COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

ANISH P. MAHAJAN, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Suite 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL (213) 288-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

53 April 9, 2024

JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 09, 2024

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

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT A FORTHCOMING AWARD AND FUTURE AWARDS AND/OR AMENDMENTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR QUALITY COUNTS CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE PATHWAYS GRANT PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Provide authorization to accept and implement a forthcoming award and future awards and/or amendments from the California Department of Social Services for the continued implementation of the Quality Counts California Workforce Pathways Grant Program

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health (Public Health), or designee, to accept and implement a forthcoming award from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the Quality Counts California (QCC) Workforce Pathways Grant at an amount to be determined by CDSS for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, review by the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Risk Management as needed, and notification to your Board and the CEO; with the understanding that said award may include significant contractual provisions required by the grantor that depart from standard Board-approved language, including insurance and indemnification.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, or designee, to accept and implement future awards and/or amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the CDSS award referenced in Recommendation 1 and/or extend the funding term at amounts to be determined by CDSS; and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the CEO.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, or designee, to accept and implement future amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the CDSS award referenced above that reflect non-material and/or ministerial revisions to the award's terms and conditions and allow for the rollover of unspent funds and/or redirection of funds, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Historically, your Board has accepted funds to support the ongoing implementation of the Workforce Pathways Los Angeles (WPLA) program. Public Health's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) staffs the WPLA and manages WPLA funding and public stipends. With acceptance of the forthcoming grant award, OAECE will implement the WPLA Stipend Program beginning fiscal year (FY) 2024-25.

Since FY 2001-02, OAECE has administered the implementation of the WPLA Stipend Program under a California Department of Education (CDE) contract. The WPLA Stipend Program seeks to expand the number of qualified childcare providers and increase the educational credentials of existing childcare professionals.

Beginning FY 2021-22, WPLA has been funded by CDSS through the QCC Workforce Pathways Grant. OAECE staff recruits eligible early educators to participate in the WPLA Stipend Program, reviews applications to confirm eligibility, and verifies participant completion of qualifying unduplicated coursework, professional development training, childcare permits, and child development college degrees. OAECE staff also verifies the completion of early childcare educator workforce pathway advisement for an additional stipend. All stipend amounts are determined by the number of eligible participants and available funding for the FY.

QCC Workforce Pathways funds will be used to respond to the critical shortage of highly skilled early educators and providers. The impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated this shortage, which impedes expanding early learning center programs while maintaining or improving quality.

Approval of Recommendation 1 will allow Public Health to accept and implement a forthcoming award from CDSS to continue supporting implementation of the QCC Workforce Pathways Grant.

Approval of Recommendation 2 will allow Public Health to accept and implement future awards and/or amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the CDSS award referenced above and/or extend the term award at amounts determined by CDSS, and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding. This authority is being requested to enhance Public Health's efforts to expeditiously maximize grant revenue, consistent with Board policy 4.070: Full Utilization of Grant Funds.

Approval of Recommendation 3 will allow Public Health to accept and implement future amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the CDSS awards referenced above that reflect non-material or ministerial revisions to the award's terms and conditions and will also allow Public Health to roll over unspent funds, and/or redirect funds

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support North Star 1: Make Investments that transform lives. Strategy B.

Employment and Sustainable Wages. ii. Job Preparation Strategy II.1.3 Coordinate Workforce Development of the County's Strategic Plan

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Public Health will accept a forthcoming award from CDSS at an amount to be determined by CDSS for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Funds will support expenditures associated with personnel and operational costs.

Funding will be included in Public Health's FY 2024-25 budget and future FYs, as necessary.

There is no net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Assembly Bill (AB) 212 (Chapter 57) was introduced to address low salaries and high turnover rates in CDE-contracted childcare and development programs. The bill was signed into law in 2000, and funding to implement the legislation was included in the FY 2000-01 State Budget. The County launched the Stipend Program in FY 2001-02.

In 2005, the County sponsored AB 1285 (Chapter 650). This granted a waiver to the Los Angeles Stipend Program in January 2006 to expand the pool of participants to include teachers in the non-CDE-contracted centers serving a majority of state subsidized children, and family childcare providers who participate in a CDE-contracted Family Child Care Home Education Network or serve a majority of state-subsidized children.

The 2010 Budget Trailer Bill allows for the previously referenced expansion of the pool of applicants to continue throughout the life of the program. The CDSS forthcoming grant will support the continued operation of the Stipend Program.

Beginning July 1, 2021, many early care and education programs, including QCC Workforce Pathways, transitioned from CDE to CDSS.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Public Health to accept forthcoming funds from CDSS to continue the WPLA Stipend program throughout the Los Angeles County

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

BF:mel
BL#07426

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors