



April 20, 2023

INFORMATION ACTION

SUBJECT: TWENTY-FIVE YEAR LOOKBACK

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Health

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

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Development

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

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Family Functioning

Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Commissioners have expressed interest in the overall impact of First 5 California since the passage of Proposition 10, otherwise known as the California Children and Families Act of 1998 (the "Act"). Staff propose hiring an expert team to determine:

- What has been the effect of the Act in terms of funding services during the first five years of life, and for the families of these young children?
- Who has received how many of what kind of services pursuant to the Act?
- Where has First 5 experienced success, and how?
- Where has First 5 not yet been able to make an impact, and why?
- What should First 5 consider investing in for the near and farther future?
- How should First 5 monitor and evaluate impact moving forward?

First 5 would use multiple methods to evaluate impact at the State, region, and county levels, using a combination of First 5, State, and publicly available data. First 5 would

engage with stakeholders at multiple levels, including parents, before and during their analysis. Proposed deliverables may include a historical analysis, a document review of past First 5 evaluations and reports, policy and program analyses, and options for ongoing impact monitoring and evaluation. After review by First 5 and relevant stakeholders, findings would be disseminated via public and scholarly outlets. Staff request Commissioners' feedback on this proposal, with plans to present a request for funding (action item) at the June 15, 2023, Commission meeting. Proposed expenditure for this contract would be \$2 million from the Research and Evaluation account.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

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

FISCAL DETAIL

None at this time. If approved at the June Commission meeting, the Commission would expend \$2 million for contracted work; a specific budget breakdown for this amount will be presented at the June Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None.