



# COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD**  
County Executive Officer

**Mike Pettit**  
Assistant County Executive Officer

**Scott Powers**  
County Chief Financial Officer

**Danielle Keys**  
County Human Resources Director  
Labor Relations

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the County Executive Officer to Sign, a Contract Amendment for Early Childhood Programs with the Children and Families First Commission of Ventura County (known as First 5 Ventura County) to Extend the Term from March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, to March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027. (First Amendment)**

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

No fiscal impact.

**Recommendation:**

Approve and authorize the CEO to sign a contract amendment (Exhibit 1) with First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) to support the implementation of early childhood programs from March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, to March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027. (First Amendment)

**Discussion:**

On October 11, 2022, your Board approved the County's federal recovery funding plan. This strategy included \$3.5 million for early childhood investments through F5VC. Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the CEO engaged with F5VC to determine the structure of the contract and payment plan, and on June 20, 2023, your Board approved a contract with F5VC to implement early childhood programs.

The contract provided one-time resources of up to \$3.5 million over four years to expand F5VC's Neighborhoods for Learning program. This program is a partnership amongst F5VC, County agencies, nonprofits, childcare centers, and public schools. Accordingly, funds have been used to hire additional staff who focus on services for disadvantaged neighborhoods.

F5VC regularly exceeds the County's expectations and performs at a high level throughout the region. The organization has effectively taken on the challenge of early care, family support services, and child development. This was evident during the peak of the pandemic as F5VC provided key information and resources for families during the crisis. The County is appreciative of the achievements the F5VC staff, Commissioners, and the many stakeholders have made together, and looks forward to continuing its commitment to the organization.

Before your Board today is an amendment to the County's original agreement with F5VC to extend the contract term by one year. Total funding for the project is not subject to change and will remain the same. The terms of the agreement are being modified from March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, to March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027. Based on actual and projected expenditures, F5VC estimates that \$500,000 of the \$3.5 million grant agreement will be unspent at the end of June 2026 – the end of the original contract. The root cause of this projected underspending has been difficulty in recruiting and hiring qualified staff, and F5VC has already prioritized recruiting, hiring, and retention for this grant. There is no fiscal impact related to this action. and the County Executive Office supports a no-cost extension for F5VC.

This letter has been reviewed by the CEO, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact Asad Baig at (805) 654-2686.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sevet Johnson, PsyD  
County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1: First Amendment to Early Childhood Programs Contract with F5VC