

**FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY**  
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

**FINANCE AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 19, 2023 - 12:30 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the April 17, 2023 Finance and Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES**

April 17, 2023— 11:00 a.m.

**Present:** Hugo Morales, Susan Holt

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** Fabiola González, Ashley Hensley, Alix Hillis, Luis Magallanes, Hannah Norman, Lupita Ramírez, Karen Rangel, Liliana Salcedo

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Any Commission Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.

None heard.

**3. MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**4. AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH HARDER+COMPANY COMMUNITY RESEARCH FOR EVALUATION SERVICES**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**5. AGREEMENT RENEWALS - GLOW! GROUP PRENATAL CARE CONTRACTOR NETWORK**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**6. HELP ME GROW CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR CENTRALIZED ACCESS POINT**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**7. AGREEMENT WITH BROOKES PUBLISHING COMPANY FOR AN AGES & STAGES QUESTIONNAIRE(R) TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR IMPACT HUB REGIONAL PARTNERS**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

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**FINANCE AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 19, 2023 - 12:30 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street  
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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Thriving Families Partnerships - New Agreements

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

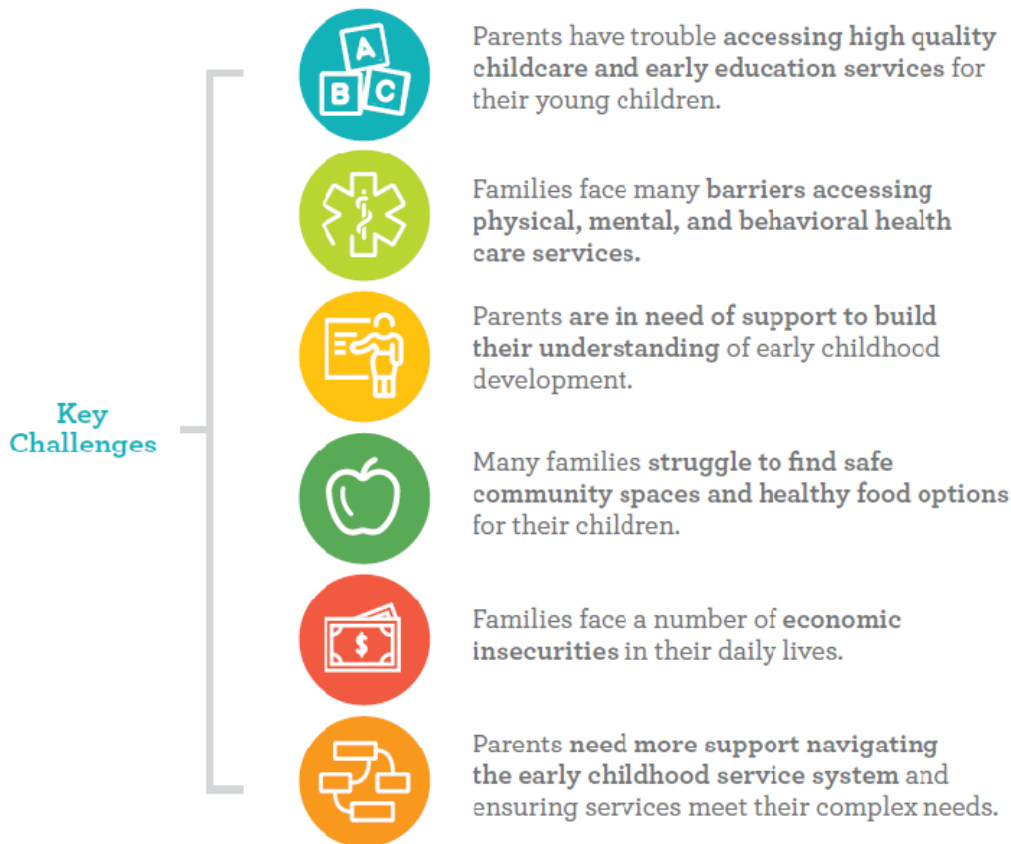
Approve, for full Commission consideration, agreements with twenty organizations resulting from the Thriving Families Partnerships Request for Proposals (RFP) in an amount not to exceed \$3,200,000 for two years, with the option to renew for an additional year based on performance and availability of funds.

**BACKGROUND:**

The First 5 Fresno County 2020-2025 Strategic Plan highlights five crucial areas of investment including Direct Service Programs. Direct Service Programs focus on community-based partnerships to provide home visitation, parenting education, health promotion, early learning and direct supports to families across the county. Since its inception the Commission has invested in local programs and services that support the healthiest start in life for young children and their families.

In the fall of 2018, the Commission and community partners engaged more than 600 parents, caregivers and community members to learn about the most pressing challenges facing families with young children in Fresno County (See **Figure 1**). In response, staff launched the first Thriving Families funding opportunity in the spring of 2020, unintentionally coinciding with the catastrophic onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The last three years have only amplified these challenges as families continue to grapple with job loss, technology barriers, complicated eligibility requirements for services and rising costs to provide for their family's basic needs. In light of this reality, the Commission approved the release of new direct service funding opportunities to partner with nonprofit/community organizations/groups to help address the persistent needs and challenges still faced by families with young children.

Figure #1 – Challenges facing Families identified in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan



The recommended entities in **Figure 2** will provide a range of family-centered direct services that promote the well-being of Fresno County children and families and are rooted in and reflective of the cultural, linguistic and overall diversity of every family served.

**Procurement:** In January 2023 Commission staff released the Thriving Families Partnerships Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was intentionally divided into two partnership funding levels (up to \$120,000 per year and up to \$40,000 per year) with distinct eligibility and submission criteria. The Thriving Families RFP received thirty-seven submissions. Following the Commission’s approved Procurement Policies and Procedures a panel of community reviewers reviewed, scored and discussed all qualifying submissions and subsequently recommended twenty agencies to move forward to the Commission for funding consideration. See **Figure 2** for a list of recommended agencies.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** Direct Service Programs is one of the five core investment areas in the Commission’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Funding allocated for these community partnerships will support Fresno County families primarily through the strategic plan strategies of Skill-Building (Supporting parents to ensure they have knowledge and resources), Innovation and Learning (Confronting persistent community challenges through unconventional approaches), and Collaboration (Strengthening connections and information-sharing between partners in all sectors).

**Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes:** If approved, staff will work with all agencies to execute contracts with a start date of July 1, 2023. The ultimate goal of this investment is to partner with the community to provide quality, culturally responsive and accessible services to support the well-being of children and families across the county.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funding will be allocated from the Commission’s 2022-2023 Approved Revised Budget – Thriving Families Service Programs line item in a total amount not to exceed \$3,200,000 for two years, with the option to renew agreements for one additional year based on performance and availability of funds.

**CONCLUSION:**

If approved, this item will move forward for full Commission consideration at the next regular meeting. As the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on young children and their families continue to unfold, this significant investment would expand and strengthen the Commission’s partnerships with community organizations/groups directly supporting our community’s most underserved children and families including, but not limited to: Black families, families living in rural communities, undocumented individuals, dual language learners, children with special needs, single parents and low-income households.

Figure #2

| Agency   | Summary of Proposed Program/Activities  | Geographic Focus | Two-Year Amount (not to exceed)* |
|--|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Level 1 Recommendations</b>                         |   |                  |                                  |
| Bethany Christian Services                             | Community support groups to connect Fresno County families with needed resources and supports to strengthen their social network  | Urban            | \$80,000                         |
| Binational of Central California                       | Financial education and coaching to help families from low to moderate income households, farm/frontline workers, immigrants, single parents and individuals with limited-English proficiency prepare for economic challenges | Rural            | \$80,000                         |
| Centro de Folklor                                      | Dance and learn parent-child interaction classes that incorporate bilingual literacy, rhythm, music and art activities for families from low-income households in Selma and surrounding communities                           | Urban/Rural      | \$80,000                         |
| Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center** (DHHSC)      | Training for staff and early childhood professionals on topics relevant to serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing children  | Urban            | \$80,000                         |
| I AM Valuable  | Culturally appropriate, evidence-based parenting series supporting Black families with young children   | Urban            | \$80,000                         |
| Fresno Housing Authority                               | Play and Learn Groups, in partnership with Fresno Unified School District, engaging parents, family, friends and neighbors (FFN) that provide childcare at Fresno Housing's Parc Grove Commons site                           | Urban            | \$80,000                         |
| Parent Institute for Quality Education, Inc.           | Training series for Spanish-speaking Family Child Care Home Providers, focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences and preventing/addressing trauma for young children and their families  | Urban/Rural      | \$80,000                         |
| Reading Heart  | Mobile family literacy and parent engagement activities supporting families with young children in underserved neighborhoods  | Urban/Rural      | \$80,000                         |
| Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN) | Staff training and expanded case management to support families with young children as they navigate the early childhood service system   | TBD              | \$80,000                         |
| West Fresno Family Resource Center                     | Family Matters Support Group to provide opportunities for families to build strong social and community connections for family well-being   | Urban            | \$80,000                         |

**Level 2 Recommendations**

|   |  |             |                    |
|---|--|-------------|--------------------|
| California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  | Promote access to health care services and economic mobility through community education and case management for immigrant families with young children in Fresno County                     | TBD         | \$240,000          |
| Central Valley Children’s Services Network**  | Parent mentoring and parent/child developmental learning groups focused on families in West Fresno, Southeast Fresno and Malaga  | Urban/Rural | \$240,000          |
| Centro La Familia Advocacy Services**   | Parenting education, child socialization groups, and case management focused on Spanish speaking families living in Mendota  | Rural       | \$240,000          |
| Exceptional Parents Unlimited**   | Outreach, assessment, early intervention, and parent-focused education on child development/milestones in connection with Department of Social Service Neighborhood Resource Centers         | Urban       | \$240,000          |
| Focus Forward**   | Parent-focused education, case management, and support services for families touched by the juvenile justice and child welfare system  | Urban/Rural | \$240,000          |
| Marjaree Mason Center   | Comprehensive wrap-around services to support families recovering from the traumatic effects of domestic violence  | Urban/Rural | \$240,000          |
| Shine Together, Inc.**  | Developmental Screenings, One-on-one coaching, Peer Learning Groups, Mommy & Me Time for student parents, young mothers and their children   | Urban       | \$240,000          |
| Stone Soup Fresno   | Family Forward PlayGroup Program supporting families with young children in El Dorado Park Neighborhood – a low income Census tract in Fresno  | Urban       | \$240,000          |
| Vision y Compromiso   | Trainings and promotora-facilitated support groups to build peer support for Family, Friend and Neighbor child care providers (including parent engagement workshops) facilitated in Spanish | Urban/Rural | \$240,000          |
| Westside Family Preservation Services Network   | Expanding Neighborhood Resource Center supports focused on Guatemalan families with young children residing in Huron   | Rural       | \$240,000          |
| <b>Two Year Total Amount (not to exceed)</b>  |  |             | <b>\$3,200,000</b> |
| <p><i>*Final agreement amounts will be based on budget negotiations, not to exceed the maximum amounts listed</i><br/> <i>**Entity is currently funded through First 5 Fresno County’s Thriving Families partnerships</i></p> |  |             |                    |