

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul
Biane

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board Approves Expanded Preschool Services Contract

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Department of Preschool Services will use more than half a million dollars in federal stimulus funding to increase the number of children served by a nonprofit group in Upland and Ontario, according to an action taken by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

In September, the federal government notified Preschool Services that it would receive \$553,506 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand full day Head Start services until September 2011. The Head Start program provides education, health, nutrition, and other services to children between the ages of 3 and 5.

Preschool Services recommended contracting with Easter Seals Southern California, Inc. to provide the additional Head Start services. Easter Seals Southern serves Upland and Ontario and is the only delegated agency that offers full day services (up to 10 hours a day) in the County.

In addition, Preschool Services recommended including anticipated federal and state full day Head Start program funds in the new two-year contract for a total increase of \$1.6 million. The extra funding will allow Easter Seals to serve an additional 32 children and their families, including 16 in the Upland community.

“Adding more children to the Head Start program has a dual benefit,” said Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, who represents the City of Upland on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. “That’s because Head Start helps prepare children to enter school socially and academically prepared to learn, and when students start school ready to learn, their teachers have more time to focus on teaching, which benefits all of the students in the classroom.”

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