



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM TITLE Approve the submittal of four entries for the California State Association of Counties 2011 Challenge Awards program		BOARD MEETING DATE June 14, 2011	AGENDA NUMBER 4
Dept: Contact: Phone:	County Administrator's Office Stephen Pierce 784-6122	Supervisorial District Number All	
Published Notice Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>
Public Hearing Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the County's submittal of four entries for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2011 Challenge Awards program with the following applications from:

- Health and Social Services: *Partnership Teaches Foster Youth That Money Matters*
- First 5 Solano: *Pre-Kindergarten Academies Expand Access to Quality Learning*
- First 5 Solano: *Parenting in Prison – Family Friendly Visiting Rooms*
- First 5 Solano/Health and Social Services: *Solano County Partners Keep Kids Smiling*

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The CSAC Challenge Awards were established to recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county government and its ability to find new and effective ways of providing programs and services to their citizens.

Attached are four applications being recommended for submittal:

- *Partnership Teaches Foster Youth That Money Matters* outlines the financial literacy program formed by the Solano Connected by 25 Initiative.
- *First 5 Solano: Pre-Kindergarten Academies Expand Access to Quality Learning* details the improvements of kindergarten children after completing the First 5-funded academies.
- *First 5 Solano: Parenting in Prison – Family Friendly Visiting Rooms* highlights the improvements in the environment of visiting rooms at California State Prison – Solano and the overall parent/child environment.
- *First 5 Solano/Health and Social Services: Solano County Partners Keep Kids Smiling* describes the initiative that expanded the dental education efforts of parents of at-risk children and the first "Give Kids a Smile" event.

In recent years Solano County has earned significant recognition through this program. In 2007, Baby First Solano received a Challenge Award for its public-private partnership approach to improving prenatal care in high-risk populations. In that year, the County also received three Merit Awards: First 5 Solano for its strategy to leverage funding and nearly double the funds received by grantees in FY2005/06; Public Defender's Office for its hard-hitting presentation to middle school students on the devastating impacts of methamphetamine uses; and Health and Social Services for improving access to mental health care by integrating mental health clinicians into the primary care clinics. In 2008, First 5 Solano received the Challenge Award again for its prevention services that it funded to help alleviate longer-term budget impacts.

In 2009, an entry by the County Administrator's Office on the series of Solano Economic Summits that led to increased collaboration among the seven cities on economic issues was selected by the Cities, Counties Schools (CCS) Partnership for its Partnership Award. General Services' effort to turn surplus computers into classroom resources and First 5 Solano's Results Fairs earned CCS Merit Awards in 2008. Entries submitted for the CSAC Challenge Awards are also reviewed by the CCS Partnership for their awards program.

County governments are only allowed to submit entries for projects or programs that have been in existence for at least one year and that have not previously won a Challenge Award. Entries are judged on the statement of the problem and solution, cost-effectiveness, long-term impact on the community, innovation, resourcefulness, vision, uniqueness and risk taking, replicability of the program, and conformance to the CSAC application process.

To enter the Challenge Awards competition, each program must obtain a letter of endorsement from the Board of Supervisors. One letter of endorsement may be submitted for all entries, signed by either the Chairman of the Board or the County Administrator.

The entries are divided into four categories based on population. Solano County will be competing only with counties with populations between 200,001 and 750,000.

All Challenge Award entries will be considered for special awards at the judges' discretion. These awards will not be subject to the population criteria and will be in competition with all participating counties.

FINANCING:

There is a \$50 application fee per entry. The County Administrator's Office will incur the cost of \$200 for the four entries.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could decide that the letter should not be approved. This would not allow the applications to be submitted on behalf of the aforementioned programs.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

All departments were informed of the award and encouraged to apply. First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission and the Health and Social Services coordinated their efforts to prepare and submit these applications for the 2011 CSAC Challenge Awards Program.

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:

By 

Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator

Attachments A. Letter of Support
B. Challenge Award Entries