



AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING: April 21, 2010
ACTION: X
INFORMATION: _____

**CALIFORNIA STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND CARE (EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL)**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Staff requests State Commission approval for funding of the California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (State Advisory Council), more commonly known and hereafter referenced as the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) of up to \$2 million for three years (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013). This funding request meets the federal government's required state-level match, thus qualifying California to receive as much as \$10.65 million over three years to support activities and recommendations from the State's ELAC. The overall responsibility of the ELAC is to facilitate the development or enhancement of high-quality systems of early learning designed to improve school readiness. The ELAC will work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs in California.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ELAC & Early Learning Quality Improvement System

The federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 requires that states establish State Advisory Councils in order to receive Head Start grants designed to increase collaboration among early childhood education providers. States will be required to provide 70 percent of the total approved grant amount.

In November 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-23-09 establishing the California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (see Exhibit 1). The establishment of the ELAC is the first step in making California eligible to compete for a share of \$100 million in federal Head Start funds available through the Recovery Act, of which California's share is \$10.65 million. Per the Executive Order, the following three individuals, or their designees, will serve as co-chairs of the ELAC:

- 1) Secretary of Education
- 2) Superintendent of Public Instruction
- 3) Chairperson of the California Children and Families Commission

The Governor appointed the California Department of Education as the lead agency for ELAC and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, has requested First 5 California's support for the ELAC (see Exhibit 2).

In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation, Senate Bill 1629 (Steinberg), establishing the Early Learning Quality Improvement System (ELQIS) Advisory Committee. Co-chaired by the Secretary of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the committee was created to propose recommendations regarding the evaluation and improvement of the quality of child development programs providing services for children from birth to age five, including preschool. While establishing the ELAC, defining its membership and outlining its responsibilities, the Executive Order also establishes ELQIS as an official committee of the ELAC.¹ In addition to the ELQIS membership, S-23-09 adds an additional six to seven members: the State Director of Head Start Collaboration, a representative of institutions of higher education in the state, one representative of the state educational agency (defined for federal purposes as the State Board of Education), one representative of the state agency responsible for health or mental health care, and one representative of Head Start agencies located in the state, including migrant, seasonal, and Indian Head Start programs.

State Advisory Council Application

California is expected to receive as much as \$10.65 million in federal funds over three years. Funding applications must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by August 1, 2010, and must include an explanation of California's strategy to improve coordination and collaboration among California's Head Start agencies, preschool programs, and other early childhood education providers. This enhanced coordination will help California expand access so that early learning programs can serve more needy children. ELAC will plan for and ensure that California's application meets federal requirements and makes the state competitive for the funds. The California Department of Education, in collaboration with other early learning partners, has begun the work of completing the application. First 5 California's support would be used to cover ELAC operational costs, including staff support and meeting and travel expenses (see Exhibit 2 for details).

California's ELAC could address other statewide and First 5 California priorities, including supporting a Kindergarten Readiness Observation Assessment (KROA) tool, expanding the longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and the California Longitudinal Teacher Integrated Data Education System (CALTIDES),² and

¹ The 13-member ELQIS consists of directors, chairpersons, and/or their designees from the offices of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of Education, President pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, Department of Finance, Department of Social Services, the Governor's Office, and the First 5 California Children and Families Commission, represented by Executive Director Kris Perry.

² CALPADS and CALTIDES are the foundation of the K-12 data system including statewide assessment data, enrollment data, and teacher assignment data.

working on strategies to integrate the Early Childhood Educator Competencies (due in June 2010) into the early childhood workforce systems.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Commission approve up to \$2 million from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2013, over three years to support California's State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (ELAC).

FISCAL IMPACT

Invests up to \$2 million of state funds to draw down \$10.65 million in federal funds.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Description of Alternative 1

Do not approve the funding request.

Pros

- Funds could be used to support other core services.

Cons

- State may not be eligible for federal funds without this required match
- Missed opportunity to support the Governor's budget solution by drawing down federal funds.

EXHIBITS

- 1) Executive Order S-23-09
- 2) Letter from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, dated April 13, 2010

FUNDING REQUEST FISCAL DETAIL

Title of Request:	California State Advisory Council On Early Childhood Education and Care				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Disbursement <input type="checkbox"/> Special Disbursement	
Amount of Current Agreement:	Up-to	N/A		Expenditures to Date:	N/A	
Current Term of Agreement:	N/A		Through	N/A		
			Fiscal Year Detail			
			FY 10 - 11	FY 11 - 12	FY 12 - 13	FY __ - __
New Amount Requested:	Up to	\$2,000,000	\$666,667	\$666,667	\$666,666	
Total Amount of Agreement:	Up to					
Proposed Funding Term:	July 1, 2010		Through	June 30, 2013		
First 5 California Account Name:	Unallocated		Account Number	0639	Fund Availability Confirmed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes By: Sandy Beck
Statutory Purpose: Health and Safety Code 130105(d)(1)(F)	Two percent shall be deposited in an Unallocated Account for expenditure by the state commission for any of the purposes of this act described in Section 130100 provided that none of these moneys shall be expended for the administrative functions of the state commission.					
Do our funds leverage others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (explain) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Commission Funds		Leveraged Funds		Total Funds
		\$2,000,000		\$10.65 million		\$12.65 million
Key Deliverable Descriptions						Deliverable Date
Advisory Committee federal funding application successfully submitted						August 1, 2010
Advisory Committee Meetings conducted and meeting minutes provided						ongoing