County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

March 16, 2010

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

16 MARCH 16, 2010

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ACCEPT FUNDING FROM LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (4 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Accept funding from the Los Angeles Unified School District to provide customized technical assistance and expedited processing for up to 50 Los Angeles Unified School District Early Education Centers through the Steps to Excellence Project by June 15, 2010. The Steps to Excellence Project is a child care quality support and rating system administered by the Office of Child Care in the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Accept funding from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in the amount of $125,000 for the purpose of providing customized technical assistance and expedited processing for up to 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers through Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) by June 15, 2010.

2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his designee to enter into a contract with LAUSD and accept any additional funding. The contract will be effective March 16, 2010 through June 15, 2010. Per the terms of the contract, Office of Child Care (OCC) will provide customized professional development and technical assistance to the staff of identified Early Education Centers; expedite the scheduling of STEP on-site observations and the issuance of STEP quality ratings for each site; and provide individual site reports detailing the rating results and recommendations for quality improvement.

3. Delegate authority to the CEO or his designee to prepare and execute any and all documents and contract amendments on behalf of the County as may be deemed necessary to effectuate this contract.

4. Delegate authority to the CEO or his designee to execute contract amendments to existing STEP contracts with the First 5 Los Angeles Commission (Commission) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as needed. Both organizations have been informed of the impending changes and are willing to proceed with the needed amendments.

5. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment in the amount of $125,000 to increase appropriation and revenue to provide customized technical assistance to LAUSD Early Education Centers through STEP by June 15, 2010.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On December 12, 2006, your Board adopted a motion approving a three-year pilot of STEP, the locally developed child care quality improvement and rating system. With your Board's support, the Commission agreed to fund the on-site observation component of STEP. Assuming ongoing support by the Commission, the intent was to fund STEP for up to one million dollars over three years. However, Year 1 and Year 2 costs have totaled $807,833. This leaves $192,167 for Year 3, which would not be sufficient to complete the task of conducting the proposed 200 on-site ratings of child development programs.

During the 2008-09 Fiscal Year, seven LAUSD Early Childhood Centers completed the STEP process and earned STEP ratings. Because the process was determined to be beneficial to those programs, LAUSD has chosen to invest Title 1 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in STEP. Specifically, LAUSD will provide the funding to ensure that 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers receive technical assistance and expedited STEP ratings by June 15, 2010.

Given the availability of funding from LAUSD to support the observation component of STEP during the current year, the Commission has agreed to amend its 2009-10 STEP contract and roll $100,000 from Year 2 into Year 3. This adjustment will maximize current year resources available from LAUSD and provide critically needed support for Year 3 of the Commission contract.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This contract supports the County's strategic plan goals related to operational effectiveness and Children, Family and Adult Well-Being. Customized training and technical assistance will be provided to 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers. These centers will be rated by trained and reliable data collectors. The rating results will be made available to parents in clear, concise language. This information will support parents' efforts to identify high quality services for their children.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The $125,000 will be incorporated into the CEO's Fiscal Year 2009-10 Adopted Budget at no additional net County cost. Funds will be utilized to process 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers through STEP by June 15, 2010. These are Title 1 ARRA funds administered by LAUSD. LAUSD will be responsible for all Federal reporting requirements. The CEO will comply with Federal tracking, monitoring, and County reporting requirements associated with ARRA funding.

The bulk of the funding ($100,000) will be used to conduct the STEP on-site observations at the participating centers, through an amendment to the existing contract with UCLA for these services. Normally, this activity is funded under a contract with the Commission. However, in light of this unanticipated revenue, the Commission has agreed to amend the current STEP contract, reducing the funding by $100,000 and rolling that amount into the Year 3 STEP contract. The remaining funds ($25,000) will be used to provide customized training and technical assistance to the 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

STEP is Los Angeles County's first child care quality rating and improvement system, developed by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and administered by the County of Los Angeles OCC. STEP's primary goal is to provide parents with concise and accurate information on the quality of individual child development programs. STEP also offers trainings, workshops and fiscal incentives to support and sustain quality improvement efforts by child development programs and family child care homes.

STEP was launched as a pilot in July 2007 and operates in 11 communities within the County. Currently, over 300 child care programs serving children from birth to five years of age have applied to participate in STEP and over 100 have been rated.

STEP's service delivery model is diverse, including both licensed family child care homes and licensed child care centers from the private and public sector. It uses research-based tools and an innovative rating methodology to determine the quality of care that young children are receiving. STEP also advocates for increased accountability and distinguishes child care programs that meet higher quality standards by publicly posting rating results. By implementing STEP, the County of Los Angeles has demonstrated its support and advocacy for quality child care.

The contract with LAUSD and amendments with UCLA and the Commission will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

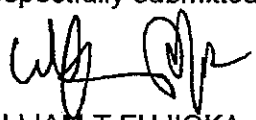
Acceptance of this contract will:

- Maximize the use of unanticipated resources and ensure that up to 50 LAUSD Early Education Centers are processed through STEP on an expedited schedule; and
- Allow the reallocation of the Commission funds from the Year 2 to Year 3 contracts for STEP, thereby filling a critical funding gap.

CONCLUSION

With your Board's approval, this contract will be executed expeditiously so as to maximize these resources on this very short timeline and support the provision of high quality child development services to children and families.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:KH:LB
KMS:hn

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
First 5 Los Angeles Commission
Los Angeles Unified School District
University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Improving Child Care Quality

PINK

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICIAL COPY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S. No. 060

DEPARTMENT OF **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

MARCH 3, 2010

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

FY 2010

4 - VOTES

SOURCES	USES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
A01-AO-10100-90-9009	A01-AO-10100-2000
REVENUE - ARRA - $125,000	SERVICES AND SUPPLIES - $125,000
INCREASE REVENUE	INCREASE APPROPRIATION

JUSTIFICATION

APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT WILL PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE LAUSD AARA GRANT STEP EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#16 MAR 16 2010

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR – ACTION

✓ RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY Karen Shikuma

NO. 160 Mar 4 20 10

APPROVED AS REQUESTED AS REVISED

3/4 2010

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APPROVED (AS REVISED): BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 20

BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

SEND 6 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER