



AGENDA ITEM: 24-33
DATE OF MEETING: October 23, 2024
ACTION:
INFORMATION:

**APPROVE HOME VISITATION INVESTMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQu)
WITH COMMUNITY PROVIDERS
[\$1,562,931 – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CALWORKS FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve the development and release of Request for Qualifications (RFQu) for a community home visiting multi-model investment. This investment seeks to expand existing evidence-based home visitation models currently being administered by various service provider organizations in Riverside County utilizing allocated California Department Social Services CalWORKs funding. The RFQu project period will include fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, for an investment not to exceed \$1,562,931.

BACKGROUND

On December 13, 2017, the Commission authorized the development and release of RFQu for a community home visitation multi-model investment, ultimately resulting in Prop 10 funded contracts with 6 service provider agencies delivering evidence-based home visiting programs throughout Riverside County. On December 12, 2018, the Commission authorized the integration of CalWORKs funding to expand access to home visiting and create an integrated funding model in Riverside County.

The Maximum Reimbursable Amount CalWORKs allocation from the California Department of Social CalWORKs Home Visiting Program administered by First 5 Riverside County on behalf of the Department of Public Social Services is not fully allocated to contracted provider agencies. This procurement will expand the number of partner agencies in currently underserved high-need communities, and F5RC will be able to allocate and distribute the remaining available CalWORKs dollars, increasing the number of families served with home visiting.

Priority will be given to home visiting programs located within high-need communities to address infant mortality, including infant death due to neglect; premature birth and low birth weight infants or other risks to prenatal, maternal, newborn, or child health; poverty; and child maltreatment.

Home visiting programs will be expected to collaborate at the local, regional, and state levels to support the establishment of a comprehensive and aligned quality early care, education, and family support system that is available to all children and their families in Riverside County.

Home Visiting Models

CalWORKs Home Visiting Program eligible evidence-based home visiting models, including Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), and Parents as Teachers (PAT) have been shown to have long-term positive impact for participant children and their caregivers. Evidence-based models have found improvements in child development and school performance among children up to age five. Home visiting services are delivered in the home or community setting of participating families. This focus offers the potential for a better assessment and understanding of a family's day-to-day realities. This understanding is critical for home visitors to build relationships, establish goals, and support wellness across multiple domains (e.g. physical health, developmental competence, social and emotional well-being) for infants, young children, and their primary caregivers and families.

Home visiting programs provide a continuum of services to families based on family preferences, needs, strengths, and risk factors. Services provided through home visiting program levels are:

- Flexible and designed to meet the needs of families.
- Inclusive of and responsive to the ethnic, cultural, racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity of families served.

Home visitors partner with families to promote child development and confident parenting by supporting the relationship among the family, home visitor, and the community. Home visiting is a program that holds promise for high-risk families with young children. Initiating this program prenatally and increasing the number of visits improves developmental and health outcomes for children.

Home Visiting Results/Outcomes

Early childhood home visiting empowers parents and caregivers to meet their family's needs and to engage fully in their children's care and growth. The programs produce positive returns on investment for adults and children alike. Key results include the following:

- Evidence-based home visiting has improved outcomes for parents and children across a wide range of child ages, outcome areas, and national models.
- Research has demonstrated that evidence-based home visiting programs, such as PAT, NFP, and HFA have a significant impact on family economic self-sufficiency proving to be cost-effective in the long term.
- The fiscal benefits from evidence-based home visiting come from reduced government program spending and increased individual earnings.

As a two-generation strategy, home visiting has the potential to improve outcomes across a range of domains, such as child health, school readiness, parent economic self-sufficiency, and parenting practices.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQu) for additional CalWORKs eligible Home Visiting providers; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to establish agreements with partner agencies to provide home visiting services to CalWORKs-eligible families.
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary contracts, documents, budget adjustments, amendments, and other actions required to implement the procurement on behalf of the Commission after successful selection and negotiations, subject to approval by County Counsel as to form.

BUDGET IMPACT

If necessary, adequate appropriation will be included in future budget adjustments.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 2 - Comprehensive Health & Development (92945)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Vice Chair, Jose Campos, Jurupa Unified School District Director
2. Commissioner Kimberly Saruwatari, Riverside University Health System – Public Health
3. Commissioner Charity Douglas, Department of Public Social Services