



AGENDA ITEM: 25-36

DATE OF MEETING: September 10, 2025

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

**AUTHORIZE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES (DPSS) TO ENHANCE VISITATION ROOMS INTO CHILD-
FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS WITH "IMAGINATION STATIONS"
[\$250,000 - PROP 10 FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Authorize a Partnership Agreement with Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to enhance infant and toddler visitation rooms at eight sites into child-friendly environments with "Imagination Stations," interactive, developmentally appropriate features designed to foster comfort, engagement, and connection between children and their caregivers. First 5 Riverside County's funding will be limited to an amount not to exceed \$250,000, with the understanding that this contribution may be reduced if additional funding is secured for these sites.

BACKGROUND

First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) share a commitment to creating safe, supportive, and welcoming environments for children and families. While many DPSS visitation rooms are being refreshed, some still have minimal child-centered features and limited resources to engage children in meaningful, relationship-building ways.

In 2024, First 5 Riverside County piloted enhancements at the Hemet DPSS location, installing interactive wall panels, developmentally appropriate furniture, and a curated selection of books and toys. The result was a space that encouraged comfort, engagement, and emotional connection during visits, with positive feedback from both staff and families.

With DPSS now undertaking a countywide renovation of visitation rooms, this is a timely opportunity to layer in First 5 Riverside County's investment to go beyond standard updates—adding interactive features, age-appropriate furnishings, and intentional design elements that actively support child development and strengthen family bonds. This collaboration will focus on the following locations: Indio, Blythe, Banning, Market Street

(Riverside), Perris, and Temecula. Lake Elsinore and La Sierra sites will be fully funded through a separate \$300,000 allocation from the Board of Supervisors (District 2), allowing First 5's investment to focus on the remaining six sites and complementary enhancements. If additional funding is contributed by other District Supervisors for sites within this project scope, First 5 Riverside County's contribution will be proportionally reduced to reflect the new funding landscape. This ensures that Prop 10 funds are maximized and leveraged alongside other County investments, while maintaining focus on sites and enhancements not otherwise covered by Board allocations.

The Partnership Agreement will outline roles, timelines, design standards, installation logistics, and maintenance procedures, ensuring these upgraded spaces remain safe, welcoming, and developmentally rich environments for children and families across Riverside County.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to develop and negotiate a Partnership Agreement with Riverside County DPSS for the enhancement of visitation rooms in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee, based on the availability of funding and subject to County Counsel approval as to form, to sign amendments that modify the Scope of Work and/or reporting requirements within the scope and intent of the original Partnership Agreement, 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.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal 3: Resilient Families

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Charity Douglas, Riverside County Department of Social Services Director.

ATTACHMENTS

None