



May 15, 2020

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR 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.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

On April 13, 2020, the Commission held an emergency meeting to discuss how First 5 California (F5CA) could support efforts to address the devastating effect of COVID-19.

Focusing on the need for essential supplies, F5CA worked with the Governor's Office, the First 5 Association, the Resource & Referral Network, and child care advocates to survey counties regarding supply needs. After a thoughtful discussion, the Commission approved funding up to \$4 million to be spent over 60 days on supplies such as diapers, baby wipes, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, and hand soap. Priority for supplies went to child care providers caring for children of essential workers. Supplies could also be used to address underserved populations in broader communities.

While these supplies will assist counties for 60 days, the lingering effect of COVID-19 will be felt far beyond this period. To that end, F5CA recommends extending its assistance to counties to include another 60 days of funding during this crucial time. Consistent with its initial investment, 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 amending F5CA's current contract with Supplybank.org (contractor) in order to continue to procure and distribute supplies at a highly reduced cost, thus maximizing the quantity of necessary supplies to serve more families and providers. Necessary supplies could be expanded based on most current supply needs. Additionally, the contractor would also be able to distribute much-needed books for

children and families, in conjunction with the shipment of supplies, at a bare minimum of cost.

RECOMMENDATION

F5CA staff recommends the Commission approve up to \$4 million from the Unallocated account for an additional 60 days to provide emergency support and supplies to local communities throughout the state.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Commission previously approved a similar request during the April 13, 2020, emergency Commission meeting in the amount of up to \$4 million from the Unallocated account for fiscal year 2019–20.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

This commitment would be funded through the Unallocated account in the amount of up to \$4 million in fiscal year 2020–21. With Commission approval of the \$4 million, the balance in the Unallocated account for fiscal year 2020–21 will be \$5,820,660.

ATTACHMENTS

None.