June 15, 2023

☐ **INFORMATION** ☒ **ACTION**

SUBJECT: PRENATAL TO AGE FIVE DATA LANDSCAPE

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.

RECCOMENDATION

First 5 California (F5CA) staff recommend the Commission approve up to $3 million from the Research and Development fund account to contract with the Children's Data Network for the Prenatal to Age Five Data Landscape Project.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Currently, several efforts to connect population-level data systems exist throughout the State; however, those efforts lack current or planned emphasis on prenatal-to-age-five data. F5CA staff have engaged the Children's Data Network, widely recognized experts in this space and the creators of the Strong Start Index, to enhance current efforts to connect population-level data systems throughout the State. The Strong Start Index has been supported by the First 5 Center for Children's Policy, First 5 Association of California, and the University of Southern California.

Building on this foundation, F5CA would conduct a current and thorough analysis of the current status and future plans for these efforts, how they intersect, what data they collect, and key partners in these efforts. Relevant stakeholders, including parents, would be consulted at each stage of the project. An additional goal would be to identify opportunities for future integration with existing child-level data, and offer collaboration, guidance, and support to partners and stakeholders. Prior county-level products that could be scaled as part of this project include a longitudinal analysis of linked California

[Health and Human Services Record Reconciliation data](#) which described the characteristics of, geographic distribution within, and resources available to babies born in Los Angeles County in 2015, and charted their interaction with public benefit and health systems in their first years of life. State and local partners would be further supported by scaling and making available [datasets like this example](#) which presents the proportion of children born in Los Angeles County who became involved with Child Protective Services by age 5, by year of birth, geography, and sociodemographic characteristics.

Potential deliverables include a landscape analysis, State department record reconciliation, products related to technical assistance, data collection products, and enhanced data dissemination through the Strong Start Index, dashboards, and other data visualizations, as well as public-focused and scholarly publications. An example of a potential deliverable related to the landscape analysis, the [Draft Child-Level Data Matrix](#) is an initial list of state-level datasets related to young children in California that will detail opportunities for and gaps in child-level linkage and analysis. A potential deliverable related to technical assistance, [the Prototype Child-Focused Dashboard Data Shell](#) would form the basis of a child-focused dashboard. Such a database would provide detailed demographics in a file structure that is similar to the California Department of Finance P–3 Population file (i.e., disaggregated age, gender and race/ethnicity categories are provided as rows). This would allow users to produce total counts for a given program population by geography and determine demographic characteristics for the cross-program or program counts, including age, race/ethnicity, and gender.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Presented by Commissioner Mijic, the Commission discussed building out a proposal using the Strong Start Index to help disrupt the inequities in neighborhoods where there were disproportionately negative outcomes for children ages 0–5, in collaboration with California Health and Human Services.

At the April 2023 Commission meeting, Commissioners heard an [informational presentation on this proposal](#). Discussion after the presentation covered the lack of data underlying related statewide efforts, and that many such efforts are currently or only focusing on children older than five years old. Discussion also centered on which stakeholders had already been consulted, to which the CDN staff indicated that they had consulted stakeholders, including California Health and Human Services, the Heising-Simons Foundation, First 5 LA, First 5 OC, and the First 5 Association in creating this proposal. Discussion also included whether the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) should have another opportunity to weigh in on this proposal; PEAC Chair Majors suggested sending this item to the full Commission as an action item for the June 2023 Commission Meeting.

FISCAL DETAIL

If approved, the Commission would contract with the Children's Data Network for up to $3M from the Research and Development fund account.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Proposed Scope of Work – Supporting a Strong Start for CA Kids: A Proposal to Augment, Connect, Support, and Collect Population-Based Data
B. Letter of Support – Avo Makdessian, Executive Director, First 5 Association
C. Letter of Support – Karla Pleitéz Howell, Executive Director, First 5 Los Angeles