Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2025

Re: **Recommendation to Submit an Application for Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity (RISE) Grant**

Background

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) has released a Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity (RISE) Grant application. This grant opportunity is a three-year initiative designed to enhance physical and behavioral health care quality and access for Medi-Cal members in Ventura County.

RISE Grant Objectives and Strategic Priorities:

- Expand Access to Care: Target underserved populations and geographic areas with unmet health care needs.
- Community-Based Care: Provide care where members live, work, and learn, including home, community, school, and worksite-based services.
- Improve Health Outcomes and Equity: Enhance culturally responsive services to promote health equity and improve member experiences.
- Innovative Health Solutions: Address structural barriers through initiatives like transportation services, mobile clinics, telemedicine, and other technology-driven approaches.

GCHP has encouraged applications from hospitals, health systems, service providers, community-based organizations, and other entities capable of significantly impacting health care quality and access for GCHP members. Grant applications are due March 31, 2025, with award announcements expected on June 2, 2025. The initial grant period will be from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

F5VC staff are drafting a grant proposal to create a family resource and wellness hub for families with children prenatal to age 5 in the Oxnard Plains region by June 2026. This hub would provide a safe space in the community for families to be connected to family support and health-related resources. F5VC will identify and lease or purchase a facility to be used as the family resource and wellness hub and collaborate with community partners to ensure a cohesive referral process. Establishing a family resource and wellness hub addresses a critical need for a facility that can accommodate co-location of multiple community partners, thereby improving the coordination and access to care for vulnerable populations.

First 5 Ventura County delegated authority enables staff to apply for grants and execute agreements to accept grant funding up to $500,000, provided the grant is aligned with the strategic plan and consistent with Commission policies and the Commission Chair approves. Staff anticipate submitting an application for approximately $2 million, thus requiring Commission approval.

Recommendation

The recommended action is to approve the submission of an application for a Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity (RISE) grant to the Gold Coast Health Plan, beyond the current delegated authority of $500,000.