



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Executive Director

Date: February 16, 2023

Re: **Ratification to Submit an Application for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Grant**

Background

The California Department of Health Care Services recently released a Request for Applications for Round 1: Parent and Caregiver Support Programs and Practices as part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). Authorized in the 2021 Budget Act, the \$4.7 billion CYBHI aims to reimagine the systems that support behavioral health and wellness for all California's children and families with a focus on promoting social and emotional well-being and prevention/early intervention.

HealthySteps, identified as one of four eligible evidence-based practices (EBP) models in the RFA, is based on the most recent scientific understandings and helps to ensure individual, family, community, and societal well-being. HealthySteps is an evidence-based, interdisciplinary pediatric primary care program that promotes nurturing parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers, particularly in areas where there have been persistent inequities for families of color or with low incomes. The HealthySteps model is organized into three Tiers of Service and eight Core Components to make sure all families in the practice with children ages 0-3 receive support aligned with their needs.

If awarded funding, First 5 Ventura County HealthySteps Specialists, who are child development experts, are integrated into the pediatric team at up to three local pediatric primary care offices/clinics to provide short-term behavior and development consultation and referrals, intensive service when needed, and support screening efforts. A key component of piloting HealthySteps would include developing strategies to sustain the program over time, including braiding together a diverse set of Medi-Cal funding mechanisms such as dyadic services and Community Health Worker benefits.

Implementation start-up proposals will be funded at up to \$750,000 over a two year funding period. An application requesting \$737,240 for a two-year HealthySteps implementation start up grant was submitted by the January 31, 2023 due date. Additional detail may be found here:

<https://www.healthysteps.org/>

Recommendation

The recommended action is to ratify the submission of an application for a Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) – Round 1: Parent and Caregiver Support Programs and Practices Grant to the California Department of Health Care Services.