



April 23, 2020

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: CHILD TRENDS CONTRACT

Strategic Plan Priority Area: II Child Development

Goal: All children birth through age 5 have high-quality, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

This request is for approval to add 12 months to the portion of First 5 IMPACT funding authorized for the Child Trends contract (No. CFF 015), at no additional cost. The Child Trends contract work has been an integral part of the First 5 IMPACT program, which is scheduled to end June 30, 2020. The contract also is scheduled to end June 30, 2020. This extension will provide Child Trends the additional time needed to complete the evaluation-related services.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission approve a twelve-month, time-only extension of the First 5 IMPACT authorization dedicated to the Child Trends contract. If approved, the amended contract term would be upon execution through June 30, 2021.

BACKGROUND OF KEY ISSUES

The Child Trends First 5 IMPACT evaluation contract totals \$2,000,000. Child Trends is providing a range of evaluation support for First 5 IMPACT, as well as the broader Quality Counts California (QCC) early childhood education system. Child Trends successfully completed most of their projects, including:

- Developing a framework to help policymakers understand the importance of California's early childhood education landscape and priorities
- Analyzing annual performance report data and conducting case studies with counties receiving IMPACT funding, which contributed to framing the current IMPACT 2020 investment

- Conducting preliminary cost modeling analysis to help California estimate the QCC system as implemented
- Summarizing literature and analyzing national data to understand trends and best practices in provider, parent, and early childhood educator participation in quality efforts to inform the current QCC implementation
- Assisting F5CA to understand the strengths and challenges of small population counties embarking on quality efforts

The one-year contract extension will enable Child Trends to continue several projects it began in the current contract, but were temporarily held or postponed to align with other State processes and direction:

- Updating the cost modeling estimate to inform the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care
- Analyzing survey results from the Early Childhood Educator Workforce Study (currently underway) about provider experiences and perceptions of QCC
- Supporting F5CA to understand and define learning readiness in partnership with state policy and labor leaders (the conversation intended to take place in May is postponed due to COVID-19-related issues)

Finally, the interviews with small population counties highlighted a need to provide additional support and technical assistance to build capacity of small population counties to evaluate and report the impact of their investments. This technical assistance also will help F5CA develop a well-informed framework for future Small Population County Funding Augmentation options.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

First 5 IMPACT was authorized at the April 23, 2015, Commission Meeting for \$190 million over five years to support a continuum of quality by building on state and local investments in a Quality Improvement System/Quality Rating and Improvement System.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

There is no additional fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS

None.