



Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage, Navigation and Outreach Services – Request for Approval

Action Requested: Recommend to Kent County Board of Commissioners to approve a total of \$2.4 million in Ready by Five Childhood Millage funds for allocation to Navigation and Outreach Services.

Summary of Request

The allocation amounts for Outreach and Navigation Services were recommended by the Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board on July 17, 2019. Recommendations were approved by the First Steps Commission on July 25, 2019.

The amount of \$2.4M will be allocated within contracts that will begin October, 2019 and run through December, 2021 (27-months) to the following four (4) organizations:

Organization's Name and Program Funded for Ready by Five Outreach and Navigation Services	Total Contract Allocation	October-December, 2019	January--December 2020	January-December 2021
Family Futures (Outreach, Navigation, and Parent Peer Navigation Support)	\$ 763,324	\$ 58,678	\$ 352,323	\$ 352,323
Family Promise (Outreach and Navigation)	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,556	\$ 22,222	\$ 22,222
Health Net of West Michigan (Screening for Early Childhood, Social Needs, and Health Care Services, Navigation for Early Childhood, Social Determinant, and Health Care Services and Systems)	\$ 930,000	\$ 67,650	\$ 431,175	\$ 431,175
Kent Intermediate School District (Help Me Grow Kent Outreach/Partner Engagement and Help Me Grow Kent Referral Services)	\$ 656,676	\$ 10,000	\$ 330,490	\$ 316,186
TOTAL	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 141,884	\$ 1,136,210	\$1,121,906

The Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board reviewed all proposals submitted to First Steps Kent. For this initial round of funding, First Steps Kent received a total of eleven (11) proposals.

The Ready by Five Resident Proposal Review Board includes nine members representing community members from across Kent County and is inclusive of different ethnicities, races, religions, sexual identities, and/or genders. Board membership includes:

- Kent County Commissioner Phil Skaggs
- Kent County Commissioner Monica Polk-Sparks
- Early Childhood Commissioner Dr. Juan Olivarez
- Early Childhood Expert, Joanne Kelty
- Kent County Administrator's Office Staff, Sandra Ghoston-Jones
- Parent Representatives (four members) residing in Grand Rapids City, Kentwood, Cedar Springs, and Cascade

The purpose of the Navigation and Outreach services category is to inform parents and other caregivers of available resources to support the healthy development and early learning of their young children, to provide access to the service(s) of their choice that are appropriate for their level of need. Further, these services work to reach out and engage expectant parents and parents of young children, with a strategic focus on those with the highest need.