

AGENDA ITEM: 25-31

DATE OF MEETING: July 9, 2025

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

**APPROVE AND RATIFY CONTRACT AND TERMS WITH
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
FOR HELP ME GROW INLAND EMPIRE
FROM JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026
(CONTRACT NO. CF25146) [\$500,000 – PROP 10 FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve and ratify contract CF25146, inclusive of previously approved contract terms with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, for Help Me Grow Inland Empire (HMG-IE) to continue efforts for full implementation and focused sustainability strategies.

BACKGROUND

On May 8, 2024 (Action Item 24-16), the Commission approved, ratified, and amended contract terms specific to contract CF24126, with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH), effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025, for Help Me Grow Inland Empire (HMG-IE) establishing the structure for subsequent contracts. The proposed FY25/26 contract reflects a continued investment using amended contract terms.

On July 17, 2023 (Action Item 23-32), the Commission approved and ratified the initial contract CF24126, effective July 1, 2023- June 30, 2025. Upon subsequent routing of signatures with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, staff received a request to revise several sections of the Commission-approved template. All but one edit remained substantially in the same form as the approved template.

The Commission has invested in the development and implementation of Help Me Grow Inland Empire through a regional partnership between First 5 Riverside County, First 5 San Bernardino, and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, designed to strengthen early identification and connection to developmental supports for children from birth through age five.

“Help Me Grow Inland Empire” (HMG-IE) is not a direct service program, but rather a dual county systems approach to a comprehensive integrated process for ensuring developmental promotion, early identification, referral, and linkage in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The model of HMG reflects a national set of best practices for designing and implementing a system that can optimally meet the needs of young children and families.

Since its launch, HMG-IE has grown from a referral and coordination service into a foundational element of the Inland Empire’s early childhood infrastructure—supporting screenings in primary care and early learning settings, providing follow-up and care navigation, and aligning with broader public systems.

The FY 25/26 contract supports the continuation of implementation while advancing more formalized strategies for long-term sustainability and public system integration. It builds on recent implementation progress and begins to formalize strategies for long-term integration into public health, health care, and family-serving systems.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Commission:

1. Approve and ratify Contract No. CF25146, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for a contract effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital for Help Me Grow Inland Empire and previously approved contract terms used under CF24126, and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Commission, subject to County Counsel approval as to form; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director, based on the availability of fiscal funding and as approved by County Counsel to sign amendments that exercise the options of executed contract effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, on behalf of the Commission including modifications to the statement of work that stay within the intent of said contract and if necessary, including no-cost extensions of the project period, without requiring further action from the Commission.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate appropriation has been included in the approved FY 25/26 budget to support funding for this initiative (527980-25800-938001-92945).

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 2 - Comprehensive Health & Development (92945)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CF25146 A0-LLU-HMGIE