SUBJECT:
Authorize First 5 LA to Receive Funds from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in support of Quality Counts California (QCC) and Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) Regional Efforts, Approve Resolution # 2020-07 and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute Agreement in the Amount of $125,000

RECOMMENDATION:
The following recommendations are being presented as written information for the Board’s consideration at the July 9, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. First 5 LA staff recommends that at the September 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board approve the following action related to the state’s quality improvement initiative [Quality Counts California (QCC)] and local quality improvement efforts [Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA)]:
1. Approve a Budget Resolution # 2020-07 for receipt of funds in the amount of $125,000 for the period through June 30, 2021 from LACOE in support of Quality Counts California (QCC) and Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) regional efforts.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with LACOE in the amount of $125,000 to receive funds through June 30, 2021.
3. Authorize Executive Director to accept funding from LACOE should additional funding for Quality Counts California (QCC) and/or Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) regional efforts continue.

BACKGROUND:
In October 2019, the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners approved of First 5 LA’s ability to receive and utilize funds from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) as part of Board Resolution 2019-07. These funds were used to advance the work of Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), an effort that is jointly administered between First 5 LA and LACOE.

LACOE’s funds will be used for two efforts. The first effort is contributing to First 5 LA’s contract with VIVA Strategy and Communications LLC (VIVA) in an amount not to exceed $100,000 to facilitate the work of QSLA’s funders (F5LA and LACOE) and Leadership Council (F5LA, LACOE, Child360, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, PEACH (Partnership for Education, Articulation, and Coordination through Higher Education), the Child Care Planning Committee, and the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education. Because VIVA’s contract supports QSLA work administered by LACOE and First 5 LA, it is mutually advantageous to pool resources so that our QSLA work can be supported holistically. In addition, it reduces the administrative burden of multiple contracts with the same vendor. The second effort will be to utilize $25,000 of LACOE’s funds to develop standard reports and other data visualization products that QSLA Leaders can use in their planning, monitoring and decision making. These funds contribute to First 5 LA’s contract with Limor Consulting, Inc. to engage QSLA Leaders and develop reports that meet their needs and will be useful over time. These reports, in turn, will increase access to and utilization of administrative data collected and stored in iPinwheel and other sources among QSLA Leaders and allow for a more data-informed approach to QSLA’s work.

First 5 LA’s 2020-2028 Strategic Plan identifies high-quality early care and education as a desired result of First 5 LA’s funding initiatives. This is a natural extension of First 5 LA’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. In providing an array of quality improvement supports, ranging from very low-intensity to high-intensity, First 5 LA is working to develop the capacity of early learning settings, both licensed and unlicensed, to provide quality early learning experiences for young children by providing a combination of classroom materials, technical assistance, coaching, professional development opportunities, and more.

NEXT STEPS:
Staff will return to the next scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on September 10, 2020 to request approval of a budget resolution to accept receipt of funds in the amount of $125,000 for the period through June 30, 2021 from LACOE in support of Quality Counts California (QCC) and Quality Start Los Angeles
(QSLA) regional efforts, authorize the Executive Director will execute an agreement with LACOE in the amount of $125,000 and accept funding from LACOE should additional funding for Quality Counts California (QCC) and/or Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) regional efforts continue.