developmental screening and referral
- Awareness (market penetration) of the media campaign, *Talk.Read.Sing*<sup>SM</sup>.

CHIS data are freely available online and widely disseminated. Information is available to interested parties in the following manner:

- Data are made available through various no-cost venues such as the AskCHIS online query tool and Health Profiles.
- To provide additional subcounty-level data, AskCHIS NE was released by UCLA in November 2014. This platform was developed with grants from Kaiser Permanente and The California Wellness Foundation. AskCHIS NE produces data available for queries and mapping by using multiple sources of data to model and aggregate estimates at various geographic levels.
- CHIS child health information also is disseminated by other organizations, including Children Now’s California Report Card and County Scorecard of Children’s Well-Being, Kidsdata.org, and various county health reports. The Lucile Packard Foundation’s website (Kidsdata.org) allows select CHIS indicators to be searched easily by topic, region, and demographic categories. Many county commissions routinely use CHIS data disseminated through the user-friendly Kidsdata.org website.

If funded, plans for the future contract include support of two new activities:

- Development of AskCHIS NE measures for the child population ages 0 to 5 years old, an age group currently not available, at geography levels where feasible. A common

difficulty for local program planning and monitoring is that population data are not available for local geographic areas (e.g., city, neighborhood, ZIP code).

- Exploration of development of child well-being indicators for queries or mapping at various levels of geography. Two recent examples of child well-being indicators that might be considered for adaptation include the American Human Development Index, applied to California, as a project of the Social Science Research Council (Lewis and Burd-Sharps 2014; [measureofamerica.org](http://measureofamerica.org)) or the Child Opportunity Index (Acevedo-Garcia, et al. 2014; [diversitydatakids.org](http://diversitydatakids.org)). These well-being indicators encapsulate multiple sources of information about health, education, income, etc.

## WEBSITES

- AskCHIS: <http://ask.chis.ucla.edu/>
- AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition: <http://askchisne.ucla.edu/>
- Diversitydatakids.org: <http://www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap>
- Health Profiles: <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/health-profiles/>
- Measure of America, California: <http://www.measureofamerica.org/california/>

## REFERENCES CITED

Acevedo-Garcia, D., McArdle, N, Hardy, E.F., Crisan, U.I., Romano, B., Norris, D., Baek, M., Reece, J. (2014). The child opportunity index: improving collaboration between community development and public health. *Health Affairs* 33(11): 1948-57.

Lewis, K., and Burd-Sharps, S. (2014). *A Portrait of California, 2014–2015, California Human Development Report*. Social Science Research Council, Measure of America Series, [www.measureofamerica.org](http://www.measureofamerica.org).

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize funding of up to \$1,700,000 over a two-year period to continue support of CHIS, including data collection efforts, survey planning for the 2017–18 data cycle, and support of AskCHIS NE. To cover rising costs of survey data collection and additional deliverables, staff requests an increase in CHIS funding to \$1,700,000 for the 2015–17 contract compared to \$1,500,000 in the four preceding contract periods (see table on page 2). Funding will come from the Research and Development Account.