



April 20, 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.

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-five data. 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, First 5 California 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. 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. Relevant stakeholders, including parents, would be consulted at each step of the project. 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. 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 \$3 million from the Research and Evaluation account.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Presented by Commissioner Mijic, the Commission previously 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 to 5, in collaboration with California Health and Human Services.

FISCAL DETAIL

None at this time. If approved at the June Commission meeting, the Commission would contract with the Children's Data Network for \$3 million; a specific budget breakdown for this amount will be presented at the June Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Concept Paper - Supporting a Strong Start for CA Kids: A Proposal to Augment, Connect, Promote, and Collect Population-Based Data
- B. California Health and Human Services Opportunities for Considerations