



AGENDA ITEM: 26-32

DATE OF MEETING: September 9, 2026

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

**RATIFY THE ACTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AUTHORIZING THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT THE CALIFORNIA RURAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (CALRHTP) ACCELERATOR APPLICATION AND
AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT
AND EXECUTE RELATED GRANT AGREEMENTS
[UP TO \$2,447,221 – CALRHTP FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Staff requests that the Commission ratify the action of the Chair and Vice Chair authorizing submission of the California Rural Health Transformation Program (CaLRHTP) Accelerator application and authorize the Executive Director to accept any resulting grant award(s) and execute associated agreements and required administrative actions within the scope of the approved application and awarded funding amount.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Health Care Access and Information released the California Rural Health Transformation Program: Transformative Care Model Accelerator Partners application, and proposals were due on August 14, 2026, which occurred prior to the next regular Commission meeting. Because the application deadline occurred prior to the next regular Commission meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair authorized submission of the application to HCAI.

First 5 Riverside County proposes to serve as the regional accelerator and backbone entity for a rural maternal-child health access model that builds on prior local investments in Maternal Fetal Medicine capacity, telehealth, family resource center expansion, and referral/navigation infrastructure. Rather than relying on a single clinical system or a single navigator position, the proposed model will establish a coordinated partner network that connects rural pregnant patients and families to earlier prenatal care, specialty consultation, family support services, and closed-loop follow-up. The model will include participating clinical and specialty partners, Family Resource Centers, community-based access points, and RivCoONE as the shared referral and performance infrastructure. Clinical partners will support prenatal access, telehealth and/or e-consult workflows, and

specialty referral pathways. First 5 Riverside County will lead model design, partner coordination, community linkage, referral infrastructure, family support integration, data/CQI, and documentation of lessons learned for statewide scaling. This approach builds on prior First 5 Riverside County investments while creating a more durable and scalable regional model. The project is designed to improve access and uptake of first-trimester prenatal care, expand virtual visits and e-consults, strengthen referral completion, and demonstrate how a children and families commission can serve as a cross-sector coordinating entity for rural maternal-child health transformation.

Past Commission practice has been to authorize the Executive Director to submit grant applications when timelines require action in advance of a Commission meeting, and to provide delegated authority for the execution of application materials and related actions without requiring further Commission action.

In July 2016, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to submit a local dental pilot project application to the California Department of Health Care Services and execute the necessary application and actions without further action of the Commission.

In March 2017, the Commission ratified the action of the Chair and Vice Chair authorizing the Executive Director to submit a notice of acceptance for the Dental Transformation Initiative and further authorized execution of the agreement and related implementation documents, contracts, budget adjustments, amendments and other necessary actions without requiring further action of the Commission.

In May 2026, the Commission ratified the action of the Chair and Vice Chair authorizing the Executive Director to apply for the Proposition 64 grant award and execute associated agreements and required administrative actions within the scope of the approved applications.

These prior actions demonstrate the Commission's practice of allowing timely grant submission and authorizing staff to complete award-related administrative actions while maintaining Commission oversight of substantive program and contracting decisions as otherwise required.

This grant proposal builds on existing county and community infrastructure and strategic priorities and does not create a new standalone First 5 program or clinical service. For families, the goal is a simpler path into prenatal care and specialty services, with fewer handoffs, stronger follow-up, and connection to family supports close to where they live.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Ratify the action of the Chair and Vice Chair authorizing submission of the California Rural Health Transformation Program Accelerator application to the Department of Health Care Access and Information;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to accept any grant award(s) resulting from the California Rural Health Transformation Program;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute grant agreements, award documents, assurances, certifications, amendments, budget adjustments, and other administrative documents necessary to accept and administer the awarded funding on behalf of the Commission, subject to County Counsel approval as to form, provided such actions remain consistent with the approved application scope and do not exceed the awarded funding amount; and
4. Authorize the Executive Director to execute partner agreements, memoranda of understanding, and contracts only to the extent otherwise permitted under existing Commission-delegated contracting authority, and direct staff to return to the Commission for approval of agreements exceeding that authority or otherwise requiring Commission action; and
5. Direct staff to return to the Commission with informational updates on award status and implementation, as appropriate.

BUDGET IMPACT

No net Prop 10 cost. If awarded, revenues and corresponding appropriations will be incorporated into the appropriate fiscal year budget through standard budget adjustment processes. Until award notification is received, there is no current budget impact. For the California Rural Health Transformation Program, First 5 Riverside County requested \$2,447,221.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 2 - Comprehensive Health & Development (92945)
Goal Area 4 - Countywide Impact (92980)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None known

ATTACHMENTS

1. California Rural Health Transformation Program grant submission project description
2. California Rural Health Transformation Program grant submission proposed budget