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REGIONAL GRANT SELECTION PROCESS STATUS AND TIMELINE REPORT March 13, 2009

The following is an update of the regional grant application and selection process.

The first topic deals with the status of the bid waiver process for grant selection, in response to the current economic conditions.

The following two sections address the status of the Request for Grant Applications (RFGAs) and the inter-agency service agreements and contracts for programs starting on July 1, 2009.

The final section outlines the timeline for strategies being developed for programs that will not begin until after July 1, 2009.

Waiver of Grant Solicitation Process due to Economic Conditions

On March 4, 2009, William Bell, Department of Administration director, granted FTF authorization to use a modified and expedited competitive bid process to meet critical, short term and essential child health and well-being needs. The modified process will allow FTF to expedite the selection process by approximately two to three months and award grants totaling up to \$91.2 million for the certain strategies. The amount of emergency response awards will likely be lower than stated here due to some Councils wanting to follow the normal RFGA process or because of other reasons that may make the expedited process no longer desirable or appropriate (such as the Legislature funding child care with federal stimulus dollars). Potential areas for expedited funding through June 30, 2009 (unless noted otherwise) to support children and families with children five years and younger include:

Regional Allocation Funding (\$61.2M)

- Affordable child care access for working families with children five years and younger (through June 30, 2010) - \$8.3M
- Family support - child abuse and neglect prevention (through June 30, 2010) - \$27.7M
- Children's health and prevention, and early intervention strategies (through June 30, 2010) - \$18.4M
- Additional urgent strategies that meet essential child health and well-being needs (through June 30, 2010) - \$6.8M (funding that may be redirected from needs and assets report, evaluation, communications and carry forward)

Regional Discretionary Funding (\$30.1M)

- Child care scholarships for working families with children five years and younger - \$23.3M
- Emergency food assistance distributed by providers - \$ 500,000
- Strategies listed above or additional urgent strategies that meet essential child health and well-being needs (through June 30, 2010) - \$6.3M (funding for regions designated as frontier communities)

Regional Councils are currently deciding whether to participate in the expedited process. The amounts listed above are the maximum amounts that can be granted without going through the normal, time-intensive grant application selection process. FTF Regional managers and coordinators are working with Finance and Policy staffs to develop the scope of work, standards of practice, and service levels. Staff members are also negotiating with potential service providers who have the capacity to meet the contractual requirements. It is the staff members' intention to release the amounts shown above within the next several weeks, and hopefully no later than March 30, 2009.

July 1, 2009 Regional Grant Awards

On March 6, 2009, requests for 29 regional RFGAs were published and posted. These grants close on April 17, 2009 for July 1, 2009 awards. Up to \$10.8 million in grants may be submitted for Board approval at the June Board meeting. This amount may be reduced if Regional Councils decide to pursue the expedited process explained above. The grants will cover the following key strategy areas and amounts:

- Screening and preventative health care (\$781,750)
- Family support (\$8.1M)
- Early literacy (\$1.8M).

July 1, 2009 Inter-Agency Service Agreements and Contracts

In addition to the grants, numerous inter-agency service agreements, other government agreements, or other forms of procurement of approximately \$13.4 million will likely be issued for programs to start on July 1. The key strategy areas include the following:

- Access and affordability (\$813,168)
- Professional development (ECE) (\$4.4M)
- Screening and preventative health care (\$5.9M)
- Family support and health insurance outreach (\$1.5M)
- Early literacy (\$309,544)
- Coordination (\$405,500).

Post July 1, 2009 Grant Awards

Despite the extraordinary and relentless efforts of staff members, some RFGAs will be delayed, and some applicant selections will not be made, until after July 1. The need to properly craft the scopes of

work, determine standards of practice, and establish service level measurements of several strategies require more time than initially anticipated to create and publish the RFGAs.

As of the date of this report, as much as \$38.8 million of Regional grants may not be awarded until after July 1, 2009. This amount may be reduced depending on what happens with the emergency response at the regional level. It is anticipated that Councils will select and recommend grantees to the Board at a special Board meeting on a date to be determined in late July or early August. These programs will then begin on September 1, 2009. The Finance Division has prepared the following tentative timetable for the grant selections that will need to be awarded after July 1, 2009:

- Publish and post RFGAs: March 30 –May 11, 2009
- Grant application reviews: May 12 - June 22, 2009
- RPC's make grantee recommendations: June 23 – July 21, 2009
- Board approves grant awards: July 22 – August 14, 2009
- Programs begin: September 1, 2009