

## Meeting Summary

On November 13, 2015, First 5 California (F5CA) convened a working group of First 5 county commission representatives to inform the development of First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) Regional Coordination, and Training and Technical Assistance (Hubs). Highlights of this meeting are summarized below. Ideas discussed during this meeting will be taken into consideration as F5CA develops the Request for Application (RFA).

### Participants

---

First 5 Association Regional Leads were contacted and asked to choose three representatives from each First 5 Association region to attend this meeting. A total of 18 county commission staff participated with the southern region (First 5 Association Region 6) sending a total of five representatives due to their large size. Representatives were present from Alameda, Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Kings, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Mono, Nevada, Orange, Riverside, Siskiyou, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sonoma, Ventura, and Yolo counties.

### Background on First 5 IMPACT and the Hubs

---

- First 5 IMPACT and the Hubs build on the work of CARES Plus, Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC), the Power of Preschool Program (PoP), the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), and Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Block Grant.
- There was much discussion on the make-up of the counties to be included in each Regional Hub, and their alignment to other current regional maps. At the September 2015 RTT-ELC Consortia Meeting, Consortia members reviewed the First 5 Association and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) maps and incorporated input from RTT-ELC consortia to establish a regional map that serves county needs and supports regional efficiencies around implementing a Quality Improvement System (QIS)/QRIS.
- F5CA state-level training and technical assistance (T&TA) funding (\$28 million) will support implementation of Regional Hubs, build capacity in small counties, support efficiencies for assessor management, increase availability of qualified trainers, improve coach competency, increase T&TA along the QRIS continuum and pathways, expand QRIS messaging and public outreach, and provide support for local data needs.
- Regional T&TA Hub funding (\$18 million) will go to First 5 county commissions who will apply to be the Lead Agency for their region. F5CA is still unsure of how regional or state databases will be supported and funded but is working to figure this out.

### Key Concepts

---

- Flexibility in the RFA will allow counties within a region to prioritize functions of a Hub that best suit their First 5 IMPACT needs and will support subsidiarity and local control.
- The RFA and corresponding application process should be as simple as possible and build on the work counties are already doing for First 5 IMPACT.

- Externally facilitated Hub conversations will be critical in mitigating the “power” of a Lead Agency; supporting regions to plan, prioritize, and budget for Hubs in a fair and transparent way; and guiding direction based on each county’s vision and resources.
- The work of Hubs can be based on core QRIS system functions (assessment, data, coordination, communication) and planning for specialized services based on county/regional expertise. Hubs should conduct a needs assessment of the counties in the region to determine what to focus on with funding and T&TA services.
- Hubs can support cross-regional collaboration by broking regular opportunities for shared learning. Some cross-regional work could be virtual or rely on shared trainings.

### **Next Steps for F5CA and Hub RFA Development**

---

- Follow up with counties that did not respond to the survey and continue to work with stakeholders to create a regional map that meets counties’ needs and fits the broader frame of the CA-QRIS.
- Seek to keep the RFA simple and identify ways to build on county First 5 IMPACT application materials as a starting point.
- Develop additional funding models to include additional variables and assess how the inclusion of these variables impacts the overall allocations.
- Develop examples to include in the RFA such as:
  - Sample responses to the application questions
  - How Hub funding can be spent to carry out the specified Hub roles of coordination and specialization (e.g., funding regional travel, obtaining a facilitator and/or project manager, centralizing resources, employing a regional Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Anchor, implementing strategies to support quality in alternative sites)
  - How Hubs can support *all* counties in the region (e.g., conducting a needs assessment for the region, encouraging participation by non-traditional partners in the system, using Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between counties and agencies, convening regular collaborative meetings and/or workgroups of counties)
- Ensure the application process is not so cumbersome that the first year is spent planning. We need to ensure there are enough funds to do the important coordination and improvement work moving into later years.
- The Hub funding formula should take into account the region’s size, number of counties, and number of target IMPACT sites. The number of counties in a region affects the ease by which counties can come to agreement about priorities and focus areas and is therefore a good funding consideration.
- Support mapping of counties’ expertise that could be accessible on a website, Facebook, etc., and develop a vetted resource list of people/sources of expertise.