



AGENDA ITEM: 25-03

DATE OF MEETING: January 22, 2025

ACTION:

INFORMATION:

APPROVE BASIC NEEDS EMERGENCY FUND FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve the establishment of a Basic Needs Emergency Fund utilizing Commission-authorized Family Resource Center Match funds in the amount of \$100,000.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, 2023 (Action Item 23-09), the Commission approved four (4) Contracts for FRC Network expansion with FRC Match Funds for integration into community-based organizations in high-need areas of Riverside County.

On May 11, 2022 (Action Item 22-24), the Commission approved FRC Network expansion with Riverside University Health System – Medical Center of integration in the high-risk clinic for pregnant people.

On May 12, 2021 (Action Item 21-20), the Commission approved FRC Network expansion with existing four (4) home visiting contractors with FRC Match Funds.

On May 13, 2020 (Action Item 20-22), the Commission approved matching Prop 10 Funds to maintain a network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to strengthen families through FY 25/26.

Basic Needs Emergency Fund

The Basic Needs Emergency Fund will offer immediate basic needs support by covering urgent needs while families are being connected with longer-term resources and support services. Examples of recent needs have included:

- Emergency infant formula after hours and before weekends
- Temporary hotel or shelter for families awaiting housing benefits
- Gas vouchers to facilitate transportation to shelters

The funds will be used to meet the needs of families in crisis requesting support from the family resource center who are pregnant or have children under the age of six. The funds will provide short-term assistance for critical needs such as food, water, infant formula, diapers, transportation, and temporary housing.

Department staff will develop operational guidelines, processes for disbursement, management, and accountability mechanisms for the Basic Needs Emergency Fund in compliance with Commission and County policies, procedures, and approved procurement process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Approve the establishment of a Basic Needs Emergency Fund utilizing Commission authorized FRC Match funds in the amount of \$100,000;
2. Authorize Department staff to develop operational guidelines, processes for disbursement, and accountability mechanisms;
3. Authorize the Executive Director or Designee to approve operational guidelines on behalf of the Commission; and
4. Authorize the Executive Director or Designee to administer the fund adhering to approved operational guidelines and applicable Commission policies, procedures, and approved procurement process.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate appropriation has been included in the approved FY 24/25 budget to support funding for this initiative (527780-25800-938001--92975-FRC MATCH).

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 3 – Resilient Families (92975)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None Known.

ATTACHMENTS

None.