



April 13, 2020

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Health

Goal: All children thrive by achieving optimal health prenatal through age 5.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

COVID-19 is having a devastating effect on the world, touching the lives of every person in some way, shape, or form. Governor Newsom was, and continues to be, on the forefront of addressing this ravaging pandemic. Despite the Governor's admirable and ambitious efforts, Californians still struggle with economic, emotional, and physical impacts of the virus.

In particular, children and families are experiencing a generational health crisis that requires extreme caution to help mitigate the growth of the coronavirus and inhibit infecting large portions of the population. Likewise, child care programs and providers have been especially hard hit by closures and dwindling child care services. Our goal is to prioritize child care providers serving health care workers and people working in essential services. After those child care providers have been served, counties could provide supplies to the broader community.

To assess COVID-19's impact, F5CA worked with the Governor's Office, the First 5 Association, and child care advocates to survey counties regarding what supplies are most needed. Survey results indicated that basic necessities such as diapers, baby wipes, and hand soap rank highest as supplies that are most needed at the present time.

To that end, F5CA believes this is a crucial time and opportunity to provide emergency support to local communities around the state who are grappling with this pandemic. F5CA is seeking approval to fund the purchase and shipment of emergency supplies pursuant to a formula that assures all 58 counties receive an equitable distribution of goods. This effort would supplement other supply acquisition efforts around the state and would be coordinated to maximize the various funding sources to support the purchase of emergency supplies and not duplicate efforts.

This investment would include contracting with a distribution organization that will be able to procure and distribute supplies at a highly reduced cost, thus maximizing the quantity of necessary supplies to serve more families and providers. The contractor will also assure a quick turnaround time so that the need is met as soon as possible and will work with local communities to determine the best distribution process.

F5CA has been in contact with an organization that could not only quickly secure supplies at a highly discounted rate, but also rapidly distribute these supplies to all 58 counties using a formula that includes both county-identified needs and birth rates to ensure equity across the state. Additionally, because F5CA has partnered in the past, the organization would be able to distribute diapers and baby wipes with F5CA's Talk. Read. Sing.® logo imprinted on these items.

RECOMMENDATION

F5CA staff recommends the Commission approve up to \$4 million over a 60-day period to supply local communities with necessary supplies to combat the outbreak of COVID-19.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Commission has not previously discussed or taken action on this subject.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

This commitment would be funded entirely through the Unallocated account in the amount of up to \$4 million in fiscal year 2019–20.

ATTACHMENTS

None.