



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: First 5 Santa Barbara
County Children and
Families Commission
Department No.: 994
For Agenda Of: March 14, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director
Director(s) First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission,
(805) 884-8085
Contact Info: Michelle Robertson, Assistant Director
First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission,
(805) 335-4990

SUBJECT: Subrecipient Agreement with United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. for
childcare sector recovery and resiliency services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a Subrecipient Agreement with **United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc.** for the provision of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded childcare sector recovery and resiliency services for a total maximum agreement amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period of March 15, 2023 through June 30, 2025; and
- b) Determine that the above action is a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary Text:

On August 15, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara, through the First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission (First 5 SBC), issued a Notice of Funds Available and the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit proposals from qualified Bidders for targeted and timely implementation of services in four focus areas: infant and toddler workforce pathway and skill development, infant and toddler classroom expansion grants and business support, infant and toddler facilities planning and technical assistance support, and emergency child care plan development for County first responders and essential workers. This RFQ was issued in response to the needs identified by the COVID-19 Child Care Survey as well as priorities identified by the County Board of Supervisors. Bidders could apply for single or multiple focus areas through the RFQ process. RFQs were scored on an individual basis through a Scoring Committee.

Based on the proposals submitted, both United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. and Santa Barbara Foundation are anticipated to be awarded contracts to implement unique strategies towards the four focus areas. The two agencies will work together when scopes overlap and to also avoid duplication of effort when working with community partners.

United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc. will focus on expanding childcare efforts within the employer sponsored/corporate space, conduct municipality-focused studies on childcare need, establish a designated fund and work with local philanthropy and chambers of commerce as an ongoing support for the childcare sector, and work with the County Office of Emergency management and First 5 SBC to establish a childcare plan during county declared emergencies.

First 5 SBC will provide project management over the course of the contract terms, provide technical assistance as needed, stay abreast of changing trends and new opportunities, and be responsible for the invoice approval and quarterly reporting towards the performance measures as stated in the contracts.

Background:

COVID-19, wildfires, economic uncertainty, and persistent racial injustices have upended nearly every aspect of children’s lives in California, and those living in Santa Barbara County are not immune. Currently, for 4 in 10 families, the pandemic has made it more difficult to afford necessities like groceries, diapers, and childcare. The systems providing those necessities—specifically, the childcare sector, which allows our economy to function and supports a parent’s ability to work—are also strained. Childcare for our youngest children, infants, and toddlers was already in a desperate situation prior to the pandemic but has been exasperated as families desperately seek care. This situation has become a social justice issue for many. Today’s infants and toddlers represent our nation’s most ethnically diverse generation and face many challenges to equitable access to opportunities that support thriving communities. This includes addressing the disparities that several sub-groups face with being able to access stable, high-quality, affordable programming. In order to address these disparities and establish a recovery and stabilization plan for the childcare sector, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the use of federal funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to:

1. Develop Infant and Toddler Workforce Pathway and Skill Development
2. Develop and Implement Infant and Toddler Expansion Grants and Business Support
3. Conduct Infant and Toddler Facility Planning with Technical Assistance and Support

4. Establish Emergency Child Care Plan Development for First Responders and County Essential Workers

It is also recognized that various components of an overall framework are needed to meet the range of individual and community needs that currently exist, while ensuring sustainability, capacity building, and effectiveness of interventions. Below is an overview of the continuum of services.

Performance Measure:

- Create a coordinated system of business and fiscal support for the child care sector that braids various funding streams, thus helping providers recover and stabilize from the economic gaps due to the loss of revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Create an enhanced infrastructure initiative to support the childcare sector in meeting the need for infant-toddler spaces in the County of Santa Barbara, thus helping the childcare sector meet the changing supply and demand challenge for parents returning to work;
- Help to increase the available infant-toddler spaces by a minimum of 10% to address the need in Santa Barbara County; and
- Establish an ongoing organizational, business, and community development support system to broadly support the childcare sector as well as connect to resources.
- Develop an Emergency Childcare Plan for Santa Barbara County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal (ARPA)			\$955,000
Fees			
Other: First 5 SBC			\$45,000
Total	\$	-	\$
			1,000,000.00

Narrative:

\$955,000 through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) towards infrastructure to Childcare Sector/Sector Support is eligible under the expenditure category of Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care. The County of Santa Barbara has identified Childcare as an impacted industry and will provide aid to address the impacted industry’s negative economic impact.

\$105,000 through ARPA from the Health and Human Services plan to support the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in planning for future disasters.

\$45,000 from First 5 SBC to supplement the Health and Human Services support of OEM.

Key Contract Risks:

The agreements recommended for approval can be terminated by the County for non-appropriation of funds, or for convenience upon 30 days’ written notice. Furthermore, the Agreements are cost-reimbursement contracts. This allows the County to disburse funds for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the agreements. The County will only reimburse costs that are documented and eligible under the agreements. First 5 SBC staff will assess performance and cost documentation prior to reimbursement.

Special Instructions: Please email one (1) complete, signed Board Contract and one (1) Minute Order to the First 5 Commission – Attention: Sara Gonzalez.

Attachments: Board Contract Agreement – United Way of Santa Barbara County, Inc.

Authored by:

Michelle Robertson, Assistant Director, First 5 SBC

- cc:** Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant CEO
 Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director, First 5 SBC
 Ted Taber, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, CEO
 Lindsey Walters, Principal Management Analyst, CEO