Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: John Anderson, Operations Manager

Date: May 15, 2025

Re: **Recommendation to Grant Authority to the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with Economic Development Collaborative to Manage and Implement the Community Investment Loan Fund**

Background

The goal of the Community Investment Loan Fund (Loan Fund) is to increase the number of licensed quality child care and preschool spaces for Ventura County's children by providing low-cost financing for facilities development. Following a bid process in July 2009, the Commission selected the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) as the implementation partner for the Loan Fund. The Commission also approved loan terms and guidelines, which include short-term planning and construction loans, and longer-term amortizing loans.

The costs associated with managing and implementing the Community Investment Loan Fund for FY 2025-26 are projected to be $20,000 and expected interest earnings of the Loan Fund are projected to offset these implementation costs. The EDC scope of work includes marketing, outreach, development of relevant materials, loan consultations for potential borrowers, processing of loan applications and management of loan repayments. EDC is also responsible for developing and maintaining a Loan Board that approves loans, loan modifications, waivers, or foreclosure actions. The Loan Board does not have authority to write-off loans; loan write-off actions require Commission approval.

The Commission previously approved an allocation of $1,300,000 in loan funds. There is a loan application currently in progress for the Little Blue Creche preschool in Ventura and the anticipated loan amount has been deducted from the amount available for lending in FY 2025-26. The following loans have been issued to date:

Loan Recipient	Loan Amount	NEW 0-5 Spaces	Subset, Infant Toddler Spaces
ABC Kids Care – Fillmore [1]	$205,000	120	30
Princeton Avenue – Moorpark [1,2]	$89,368	15	15
ABC Kids - Santa Paula [1]	$312,500	85	40
Princeton Academy – Ventura [1,2]	$250,000	48	12
ABC Kids Preschool – Oxnard	$340,000	75	
TOTAL F5VC Loans*	**$1,196,868**	**343**	**97**

[1] Completed loan repayments; [2] No longer in operation

*EDC leveraged an additional $568,132 in other public funding

Recommendation

Recommended action would authorize the Executive Director to contract with the Economic Development Collaborative to continue managing the implementation of the Community Investment Loan Fund for FY 2025-26, not to exceed $20,000. The contract would also provide funds for EDC to issue up to $122,500 in loans to eligible Community Investment Loan Fund applicants under the previously approved loan guidelines, for a total FY 2025-26 contract amount not to exceed $142,500.