



**AGENDA ITEM 9**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2012**

**9**

**Subject**

Children's Fund Daily Referral/ Voucher Program

**Recommendations**

Approve contract # SI010 with Children's Fund in the total amount of \$649,512 for Daily Referral/Voucher Program services for fiscal years 2012 – 2013, commencing November 1, 2012.  
(Affected Districts: All)  
(Presenter: Mary Jaquish, Program Services Supervisor, 387-1512)

**Background Information**

In the past, First 5 funded Resource Centers have been able to budget and make provisions for "hard goods" to participants within their programs. Per evaluation data for 2010/2011, 5,998 core services (aggregate) were provided with expenditures totaling more than \$892,000.

Under the Investing in Children RFP, Resource Centers can no longer distribute gift cards or hard goods, such as appliances, furnishings, rental and utility assistance. The Commission commits to investing in more direct services and connecting those services to reportable outcomes which demonstrate improvement in the lives of children ages 0-5, required by the Prop 10 mandate.

Case managers continue to utilize The Life Skills Progression (LSP) tool as the basic essentials scale to measure improvement in the family's circumstances. It is a pre and post tool, and is not designed to report volume nor capture how the provision of hard goods and/or other emergency services such as food, housing and utility assistance, improved the overall family functioning and self-sufficiency of program participants.

A goal of the First 5 Strategic Plan is to strengthen child serving systems countywide. In order to improve the outcomes for provision of hard goods, it is vital to instill a centralized system that maximizes the appropriate use of scarce resources.

Children's Fund is unique in that they are a non-profit fund-raising organization, providing no direct program services, and have the capability of negotiating and strengthening buying power for "hard goods" needed to sustain "at risk" children and families in crisis, unlike any other entity within the system of care.

Focusing on the priority to strengthen systems, First 5 San Bernardino requests approval to contract with Children's Fund as the final authority for approval of requests for hard goods, and in dire emergencies, services such as emergency food, housing and utility assistance generated from the First 5 Resource Centers.

Recipients of the hard good provisions must be enrolled in and participating in case management with a First 5 funded Resource Center. Along with the request for service, the referring case manager must include case notes that detail all of the following:

- Why the need is immediate
- Why the need cannot be met through any other resource provider
- How the provision of the need improves the trajectory of the child as it relates to the Strengthening Families Matrix- Protective Factor: Concrete Support in Times of Need
- How the provision aligns with the First 5 San Bernardino goal that "families are safe, healthy, nurturing and self-sustaining"

---

The Children's Fund program manager, experienced with triage and assessment of requests countywide, will support the First 5 funded Resource Centers (14) throughout the County.

In addition, Children's Fund will provide **The Annual Children's Fund Toy Drive** focusing on providing educational and age-appropriate toys to children from birth through age five who are case managed through Children and Families Services throughout San Bernardino County. Research shows that children learn best when they are exploring and learning from their environment. Children who receive sufficient early stimulation through developmentally appropriate toys and activities are more likely to be successful in school, be lifelong learners, and to lead healthier, more productive lives.

Pending Commission approval, Children's Fund will provide the daily referral/voucher as a safety net service and annual campaign to contribute to numerous First 5 San Bernardino Commission Level Outcomes from the Community Engagement and Systems Improvement cluster areas of the First 5 Strategic Plan.

**Financial Impact**

---

Total financial investment of \$649,512 for fiscal year 2012-2013.

**Review**

---

Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel

---

<b>Report on Action as taken</b>	
<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Moved:</b> _____	<b>Second:</b> _____
<b>In Favor:</b>	
<b>Opposed:</b>	
<b>Abstained:</b>	
<b>Comments:</b> _____	
<b>Witnessed:</b>	