



AGENDA ITEM: 25-02

DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

## **ADOPT AD HOC COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ANNUAL CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD AND SPONSORSHIP**

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST**

Approve the revisions of the annual First 5 Riverside County (F5RC) Champion for Children Award and sponsorship including the introduction of a second category winner, a revised nomination form, and increase to the sponsorship amount awarded as recommended by the F5RC Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Members and F5RC staff.

### **BACKGROUND**

F5RC's Champion for Children Award was created by the Commission in 2019 (Action Item 19-25) to honor and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of F5RC, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Innovation and excellence occur every day in Riverside County and positively impact the lives of children and families in Riverside County. As indicated by the number of nominations received, the Advisory committee recognized the opportunity to improve upon the award process to encourage more participation.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Nominations Received</b>	<b>Extension/Nominations Received Before and After Extension Approved</b>
2020	9	No
2021	7	Yes/0 before, 7 after
2022	3	Yes/2 before, 1 after
2023	5	No
2024	5	No
2025	8	No

In January 2025, the Advisory Committee selected three Advisory Committee members to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to review the award's current process and criteria to explore options to both generate more interest as well as to increase recognition of nominees.

The Ad Hoc Committee met several times in preparation of their meeting with F5RC Staff on August 21. The recommendations agreed upon by the Committee and staff to revise the Award process include:

- Recognize two award winners through the introduction of distinct categories
  - **Leading the Way Award** winner as nominated by another individual; based on the existing award type and focusing on a nominee in a leadership position
  - **Making a Difference Award** winner as self-nominated or nominated by a knowledgeable individual; focusing on nominations from those who work directly with children and families or who have initiated a program or project that directly impacts children and families
- Increase the sponsorship amount awarded in the winner's name for the Leading the Way winner to \$5,000
- Award \$1,000 sponsorship amount in the name of the newly established Making a Difference award winner
- Revising the nomination form from a fillable PDF to a digital survey format to increase ease of submission

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends Advisory Committee members serve in an expanded role by reaching out to potential nominees within their respective districts to encourage them to apply. The Advisory Committee remains responsible for reviewing eligible nominations received each year and providing their recommendation for the award winners to the Commission.

Recognition of the Champion for Children Awards winners will continue at a Commission meeting, through a press release, and through the awarding of a sponsorship to support a community event.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Adopt Ad Hoc Committee and First 5 Staff recommendations to provide Champion for Children nomination forms in digital survey format that includes two (2) categories, Leading the Way Award and Making a Difference Award.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE**

Countywide Impact – Districts - ALL

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 19-25 Action Item Approving First 5 Riverside County Champion for Children Criteria
2. 2026 Champion for Children Award Timeline