



AGENDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
2:00 PM
First 5 Riverside County
585 Technology Ct
Riverside, California 92507

This notice shall confirm the Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission.

Note: If special accommodations are needed to participate in this meeting, please contact Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, at (951) 955-0200 during regular business hours of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

Note: Public Comments will be taken on agenda items at various times during the meeting. Please submit a Request to Speak form to the Executive Assistant IV at any time before or during the meeting indicating the item you wish to address.

Note: Please place all cellular phones on vibrate or off mode during the meeting.

- A. Call to Order – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair**
 - A.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A.2. Roll Call - Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
- B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Zachary Ginder, Chair**
- C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Zachary Ginder, Chair**
 - C.1. Director's Report - Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; and Charna Widby, Deputy Director
 - C.2. Commissioner Comments - Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair
- D. Consent – Zachary Ginder, Chair**
 - D.1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Draft Commission Minutes - January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting



**MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
2:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Jose Campos, Charity Douglas, Zachary Ginder, Edwin Gomez, Angelica Hurtado, Elizabeth Romero, Kim Saruwatari, and Stephanie Yost

Commissioners Absent: Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Administrative Staff Present: Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Larissa Wills, Regional Manager; Patricia Perez, Administrative Services Manager II; Kin Tat (Natalis) Ng, Administrative Services Manager I; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Jimmy Gutierrez; Support Services Technician

Legal Counsel: Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

A. Call to Order – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Yost
2. Roll Call – Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Zachary Ginder, Chair

None

C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Zachary Ginder, Chair

1. Recognition of Martin Luther King Jr and Riverside County DEIA Updates. - Barry Knight, Riverside County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Ms. Graham introduced Barry Knight, DEI Officer to speak about Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Knight provided an overview of Martin Luther King Jr. noting that we know him from the “I Have a Dream” speech in August of 1963, noting that the message that got him killed was not about the dream, it was about equity for all and making sure that everyone had a voice. Mr. Knight encouraged everyone to listen to speeches that were not publicized and were not promoted. In the last 15 months, Mr. Knight has been the Equity Diversity and Inclusion officer. Mr. Knight is currently looking to understand our communities not only by looking at them in terms of groups or zip codes but looking at the importance of disaggregating and understanding the individual frequencies of our communities and how people are represented. Mr. Knight noted the leaders of the County of Riverside have approximately 14 departments with some equity initiatives out of the 42 county departments. Depending on how you’re counting departments of the Riverside County area, they are looking at equity whether it’s internal, looking at their workforce and how they’re hiring, to looking at how they’re servicing their communities. All this is based on data. Mr. Knight noted when leaders focus on the outcomes of the strategies, they tend to get more attention on the matter.

2. Advisory Committee Comments

Ms. Graham provided highlights from the Advisory Committee meeting held this morning. Presentations included, Regional Manager, Carol Abella providing a presentation on Quality Early Learning, Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist reporting on First 5 Champion for Children nomination timeline which is now open for new nominees. Commissioners are encouraged to share Champion for Children information with partner agencies. Nominees will be brought to the Commission in May for approval. Ms. Graham introduced Mr. Jiles Smith who was sworn in during the Advisory Committee meeting this morning as the new Advisory Member representing District 1.

3. Commissioner Recognition - Tammi Graham, Executive Director and Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

Ms. Graham recognized Commissioner Britt who has represented the Commission for the past four years under the Human Services Portfolio. Ms. Britt was appointed as the new Assistant CEO for Human Services in Riverside County. Ms. Britt brought over 20 years of experience as a leader in public service. It is an honor to see her continue in a leadership role with the County. The Commission recognized Ms. Britt for her service. Commissioner Britt gave a parting speech, stating that it was an honor to be part of the Commission, noting the Commission staff's hard work and how inspiring it's been to hear public comments and to see the partnerships evolve. Ms. Britt recognized Ms. Douglas joining the Commission to represent the Human Services Portfolio.

4. Oath of Office for Commissioner, Charity Douglas - Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

Ms. Graham introduced Charity Douglas, Director of the Department of Public Social Services. Ms. Douglas also has more than 20 years experience in public service. She brings her passion for children and families to support the work of the commission. Ms. Bell-Valdez administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Charity Douglas.

5. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Saruwatari commented as Public Health Director. She reminded the Commission and public that we are in the middle of flu season. Commissioner Saruwatari encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. Riverside County had the first death of a child under one who passed of RSV. Commissioner Suruwatari encouraged all pregnant women, children, and people over 60, to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Yost thanked the County for the vaccine clinics being provided in Idyllwild.

6. First 5 Riverside County Chair and Vice Chair Election - Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

*Commissioner Yost moved to approve nomination of Commissioner Ginder as Chair for 2024. Commissioner Campos second the motion. Ms. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, conducted a roll call. **Ayes:** Campos, Gomez, Romero, Saruwatari, Hurtado, Yost, and Douglas. **Absent:** Perez.*

Chair Ginder moved to approve nomination of Commissioner Campos as vice chair for 2024. Commissioner Yost second the motion. Ms. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, conducted a roll call. **Ayes:** Ginder, Gomez, Romero, Saruwatari, Hurtado, Yost, and Douglas. **Absent:** Perez.

Motions carried unanimously to appoint Zachary Ginder as Chair and Jose Campos as Vice Chair. **Absent:** Commissioner Perez.

D. Presentation/Information Item – Zachary Ginder, Chair

1. Autism and Developmental Delay Systems Landscape Report and Recommendations - Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Kristin Gist, Consultant, Early Childhood Development and Mental Health - **Chair Ginder noted this item is tabled until a future meeting.**

2. First 5 Riverside County Second Quarter Financial Highlights - Patricia Perez, Administrative Services Manager II

Ms. Perez provided an overview of the second quarter financial highlights as included in the Commission packet item D.2. Summarizing the Commission's Annual Budget vs Projected at year-end.

Budgeted Revenue \$29M – Expenditures \$31M – Fund Balance Draw \$2M

Projected Revenue \$26M – Expenditures \$26.5M – Fund Balance Draw \$300K.

The main reason why revenue is projected to be lower than budgeted is reflective of the underutilization of CalWORKs funding.

Expenditures reflect savings in salaries/benefits and capital assets budget lines.

The commission's allocation of expenditures as of Quarter 2 for administration is 5% (which is well below the approved cap of 13%), Evaluation is at 1%, and Program is 20%.

Ms. Perez noted that in the last few years, we have more than doubled our funding sources thanks to our executive leadership and thanked Ms. Graham and Ms. Suarez.

E. Consent Items – Zachary Ginder, Chair (a copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Draft Commission Meeting Minutes - October 25, 2023 Session

2. **24-01:** Approve the Riverside County Children and Families Commission Revised Policy for Travel Authorization and Reimbursement for Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses

3. **24-02:** Approve Agreement with Reach Out West End for Matching Funds for Jurupa Valley Violence Intervention and Prevention (JVVIP) Program (**CONTRACT NO. CF24139**) [**\$150,000 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]

4. **24-03:** Approve 2024 First 5 Riverside County Finance Subcommittee Members

5. **24-04:** Approve and Adopt the Revised Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Annual Budget and Vendor list of First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission

6. **24-05:** Approve First Amendment with Corona-Norco Family Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to Support Drowning Prevention Efforts From July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026 (**CONTRACT NO. CF24104**) [**\$986,850 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]

7. **24-06:** Approve and Ratify Agreement with Children and Families Commission of Orange County for First 5 California Home Visiting Technical Assistance Grant from

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025 (**AGREEMENT NO. FCI-HVC-02**) [**\$268,287- F50C PASS THROUGH STATE FUNDS**]

8. **24-07**: Approve Agreement with Hubbe Inc. for Workforce Web-Based Data System Portal from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024 (**CONTRACT NO. CF24140**) [**\$58,640 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]

*Commissioner Romero moved to approve consent items 1-8 as presented. Commissioner Hurtado second the motion. **Absent:** Commissioner Perez. **Motion carried unanimously.***

F. Future Agenda Items:

1. First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan Annual Review and Public Hearing
2. First 5 Riverside County 2024 Policy Priorities
3. First 5 Riverside County 2024 Communications Plan
4. First 5 California Annual Report Annual Review and Public Hearing

- G. Adjournment:** Adjournment at 2:30 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on March 13, 2024 beginning at 2:00 p.m.:
- First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office
585 Technology Court - Conference Room A
Riverside, CA 92507

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Lynn M. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV.

D.2. **24-08:** Approve Renewal Quote for Social Solutions Global, Inc. for Apricot 360 Software Solutions from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 [**\$177,319.160 PROP 10, CalWORKs, DPSS FUNDS**]



AGENDA ITEM: 24-08
DATE OF MEETING: March 13, 2024
ACTION:
INFORMATION:

**APPROVE RENEWAL QUOTE FOR
SOCIAL SOLUTIONS GLOBAL, INC. FOR
APRICOT 360 SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS
FROM JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025
[\$177,391.60 PROP 10, CalWORKs, DPSS FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve renewal quote for Social Solutions Global, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$177,391.60, for the licensing of the Apricot 360 platform and technical support from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND

A contract with Social Solutions Global, Inc. is necessary to support the Apricot 360 platform and ensure continuity of service for both the home visitation partner agencies and Family Resource Center (FRC) data collection and referral efforts. Attachment 1, renewal quote, provides details of budget for Fiscal Year 2024/25 (\$177,391.60).

October 26, 2022, Action Item #22-37: The Commission authorized the Executive Director to execute order forms with Social Solutions Global, Inc. to extend the Apricot 360 software license and technical support to end June 30, 2024, with an amount not to exceed \$792,518.

September 9, 2020, Action Item #20-28: The Commission authorized the Executive Director to execute order form 2020-64787 in the amount of \$386,438 with Social Solutions Global, Inc. to expand the Apricot 360 software to add licenses, make the data collection platform more comprehensive, enhance built-in capabilities, add a case management module for FRC's managed services support, and provide additional technical assistance and training.

March 11, 2020, Action Item #20-09: The Commission approved the vendor's Master Services Agreement and related Order Form (the "Agreement") for the period March 11, 2020, through March 11, 2023.

January 22, 2020, Action Item # 20-02: The Commission approved contract CF20107 with Social Solutions Global, Inc. for the build-out of a case management database system for home visiting and for potential use by community hubs and resource centers, not to exceed \$176,175 for the period January 22, 2020, through to January 21, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or Designee to open a Purchase Order against an Order Form for the extension of the licenses and technical support for one year ending June 30, 2025, for an amount of \$177,391.60.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or Designee based on the availability of fiscal funding and as approved by County Counsel, to sign amendments and/or order forms that exercise the options of the order forms, including modifications of the statement of work that stay within the intent of the said contract and/or order forms.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate appropriation will be included in the FY 24/25 budget (938001-25800-525440-81250).

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 4 – Countywide - Evaluation (81250), to support home visiting programs (42200 & 92945) and family resource centers (92975).

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None Known

ATTACHMENT

Budgetary Quote #2024-145181

Bill To:
 Riverside County Children and Families Commission (First 5 Riverside County)
 585 Technology Court
 Riverside, California 92507
 United States

ORDER FORM

The contents of this Order Form may not be duplicated, used, or disclosed in whole or in part for any purpose other than for internal evaluation without express written permission of Bonterra Tech LLC (f/k/a Social Solutions Global, Inc.) ("Bonterra"). The Parties hereby agree as follows:

Subscription Products and Services				
SKU	Product Name and Description	Quantity	License Metric	Billing Frequency
Apricot-PB	Apricot 360 Bundle The Apricot 360 license includes 10GB of database storage with two User licenses designated with Administrator privileges. Each Administrator seat is provided with basic training. Additional licenses for Users or designated Administrators may be purchased on a per-user basis. For applicable terms and conditions, please see the Master Services Agreement at https://www.socialsolutions.com/legal	100.00	Per User	Annually
AdminLicenseAdd	Additional Administrator License for 1 additional administrator seat. Each administrator seat is provided with basic training.	6.00	Per User	Annually
GuestUserMod	Guest User Module The Guest User Module provides limited access licenses for 50 external Guest Users for up to 5 secure web forms. Additional Guest User licenses may be purchased on a per user basis.	200.00	Per User	Annually
CM-ATS-FF	Case Management Training Subscription Gain comprehensive, on-going access to our full suite of live Case Management training programs for the entire term of your subscription. Dive deep with our intensive 4-day Administrator and Results Reporting Boot Camps, or quickly level up your skills with our targeted 2-hour Labs. Our trainings are designed to empower you with the functionality, capabilities, and new features specific to your Case Management software. Each live training session comes fully loaded with professional instruction and interactive, hands-on learning experiences. As a bonus, you'll also receive PDF workbooks and reference materials that further enhance your understanding and application of the platform's powerful features. For any questions or support, please feel free to reach out to us at training@bonterratech.com .	1.00	Fee	Annually
ManServAprAdv-FF	Advanced Apricot ASC Services (Legacy) Fixed Price work provided by Advanced Support Consultant resources.	285.00	Fee	Annually
AprBscSupport	Basic Support Package Includes 60 Tier 1 cases/ year. Cases addressing code defects, system outages, or service performance are not included in the count of cases per client Overages are totaled at the end of the year and billed to client at \$50/case	1.00	Fee	Annually
Annual Amount USD				177,391.60
Initial Invoice Amount USD				177,391.60

Terms and Conditions

Start Date: July 01, 2024

Initial Invoice Period (months): The "Initial Invoice Period" covers fees for the first 12 months from the Start Date.

Client will be credited for any prepaid but unused fees for replaced products.

Term (Months): The "Term" is 12 months from the Start Date. This Order Form is non-cancelable prior to the end of the Term.

Storage space: Storage space for database records and all file and photo storage is included for the SaaS Services with a minimum limit of 5GB or the amount of storage space as noted in the Subscription Product description above. Client may purchase additional storage space at Bonterra's then prevailing rates. System reviews of the amount of storage space being used by Client will be performed periodically. If Client is using more than the allotted storage space included herein, Client will be invoiced for the additional storage usage upon the earlier of (i) discovery of the storage space overage or (ii) then next invoice cycle.

Annual Rate Increases: Any Subscription Products and Services purchased on an annual basis are subject to annual rate increases.

Users: "Users" means an individual identifiable by a name and excludes concurrent users. "Administrator" means the dedicated and name User of Client identified as the individual who shall be responsible for Client's Users, to attend and complete training, administer licenses and to be the technical point of contact on Client's behalf pertaining to Support and Services. "Guest Users" are users with limited access activated through the Guest User Module, if included herein. Client shall not permit Users to share User identifications and passwords, nor allow for multiple users under the same license.

License Metric: Client may not decrease the number of licenses for its Users during the Term of the Order Form. Upon termination of this Order Form, all licenses granted to Client with respect to the Services included in this Order Form shall automatically terminate and Client shall immediately discontinue its use thereof. System reviews of the number of Users will be performed periodically. If Client is using more than the purchased number of licenses included herein, Client will be invoiced for the additional Users it's the earlier of discovery or the next invoice cycle. If at any time, additional Users licenses are added, such additional User licenses will be invoiced at the then prevailing rate on a per license basis to coincide with the Term of the Services.

Support Level: Unless otherwise stated in the Order Form, the customer will receive the basic Support package as outlined in the Service Level Agreement.

Payment for U.S. Clients: All Subscription Products and Service fees and Professional Service and Training fees will be invoiced in advance either annually, or in accordance with any different billing frequency stated in on this Order Form. All fees payable in U.S. Dollars and exclude taxes. Client is responsible for the payment of any tax amount(s) due unless client has delivered to Bonterra a valid tax exemption certificate prior to invoice. Fees may be paid by check, Electronic Fund Transfer, credit card or ACH. All payments by credit card, are subject to Client completing the attached Credit Card Authorization Form. In order to elect for ACH payments, Client must complete and execute the attached Authorization Agreement for Preauthorized Withdrawal Debits.

Except as explicitly documented in the signed Order Form, Bonterra is under no obligation to comply with any customer specific invoicing requirements. Furthermore, customer's failure to provide complete and accurate billing information in the attached accounting Information Form will not relieve customer of nor toll customer's timely payment obligations.

Professional Services and Training: If included in this Order Form, pre-paid Professional Services must be used within one year of the date of execution of this Order Form by Client or will expire and will not be refunded. Professional Services Fees are based on Professional Services provided during normal Bonterra business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. central time zone US and on a case by case basis for international clients after Bonterra business hours (Bonterra holidays excluded), as Bonterra may modify upon notice to Client. Professional Services provided by Bonterra outside of normal Bonterra business hours will be subject to a premium service charge. If Client cancels a Professional Services engagement, which has not been pre-paid, less than ten (10) business days before the scheduled start date for such Professional Services, Client agrees to pay fifty percent (50%) of the total estimated fees for the Professional Services stated on the Order Form or SOW.

Professional Service Travel Costs: Travel related costs that requires Bonterra's staff to travel will be pre-approved by Client.

This Order Form is subject to and governed by the terms and conditions of Bonterra's Master Subscription & Services Agreement, which can be located at <http://www.bonterratech.com/legal/> (the "**Agreement**") and is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order Form have the meaning ascribed to them in the Agreement. This Order Form will be effective as the last date of signature identified below ("Effective Date"). Each party signing below agrees and acknowledges that they are duly authorized to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this Order Form.

Client: Riverside County Children and Families Commission (First 5
Riverside County)

Authorized Signature:

Bonterra Tech LLC (f/k/a Social Solutions Global, Inc.)

Authorized Signature:

Print Name:

Title:

Print Name:

Title:

Date:

Date:

SCOPE OF WORK: ADVANCED SUPPORT PACKAGES

Customer Name	Riverside County Children and Families Commission (First 5 Riverside County)
Date Scope of Work Prepared	February 27, 2024
Date Scope of Work Expires	June 30, 2024

I. Description of Service

Customer is purchasing an Advanced Support Package in accordance with the term/pricing reflected on the Order Form. All other terms and conditions of the previously signed Master Service Agreement remain in effect.

II. SSG Deliverable

Customer is purchasing package referenced on Order Form. The deliverables are based upon the tier selected. Definitions of the tiers are included on the attached Advanced Support Schedule.

Approved by:

For: Riverside County Children and Families Commission (First Five Riverside County)		For: Social Solutions Global, Inc.	
Printed Name		Printed Name	
Signature	Date	Signature	Date

Accounting Information Form

Please provide the following Accounting Information in the table below:

Customer Name	
Tax Identification Number	
Are you Tax Exempt?	
If yes, please attach a copy of your Tax Exemption Certificate	
State Tax Exempt Number (if applicable)	
Billing Contact Name	
Billing Contact Phone	
Billing Contact Email	
Billing Contact Fax	
Are there any Special Invoicing needs?	
Special Invoicing Needs (if applicable)	

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.**

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	<p>1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. Bonterra LLC</p> <p>2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above</p>	
	<p>3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ C</p> <p>Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶</p>	<p>4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):</p> <p>Exempt payee code (if any) _____</p> <p>Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____</p> <p><small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small></p>
	<p>5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. 10801-2 N. MoPac Expy, Suite 300</p> <p>6 City, state, and ZIP code Austin, TX 78759</p>	<p>Requester's name and address (optional)</p>
	<p>7 List account number(s) here (optional)</p>	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number									
or									
Employer identification number									
4	7	-	3	9	8	7	2	5	7

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶	01/04/2024
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.

E. **Public Hearings – Zachary Ginder, Chair**

E.1. Conduct a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Annual Report of the California Children and Families Commission (a copy of the report may be obtained at <https://rccfc.org/About-Us/Impact> and can be viewed at the Commission Business Office) Pursuant to the California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code Section 130140 and Ordinance 784 - Tammi Graham, Executive Director

E.1.a. **Public Hearing:** Annual Report of the California Children and Families Commission for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 - Zachary Ginder, Chair

E.1.b. **24-09: Receive and File:** Annual Report of the California Children and Families Commission for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 - Zachary Ginder, Chair



AGENDA ITEM: 24-09
DATE OF MEETING: March 13, 2024
ACTION:
INFORMATION:

RECEIVE AND FILE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 AND CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Receive and file the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) 2022/2023 Annual Report and conduct a public hearing pursuant to the California Children and Families Act, as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 130140(H).

BACKGROUND

The annual report provides an overview of the California Children and Families Commission structure, vision, mission and goals, priority areas, signature programs, program results, and accomplishments.

March 8, 2024: A copy of the report is provided to Commissioners as part of the meeting packet. The report also features highlights of local county commissions. Riverside County highlights are included on page 43.

February 01, 2024: Fiscal Year 2022/2023 state commission annual report was posted to the First 5 Riverside County local website <https://rccfc.org/About-Us/Impact> for public view.

The California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10) requires that:

1. The state Children and Families Commission prepares a written report that consolidates, summarizes, analyzes, and comments on the annual audits and reports submitted by all of the 58 county commissions for the preceding fiscal year. The report must be transmitted to the Governor, legislature, and each county commission.

2. Each county commission must conduct at least one public hearing on each annual report distributed by the state commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Conduct a public hearing in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 130140 (H); and
2. Receive and file the report (no Commission approval or adoption is required).

ATTACHMENT

1. California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.



First 5 California

2022-23 Annual Report



Our Mission



First 5 California will convene, partner in, and help lead the movement to create and implement a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated system for California's children prenatal through age 5 and their families. It will promote, support, and optimize early childhood development.

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First 5 California, Ready Kids East County

First 5 California Commission Members

Katie Albright, Chair

Appointed by the Governor

Shana Hazan, Vice Chair

Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Elsa Mendoza Jimenez

Appointed by the Governor

Jackie Majors

Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Lori Risso

Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Vivian Velasco Paz

Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Ex-Officio Member:

Mark Ghaly

Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Members whose terms ended in fiscal year 2022–2023:

Giannina Pérez, Chair (Member until June 2023)

Appointed by the Governor

Mayra Alvarez (Member until March 2023)

Appointed by the Governor

Marko Mijic, Designee (Member until June 2023)

Undersecretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Message from First 5 California

As we reflect on the milestones and achievements of the past year, we are delighted to present the 2022–2023 Annual Report. This past year has been marked by unwavering dedication to advancing our North Star and Audacious Goal: that in a generation, all children 0–5 will have the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to achieve healthy development.

We began the past year looking at the future of First 5 California and our work, rooting all that we do in equity, with the Commission prioritizing new investments in the areas of early childhood workforce development, early childhood behavioral health, newcomer support, preschool through age 5 data, and fatherhood. As we close out this past year's chapter, we are proud to share that we have made significant strides in moving every one of these investments forward.

In the face of new challenges brought on by declining revenue, First 5 California has remained committed to our charge of advancing statewide systems change efforts, including making additional strategic investments in counties across the state. Our collective efforts have empowered families, strengthened communities, and fostered the early development and well-being of children across California. From innovative early childhood programs to impactful state and local partnerships, First 5s continue to be a catalyst for transformational change.

New investments include:

- \$125 million for Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) Legacy, a comprehensive effort to enhance the quality of early learning and care and support the workforce, with a focus on addressing the needs of the whole child, including health, behavioral health, child development, and family strengthening.
- \$10 million to strengthen and elevate the 0–5 strategy, investments, and impact under the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative in partnership with the California Health and Human Services Agency.
- \$2 million for the Twenty-Five Year Lookback Project to evaluate the overall impact of First 5 since the passage of Proposition 10.
- \$3 million to work with the Children's Data Network for the Prenatal to Age Five Data Landscape Project, focused on the development of a First 5 California early childhood dashboard, possible online public-facing portal/ dashboard, and indicators that speak to the health, safety, and well-being of young children and their families.
- Foundational research for a Fatherhood Initiative including a communications plan assessment, academic peer review, and environmental scan to identify the key issues regarding the changing definition of fatherhood and exemplary fatherhood initiatives within the local First 5 Network.

In addition to new investments approved in FY 2022–2023, several investments approved in previous years continued to be implemented during the year:

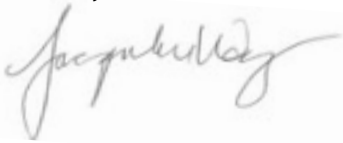
- Grant dissemination and enhanced education, training and technical assistance, communications, and system of change collaboration with local First 5s on Home Visiting Coordination and the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA).
- The Dragon Song campaign was developed and released to provide the first step toward creating awareness of the importance that calmness plays in connecting children and caregivers to their emotions. The campaign featured English and Spanish video and radio spots, outdoor ads, a new website landing page, web ads, social media posts, a TikTok and Instagram influencer campaign, and campaign collateral and messaging toolkits for county commissions.
- The Stronger Starts public education and awareness campaign launched in the spring of 2023, introducing messaging around adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress response to families and caregivers of young children. The campaign featured three videos as well as radio ads, outdoor creative signage, and web and social including a TikTok and Instagram influencer campaign.

- Many new partnerships were established including with the Sacramento Kings, Los Angeles Dodgers, Sacramento Zoo, Oakland Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Sequoia Zoo, Univision Los Angeles, BabyCenter, PBS Kids, Univision LA, Doggyland, and Kings forward Domantas Sabonis, extending and amplifying First 5's presence and reach.

As we look toward the future, First 5 California remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life and can thrive. The partnerships we've forged and the initiatives we've undertaken this past year lay the foundation for continued success in the years to come.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, commissioners, and partners who have made these achievements possible. Together, we will continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of California's youngest residents, their families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Jackie Thu-Huong Wong (she/her)
Executive Director
First 5 California



First 5 Fresno, Community Learning Center

Ensuring California Children Receive the Best Start in Life



Proposition 10 and the Legacy of First 5 California

In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10—the California Children and Families Act (the Act)—and declared the importance of investing in a better future for California’s youngest children.

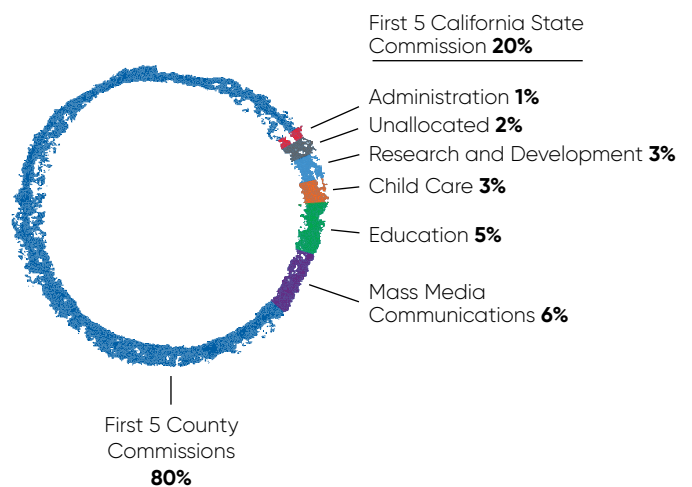
Proposition 10 imposes a 50-cent tax on tobacco products to generate revenue. Eighty percent of the revenue is allocated to the 58 First 5 county commissions based on annual birth rate, and 20 percent is allocated to the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California). County commissions determine how to allocate their portion of the funds based on the specific needs and priorities of their communities. First 5 California’s funds are used to advance statewide systems change efforts including making additional strategic investments in counties across the state.

For nearly 25 years, First 5 California has invested in the development of programs, services, and systems emphasizing improvement in early care and education, child health and development, family resiliency, research, and community awareness.

Accountability: Funding and Audit Results

Under the California Children and Families Act, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) collects an excise tax levied on all cigarette and tobacco products and deposits revenue, less refunds and administrative expenses, into the California Children and Families Trust Fund, allocating 20% to First 5 California and 80% to county commissions. The amount of funding allocated annually to county commissions is based on the annual number of births in the county relative to the total number of births in the state.

Exhibit 1: First 5 California Children and Families Commission Funds—Allocation of State Portion



Source: Health and Safety Code Section 130105

During FY 2022–2023, two bills went into effect impacting revenues. Senate Bill (SB) 793 (Stats. 2020, ch. 34) went into effect December 21, 2022, prohibiting the retail sale of most flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers, and Senate Bill (SB) 395 (Stats. 2021, ch. 489) enacted the Healthy Outcomes and Prevention Education (HOPE) Act. The HOPE Act imposed the California Electronic Cigarette Excise Tax (CECET), which became effective July 1, 2022, imposing a 12.5% excise tax on purchases of electronic cigarettes containing or sold with nicotine. Of the CECET revenues collected, less refunds and administrative expenses, 12% is deposited by CDTFA to the Children and Families Trust Fund, with county commissions receiving 80% of the total deposited.

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 California received \$67.5 million, and county commissions received \$270.3 million in Proposition 10, Proposition 56 (backfill), and CECET revenues. First 5 California’s state-administered funds ended the fiscal year with \$171 million in fund balance, with money assigned toward the development of programs, services, and systems that support California’s youngest children. In addition to Commission-approved county program investments such as Home Visiting, Refugee Family Support, Shared Services Alliances, and Small Population County Augmentation, the Commission approved \$125.8 million for IMPACT Legacy in October 2022. This investment and the continued aforementioned investments, which are committed investments in the fund balance, will be awarded to counties beginning in FY 2023–2024.

First 5 California consists of our Executive Office, External and Governmental Affairs, Program Innovation and Evaluation Division, Administration, Fiscal Services, Contracts and Procurement, and Information Technology Services, providing staff support in the following functions, operations, and systems:

- Fiscal management of the California Children and Families Trust Fund
- Tax revenue disbursements to county commissions
- Audits and annual fiscal reports
- Local agreement and program-disbursement management
- Public education and outreach
- Evaluation of First 5 California programs
- Procurement and contract management
- Workforce recruitment and development
- Information technology
- Business services
- Legislative advocacy efforts

The counties invest their dollars in locally designed programs, as well as in First 5 California’s statewide programs focusing on priorities such as child health, child development, and family resiliency for California’s children prenatal through age 5 and their families. The administration of these and other programs is consistent with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. Each county must prepare an independent annual audit report subject to guidelines prepared by the State Controller’s Office. The State Controller’s Office conducts an annual review of the 58 county commission independent audits. In November 2022, the Controller published its review of the counties’ audits for FY 2021–2022. Audits can be viewed on First 5 California’s website at <https://www.cffc.ca.gov/about/budget.html#annual>.



Toxic Stress Takedown

Building Public Will and Investment

In 2021, First 5 California adopted a North Star Statement and Audacious Goal. As part of this process, a theory of change was developed, and systems levers were identified to frame the work of First 5 California. To better integrate this into the current strategic plan, First 5 California developed a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework that identified the process for establishing population-level indicators; specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely (SMART) goals; and performance measures that align to the North Star Statement and Audacious Goal.

North Star

Trauma-informed, healing-centered, and culturally responsive systems promote the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to eliminate inequities and ensure healthy development for all children.

Audacious Goal

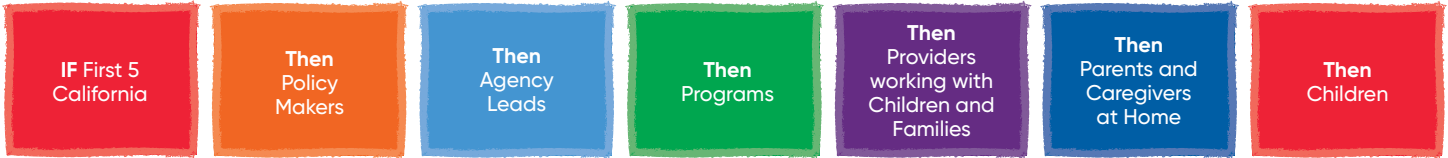
In a generation, all children 0–5 will have the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to achieve healthy development.



First 5 San Bernardino, Gift a Kid a Book Campaign

First 5 CA Theory of Change

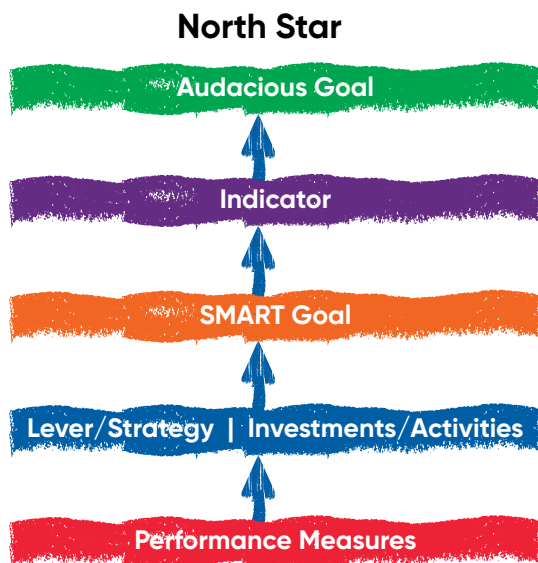
Theory of change describes the levers, actions, and outcomes of F5CA's work:



F5CA System Levers:

- **Advocate:** Advocate to federal and state policy makers
- **Convener/Connector:** Bring together state agencies that support young children and their families
- **Catalyst:** Provide funding for research and evaluation, innovative practices, and collaboration between different systems
- **Broadcaster:** Communicate to the general public utilizing television, radio, newspapers, and other mass media

Results-Based Accountability (RBA) Framework: Principles



- North Star orients all our work
- Population-level indicator informs us about statewide well-being
- SMART goals are developed for each audience (parents, providers, programs, state agency leaders, policymakers)
- Multiple investments/activities may support the same SMART goal
- Investments/activities operate as levers
- Performance measures may be similar across programs and be project specific
- Staff workplans will detail source of data for performance measures, baseline, and frequency of collection



First 5 San Diego, Neighborhood House Association Block Party

Legislative and Budget Engagement

As First 5 California embarked on advocating for trauma-informed, healing-centered, and culturally responsive systems that promote the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to eliminate inequities and ensure healthy development for all children, it provided an opportunity to solidify and establish new partnerships in First 5 California's public policy engagement around the following four policy pillars:

- Build resilient families and communities.
- Optimize child health.
- Promote sustainability of early childhood investments.
- Strengthen the state's quality early learning mixed-delivery system.

The 2023 budget year included historic investments in children and families, thanks to the advocacy efforts of the Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition. The Child Care Providers Union (CCPU) reached a new agreement with the Administration that will lead to better care for children by investing in the workforce. These advocacy wins include:

- \$2.8 billion over two fiscal years, 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 to align with a ratified CCPU agreement.
- \$80 million per year for a historic first-of-its-kind retirement fund.
- New requirement to develop a new cost-based methodology for reimbursement rates, to be implemented if approved by federal government.
- Significant changes in how family fees are assessed: Beginning October 1, 2023, family fees will begin at 75% of the State Median Income (SMI) and will be assessed at families over that income at 1%. Historically, family fees began at 40% SMI and were set at a much higher percentage of incomes. In addition, family fee debt pre-pandemic will be forgiven.
- New provision that allows agencies to collect one month of income documentation (rather than 12 months) for families with variable schedules and estimated income based on this.

On the legislative front, the Governor signed SB 326 (Eggman), which seeks to reform the Mental Health Services Act to earmark more money for housing for people experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. Its companion legislation, AB 531 (Irwin), is a \$6.38 billion bond to fund new treatment facilities and housing and will go to voters for approval on the March 2024 ballot. If passed by voters, the initiative would create the Behavioral

Health Services Act in which the funds are divided into four pots: housing intervention services (30%), full-service partnerships with county behavioral health programs (35%), services for children and youth (35%), and planning costs (5%).

In June 2023, Governmental Affairs staff testified at an informational hearing put on by the Assembly Select Committee on California's Mental Health Crisis, which provided an opportunity to discuss the Stronger Starts media campaign and First 5 California resources for parents and caregivers of young children.

Additionally, the Governor signed SB 616 (Gonzalez), which expanded the minimum amount of paid sick days that an employer is required to provide all employees. Previously, employers were required to provide 24 hours or three paid sick days. With SB 616, employers now must provide 40 hours, or five paid sick days. These days allow parents and guardians to keep children home from school or child care when they have viruses and to take children to well-child visits and receive vaccinations.

Governmental Affairs staff developed a strong relationship with the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications, under the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Through this connection, First 5 California has engaged with the First 5 Association and local First 5 commissions to create awareness of vaccinations for children 6 months through 5 years of age and the impact extreme heat has on vulnerable populations, specifically on pregnant people and children ages 0–5.

Lastly, First 5 California engaged with California's Congressional leaders to educate them on the State's pressing need to stabilize funding supports with the California Chamber of Commerce for child care programs, early learning workforce and infrastructure, behavioral health funding, and maternal and child health.



30

Toxic Stress Takedown



2023-2024 Young Children's Policy Agenda

First 5 California's Young Children's Policy Agenda guides and prioritizes the state and federal public policy and regulatory advocacy, aligned to our mission statement and strategic plan. The four policy pillars ensure that First 5 California can meet its Audacious Goal that in a generation, all children 0-5 will have the **safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments** necessary to achieve healthy development.

First 5 California's North Star articulates our commitment to trauma-informed, healing-centered, and culturally responsive systems that promote the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to eliminate inequities and ensure healthy development for all children.

Build Resilient Families and Communities

Support efforts to ensure economic security and financial stability for families and children through:

- Expansion of paid family leave programs
- Creation and continuation of tax credits and incentives
- Investments in stable food and housing security

Progress made:

- Developed and co-branded user-friendly factsheets on paid family leave with Legal Aid at Work.

Optimize Child Health

Ensure that families and children have access to equitable and just health care coverage and services, that also include:

- Adverse childhood experience screening
- Behavioral and mental health
- Developmental screenings, referrals, and access to appropriate early intervention services
- Prenatal and postpartum care, such as doula services and home visitation programs
- Intervention and preventive care
- Nutritional programs and services

Progress made:

- Supported the launch of First 5 California's Stronger Starts by presenting at the Assembly Select Committee on California's Mental Health Crisis.
- Developed a strong relationship with the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications, under the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the State Surgeon General's office.

Strengthen the State's Quality Early Learning Mixed-Delivery System

- Promote access to safe, high-quality early care and education programs for infants, toddlers, and children through age 5 via statewide rate reform efforts based on equitable and professional compensation, foster diversity in the field, and provide continuous professional development.
- Address workforce capacity needs of child care, preschool, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten educators and support staff through recruitment and retention initiatives, such as the development of micro-credentialing and apprenticeship programs, in partnership with community-based organizations, higher education institutions, and credentialing preparation programs.

Progress made:

- Supported the Early Care and Education Coalition's budget and policy positions to strengthen the child care workforce, access to high-quality care for eligible families, the elimination of outstanding family fees, and a pathway toward a new cost-based methodology for rate reimbursement.

Promote Sustainability of Early Childhood Investments

- Advocate for funding prioritization and inclusion of children, prenatal to age 5, and their families, in existing and new revenue policy proposals and tax funding structures.
- Support braiding and leveraging opportunities that provide fiscal resiliency to the First 5 Network, which includes the First 5 California State Commission, the First 5 Association, and the 58 local First 5 county commissions, to ensure in each of California's 58 counties every family and child have access to critical prenatal services and programs through age 5.

Progress made:

- Introduced First 5 California recent endeavors to newly elected legislators and their staff.
- Joined the California Chamber of Commerce's Cap-to-Cap annual advocacy trip as the voice for families with young children. Discussed the importance of critical services and programs that support working families through stronger child care programs, paid family leave, child tax credits, and health care.

Kit for New Parents

The award-winning Kit for New Parents provides essential supports in the early stages of parenting, providing key information and resources for first-time parents, grandparents, and caregivers.

The Kit is a core function of First 5 California and a foundational resource to help parents and caregivers give their child the best start. Since 2001, over 5.4 million kits have been distributed throughout California, with 130,000 distributed in FY 2022–2023. This is a 57% increase from FY 2021–2022.

First 5 California has distributed the Kit free of charge to local hospitals, physicians, and community groups to reach new parents. Kits are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The Kit includes a Parent Guide, Numbers Touch-and-Feel book, What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick book, and infant toothbrush and massager, and many more informational resources. The Parent Guide can also be accessed online:

- English: <https://parentguide.first5california.com/en-US>
- Spanish: <https://parentguide.first5california.com/es-MX>

Local First 5 county commissions are encouraged to customize the Kit with up to three items of local references and resources to help inform parents about services in their own communities. We encourage parents, caregivers, and community members to order the Kit, which can be shipped directly to them by visiting First 5 California's ordering portal at <https://first5parentingkits.com>.





First 5 San Joaquin, IMPACT program



Toxic Stress Takedown



Priority Area: Family Resiliency



Media Campaign – Stronger Starts

First 5 California set out on a mission to reduce the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among California children ages 0–5. To achieve this goal, First 5 California launched its Stronger Starts campaign in spring 2023 to introduce caregivers to the dangers of toxic stress response caused by ACEs, educate families about the ways it affects children's health, and provide realistic steps caregivers could take to protect children from toxic stress.

The Stronger Starts campaign provided educational messaging for TV, radio, digital, and outdoor advertisements in both English and Spanish to ensure widespread awareness among caregivers throughout the state of California. The campaign also reached the diverse Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in California through radio spots produced in Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, and Hmong languages, as well as unique out-of-home advertising, media and activations in local communities, and interviews on popular TV and YouTube channels within the AAPI community.

During the first year of the campaign, messaging focused on educating caregivers about toxic stress and how to buffer against its harmful effects. To spread the message in a fun and interactive way, First 5 California launched its experiential exhibit in 2023, traveling throughout the state to local community events. The experiential exhibit enabled First 5 California to connect directly with parents and caregivers to spread the message about the dangers of toxic stress. It provided them with actionable tips and take-home tools to prevent toxic stress while their children enjoyed fun activities.

All of the Stronger Starts campaign messaging and activities directed parents and caregivers to the corresponding microsite where they could find specific, easy-to-implement tips for protecting their children from toxic stress. It also provided more information about what toxic stress is and how it can harm children's development. To support the diverse needs of Californian parents, the site was created in both English and Spanish and was easily accessible from the parent site [First5California.com](https://www.first5california.com). Throughout the year, the site gained 220,000 web visits and tens of thousands of clicks, video views, and more.

The First 5 California parent site also played an important role in disseminating educational information to parents. Visitors engaged with the site's educational articles to learn more about toxic stress and ACEs, early brain development, nutrition, family engagement, healthy development, and more. Throughout the year, the parent site gained more than 1.3 million views.

To further educate families about toxic stress, First 5 California created a short educational video: "Toxic Stress: Break the Cycle." This animated, two-minute video was created in both English and Spanish and was posted on the parent website as well as YouTube for maximum reach. The team is currently working on adding even more digital educational content by creating helpful courses, providing coaching, and developing micro-learning components called Stronger Starts for Parents & Caregivers, powered by Cell-Ed. The program will launch in early 2024.

In 2023, First 5 California also curated a thriving organic social media community. It experienced remarkable growth with 212,000 Facebook fans, 15,100 on Instagram, 2,000 on Pinterest, and 2,300 on X (formerly Twitter). Embracing the TikTok wave, First 5

California swiftly gathered 34,200 followers and soared past 152 million views. This diverse platform strategy reached specific age groups and demographics, ensuring the campaign messages echoed far and wide. Collaborating with influencers and notable figures like NBA basketball player Domantas Sabonis, the team passionately amplified the crucial message of protecting children from toxic stress.

Through consistent community management and promoted posts, user engagement on First 5 California's social platforms steadily increased. The audience has flooded the comments with personal stories of growing up in a toxic environment, experiencing the effects of toxic stress as an adult, and expressing their wishes that the Stronger Starts campaign existed during their own childhood. This unique insight into the audience continues to help fuel the development of strategic communications that result in real behavior change.

As a testament to the value of this campaign, Stronger Starts won two Hermes Creative Platinum Awards (the highest honor) and a MUSE Silver Award.

Public Relations

In 2023, First 5 California launched two social messaging campaigns designed to further engage with the public and support California caregivers. Through a community-based education approach, the team successfully mobilized community support to advocate for affordable child care, one of the leading issues affecting parents and caregivers of children ages 0–5.

Additionally, First 5 California began the development of its first fatherhood-focused campaign. The campaign is designed to give California fathers the tools and confidence to engage in their children's lives. By sharing important resources and helping them build a support network, it empowers fathers to create meaningful paternal-child relationships.

First 5 California reached a vast audience through press release distribution and social media posts, providing California families with key educational messages, achievements, announcements, and the work of its partners at the local level.



First 5 San Luis Obispo, Parent Pods Fall 2022, Reaching High

Priority Area: Child Development



IMPACT 2020

First 5 California completed the fourth and final year of IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) 2020, a \$103 million investment to support local and regional Quality Improvement System infrastructure implemented statewide through Quality Counts California (QCC). In October 2022, the First 5 California commission approved the next iteration of the IMPACT investment, IMPACT Legacy, \$125,828 million for four years, FY 2023–2027. This represented a continued commitment to the innovative First 5 IMPACT approach to quality improvement and professional development systems for early learning and care (ELC) providers. The IMPACT Legacy Request for Applications (RFA) was released on May 1, 2023. Funding was awarded to 10 regional lead grantee agencies, reducing the number of grants to 10, while continuing to fund all 58 counties and the Tribal Child Care Association of California.

IMPACT 2020 (and IMPACT Legacy) works in cooperation with all other ELC quality improvement efforts and investments in California to support the implementation of the QCC Quality Continuum Framework. IMPACT is specifically designed to fund quality improvement expansion and support providers serving high-impact communities and populations not already receiving support. QCC participation focuses on the expansion of access to high-quality ELC in private centers and family child care (FCC) homes, with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers, and in alternative settings such as home visiting programs and libraries. For FY 2022–2023, local consortia participating in IMPACT 2020 reported that of the 9,999 sites participating in QCC, over two-thirds (7,200) were supported in full or in part with IMPACT 2020 funding.

Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs

Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Hubs continue to be a vital source of support for consortia. Funded through IMPACT 2020 dollars, Hubs streamlined the collection of data and management of expensive data systems, saving substantial administrative dollars and improving the availability of data. T&TA Hubs provided trainings, facilitated communication, shared best practices, and promoted access to and consistency in coach, trainer, and administrator supports. Regional T&TA Hub support was deemed particularly beneficial by small and rural consortia that would not have been able to access certain training or have the critical mass needed for Communities of Practice (CoP) and other professional learning opportunities. During the pandemic, Hubs expanded supports to include early educators in the classroom, as well as technical assistance providers (trainers, coaches, administrators), which has expanded the efficiencies provided by Hubs.

In FY 2022–2023, Hubs identified taking steps toward increased equity as a major area of success. Regions hosted numerous professional development opportunities focused on training on equity, antibias, and antiracism, including an equity conference and an ongoing, statewide Equity CoP, and reported that equity was brought to the forefront in decision-making.

Shared Services Alliance Networks

Funded through IMPACT 2020, the Shared Services Alliance Networks (SSA) pilot continued to operate in FY 2022–2023 to support private, licensed ELC providers and Tribal child care settings, with priority given to FCC homes and other small and underserved providers. These SSA Networks leverage regional partnerships to streamline local operations, such as billing, enrollment, fund management, and reporting, which allow for increased service capacity within the Network. The seven implementing counties have been engaging in the implementation of shared services and will operate under First 5 California funding through June 30, 2024. Evaluation efforts are ongoing and will result in a final report at the sunset of the SSA pilot. Currently, the SSA pilot, across the seven counties, is supporting 147 ELC sites: 47% small FCCs, 46% large FCCs, and 7% centers. SSA has supported 641 trainings/professional development for ELC provider sites on business systems, practices, operations, and resources. SSA pilot supports have directly benefited 230 individual teachers and 1,366 children so far.

State-Level Technical Assistance Support

First 5 California continues to fund technical assistance and foster partnerships among all QCC state agency partners, regions, and local consortia. This work includes building relationships with institutions of higher education and developing common definitions and shared quality standards across many professional development types.

Quality Counts California

Quality Counts California (QCC) is a statewide system of locally implemented Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) that provide resources and support to ELC providers so they can create engaging and effective experiences that help children grow and thrive. QCC was funded by IMPACT 2020 and state and federal funding administered by the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services.

All ELC participant sites in QCC are reported in the statewide common data file, which is inclusive of all the state's QRIS funding streams. This data provides the state with an efficient and coordinated method for receiving information about each county participating in QRIS. Growth in QCC participation increased by 9% statewide from last fiscal year; as of June 30, 2023, there were 9,999 participant QCC sites across the state,

including 3,692 family child care homes and 1,503 family, friend, and neighbor providers. In total, 38,553 teachers received individualized professional development to improve quality of care and early education knowledge, and 382,263 children ages 0–5 benefited from the quality improvement support provided by QCC. QCC has collectively sought to engage sites serving key priority populations including:

- 63% serving infants and toddlers
- 16% serving children in foster care
- 11% serving unhoused children
- 29% serving children/families with a voucher
- 46% serving children with an IEP or IFSP
- 75% serving multilingual children

Throughout FY 2022–2023, the First 5 California-funded QCC website was under review for updating content and layout to add additional resources and accuracy of information. These updates expanded content and resources for the parents and families and providers pages specifically. For more information on QCC, visit the website at <https://qualitycountscalifornia.net>.

Refugee Family Support

In October 2021, the First 5 Commission approved the Refugee Family Support (RFS) funding, a \$3 million investment over one year to help support refugee families with children birth through age 5 resettling in counties across California. RFS grants were awarded to six First 5 Commission counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, and Santa Clara. RFS implementation started in September 2022.

RFS provides targeted county-level support for child care, family supports, and resettlement coordination for Afghan and other refugee communities through the following:

- Socio-cultural adjustment and system navigation
- Short-term emergency child care
- Emergency housing

Through RFS implementation, grantees were able to build local relationships to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services and established systems of support to sustain the services.

During the first year of implementation, RFS grantees served nearly 1,100 refugee families from 18 countries. Among those are over 3,000 individuals, 112 expectant mothers, and 1,650 children ages 0–5 years.



First 5 LA, CAT AAIMM

Fatherhood Initiative

First 5 California has partnered with the California Child Support Services and local First 5 Alameda Fatherhood Corps in a "Fatherhood Council" that meets biweekly to develop opportunities to incorporate father involvement-focused activities and efforts across California systems and programs. As a result of this partnership, First 5 California has made initial investments by providing co-sponsorship funding and technical assistance to the Alameda Fatherhood Conference, has co-lead a focus group with the International Fatherhood Conference, and will continue to lift up father involvement in the upcoming 2024 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit: Stronger Starts: 25 Years of First 5 in March 2024 by co-partnering with the Alameda Father Corp on a workshop. First 5 California's strategy is to develop conditions where father involvement is normative, uplifted, and ubiquitous and, in turn, make more valuable and data-informed investments in the future.

Early Math Project

First 5 California actively participated in the ongoing development and maintenance of the multistate agency effort to elevate the importance of early STEAM activities to support children's success and understanding of STEAM. These efforts include annual seminars and conferences for parents, teachers, and other ELC professionals, publication of STEAM-related literature, newsletters, book reviews, and web-based supports including:

- Early Math Project (EMP) Substack Newsletter
EMP team members regularly contribute content to the Early Math Project Substack newsletter. The newsletter can be accessed at https://open.substack.com/pub/carolynpfister/p/the-early-math-project-newsletter-0a2r=ky79x&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web. The team continues to focus on building readership/subscribers for this free newsletter.
- STEAM Resources
EMP meets for an hour each Monday to review team-created book guides and activities that are shared on the EMP website (www.earlymathca.org) and the Count Play Explore application (www.countplayexplore.org). Book guides, activities, and links to a YouTube read-aloud of the book are sent to the team in advance for prior review. The team has committed to creating six new STEAM guides prior to the spring Seminar on February 15, 2023.

The 2024 EMP Early STEAM Seminar will focus on early STEAM for children from birth to age 8. Jon Dueck and Lesley Gates will provide the keynote, which will center on the importance of early science experiences and how families and teachers can use children's literature to support children's STEAM success and understanding. There will be six breakout sessions offered simultaneously to provide choice to adults who interact with infants and toddlers, preschool-age children, kindergarteners, and elementary school-age children.

- Math Book Guides and Activities
EMP continues to develop math books guides and activities, which are also available on the EMP Website and Count Play Explore Application.

I'm Ready Videos

EMP team members advise on the creation of the I'm Ready Video Series—scripts, filming, final product, etc. We anticipate the next eight videos, filmed in September 2023, will be released in spring 2024.

Imagination Library

First 5 California has partnered with the California State Librarian and has been focused on recruiting for the Imagination Library of California Stronger Readers team. The nonprofit board was created through the State of CA's \$68.2 million investment for the statewide expansion of Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is chaired by Executive Director Wong and includes statewide leaders such as former First 5 Los Angeles Executive Director Kim Belshe, Laura

Fink of Rebelle Communications, and Former Lieutenant Governor Mona Pasqual. This will allow staff to better leverage First 5 California's PEARLS investment.

The program is now serving over 54,000 children and 11% of those receiving the English/Spanish bilingual collection. The program has deepened engagement with locals and launched in Kern County (September) and Mendocino County (October). The program is planning to have 2–3 more expansion counties starting in the coming months.

Home Visiting

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 California funded an extension of the original Home Visiting Collaboration grants and issued an RFA, offering new Regional Technical Assistance for Home Visiting Coordination and Integration (HV-RTA) grants to begin the following fiscal year. The HV-RTA RFA offered \$14.5 million in regional funding for home visiting technical assistance and coordination in much the same way IMPACT Legacy's RFA regionalized funding for IMPACT consortia. Nine regions successfully applied for funding and will be offering services to improve home visiting access and coordination in their communities for the next two fiscal years.

First 5 California also developed and issued a Request for Offer to fund statewide Technical Assistance (TA) and cross-regional coordination for grantees and partners. The selected TA provider will also conduct an evaluation of programs' successes, challenges, barriers, and recommendations for future direction.

Tobacco Education and Cessation

First 5 California continues to fund Kick It California, an ongoing tobacco education and cessation activity, to meet the statutory requirement of the Children and Families Act (Health and Safety Code Section 130125 A, 130125 C). Kick It California (the "Quitline," formerly known as the California Smokers' Helpline) uses evidence-based educational approaches for tobacco cessation among pregnant and parenting tobacco users and caregivers of children ages 0–5.

On January 28, 2021, First 5 California Commission approved up to \$3.6 million for three years (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024) to continue tobacco cessation services for First 5 California's priority population. As a result of this investment, First 5 California funds support services to focus specifically on pregnant smokers, smoking parents, and caregivers of children

ages 0–5, and reduce/eliminate secondhand smoke exposure to young children, ages 0–5, in particular. Quitline services have since been expanded to include vaping (electronic cigarettes) cessation, coaching for non-tobacco-using proxies, and the development of materials that address the danger of vaping during pregnancy and the danger to children of secondhand exposure to vape aerosol, vape cartridges, and vape juice (liquid nicotine).

In FY 2022–2023, 3,262 clients who were either pregnant or parents/caregivers of children ages 0–5 enrolled in Kick It California. Over a third (n=1,036) of the clients vaped, including 417 who did not smoke cigarettes but exclusively sought help to quit vaping. The remainder were dual users of cigarettes and vapes. Kick It California also provided coaching services to 139 non-tobacco-using proxies (i.e., family members or friends calling on behalf of smokers or vape users). Kick It California enrollees are ethnically diverse (over two-thirds identify as other than white) and primarily low income (i.e., nearly 80% are Medicaid recipients). Ninety percent have not obtained a college degree, and nearly 60% report one or more of the following mental health conditions—anxiety (45%), depression (42%), bipolar (18%), schizophrenia (7%), or drug/alcohol addiction (14%).

Kick It California provides one-on-one telephone coaching for smokers, vapers, and non-tobacco-using proxies. Services are available in English (1-800-300-8686) and Spanish (1-800-600-8191) and through the Asian Smokers' Quitline (www.asiansmokersquitline.org) in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) (1-800-838-8917), Korean (1-800-556-5564), and Vietnamese (1-800-778-8440). For those who might not be ready to work one-on-one with a coach, Kick It California services also include live chat, mobile apps, online videos, and an automated text program, with content relevant to tobacco users who are pregnant or have a young child in the home. Kick It California also has an interactive and user-friendly website (www.kickitca.org) designed to appeal to tobacco users, to proxies, and to tobacco control advocates interested in fact sheets, promotional items, and county-level data on enrollee demographics.

Small Population County Funding Augmentation

Since 1999, First 5 California's Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) program provides funding to augment annual tax revenues to local First 5 Commissions in counties with small populations and low birth rates.

The goal of the SPCFA is to support the success of small counties in their work and to ensure Proposition 10 is truly a statewide effort that impacts the lives of young children throughout California. For counties with a small number of annual births, the statutory funding alone does not provide sufficient funding to fully operate a county commission or effective First 5 programs. SPCFA funding makes it possible for Proposition 10 to be a statewide effort that promotes, supports, and improves the early development of children ages 0–5.

Twenty-one small population counties (SPCs) have received base funding to support county commission activities needed to fulfill the statutory requirements and for Proposition 10 to be a statewide effort that promotes, supports, and improves the early development of children ages 0–5. Eligibility for SPCFA is based on 1,000 or fewer annual births between FY 2017–2018 and FY 2018–2019. During FY 2022–2023, SPCs budgeted \$4,658,817.02 to administer their First 5 county commission and fund programs.

The major focus of the 3.25-year grant (April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024) is on evaluation activities related to systems change efforts and their intended and actual impacts. The potential for pooled services for the purpose of improved efficiencies was explored; however, based on the diverse makeup of small counties, it was not a viable option beyond what some of the small counties are already doing.

During FY 2022–2023, SPCs completed the revised version of the systems change tool—a Systems Change Data Map. This tool was developed to build on the First 5 Association's Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion focus. It included a more explicit focus on equity and the data counties use to help demonstrate the reach and impacts of systems change activities. The Data Map Tool covered four primary areas: (1) a description of the activity involving equity goals, strategies, partners, outcomes, and the number impacted; (2) data sources to identify need; (3) incorporating principles of equity; and (4) outcomes for children and families. Counties were at different stages of implementation of their

activity, and First 5 California hopes to have counties build on their submission to learn about their progress in fostering cross-sector collaboration and improving outcomes for children and families.

¹Small Counties are: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and Tuolumne.



Governance Office

First 5 California established a Governance Office for the purpose of volumizing its impact related to Commission preparation and proceedings. Over the last 24 years, there has never been a Governance Office, and the work has been embedded in a portfolio with competing interests. In addition to facilitating many successful public Commission and Advisory Committee meetings, the Governance Office organized and executed a successful in-person Commission meeting in Fresno, California, and developed a Commission Proceedings Manual.

Governance Office staff are leading the organization and execution of the 2024 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit: Stronger Starts: 25 Years of First 5, after a four-year gap due to the pandemic.

Administrative Services Office

In FY 2022–2023, the Administrative Services Office focused on process improvement in the following areas: staff and Commissioner onboarding, training and conference attendance, hiring, records retention, and office-wide administration activities to gain efficiencies and cut costs.

Fiscal Services Office

The Fiscal Services Office (FSO) plans and coordinates all accounting and budgeting activities for First 5 California. FSO is committed to promoting financial integrity and operational efficiency while partnering with our internal and external stakeholders. For FY 2022–2023, FSO managed 357 purchase orders worth \$149.6 million; processed 982 payment transactions worth \$75.3 million for program expenditures, IT, and non-IT goods and services; and collected receivables worth \$1.1 million through the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal). Additionally, in collaboration with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, FSO processed revenue disbursements to all 58 county commissions for Proposition 10, Proposition 56 backfill, California Electronic Cigarette Excise Tax, and interest earned by the fund for a total of \$271.4 million. FSO continues to work with internal partners to create efficiencies in our processes while continuing to exercise fiscal controls. In partnership with Contracts and Procurement and the Program Innovation and Evaluation Division, First 5 California awarded program grants to county commissions in accordance with fiscal best practice and in alignment with program goals.

Contracts and Procurement Office

In FY 2022–2023, the Contracts and Procurement Office (CPO) celebrated milestones and noteworthy achievements. In response to the changing business landscape of California and the needs of the organization, CPO became more innovative and made critical changes to business operations in support of First 5 California’s mission:

- Award-Winning Operations
 - Agency of the Year, 23rd Annual State Agency Recognition Award by the Department of General Services
 - Most Improved Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Participation Award, 23rd Annual State Agency Recognition Award by the Department of General Services
- Digital Transformation
 - Formalized paperless transacting, saving time and money
 - Established First 5 California’s first Policy Statement for Use and Acceptance of Electronic Signature

- Utilized a paperless approval and document management system: Content Review Tracking System
- Helped secure innovative contracting opportunities with new contractors in partnership with program design teams, reflected in Q1 of FY 2023–2024, to align with the vision of the North Star and Audacious Goal. Examples include environmental scan consulting work focused on fathers and families, federal advocacy representation, Paid Family Leave advocacy, and information technology services.
- Processed 267 agreements/amendments with limited staffing.
- Worked across First 5 California offices to standardize grant processes.
- Working with California Volunteer to develop an on-demand Contract Manager Training to ensure consistent implementation practices across the organization.
- Formally deployed grant programs for county commissions, resulting in decreases in processing timeframes and increases in efficiencies for programmatic deployment.
- Risk Mitigation, Compliance, and Continuous Improvement
 - Enhanced due diligence processes and process audits to ensure compliance with legal, ethical, and statutory/policy standards.
 - Integrated contractual clauses addressing force majeure, business continuity, and budget contingency into procurement agreements as essential components.
 - Successfully passed the CPO’s first Accreditation audit by the Department of General Services in 2021 and was reauthorized to transact state contracts and procurement under a Tier 2 of four tiers of authority.

Summary

The highlights of the First 5 California offices underscore the team’s resilience, adaptability, and commitment to excellence. By embracing digital transformation, adopting agile practices, prioritizing sustainability, and mitigating risks, First 5 California has achieved remarkable success amid challenging circumstances. As we embark on a new year, these achievements serve as a foundation for continuous growth, innovation, and improvement.

First 5 County Commission Result Areas



Four Result Areas

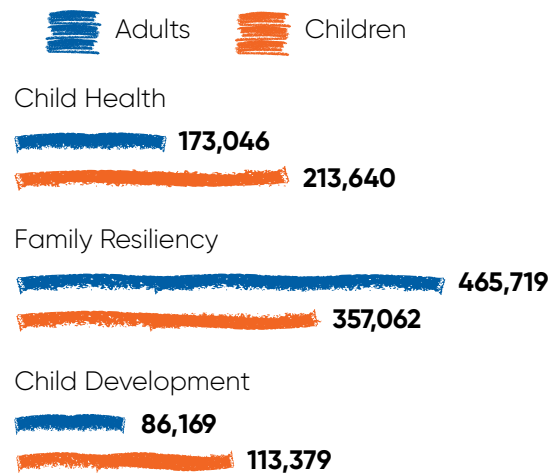
For annual reporting, First 5 California and First 5 county commissions track progress in four result areas to inform evidence-based funding decisions, program planning, and policies:

- Improved Family Resiliency
- Improved Child Development
- Improved Child Health
- Improved Systems of Care

These result areas comprise a framework for reporting early childhood investments and provide an overview of the number, type, and cost of services to children and adults. Stakeholders can use this information to assess statewide resource allocation and impact of First 5 county commissions.

Exhibit 1 contains the total numbers of services provided to children ages birth to 5 and adults (including primary caregivers and providers) for Improved Family Resiliency, Improved Child Development, and Improved Child Health. During FY 2022–2023, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 684,081 child services and 724,934 adult services. The distribution of expenditures in these three result areas totals \$285 million.

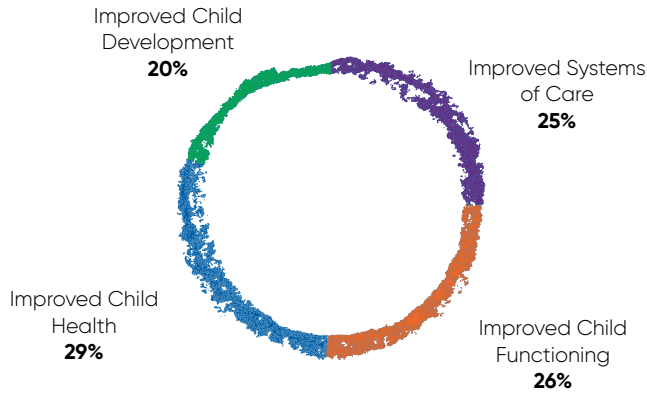
Exhibit 1: Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 Across Result Areas



*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

The result area, Improved Systems of Care, with expenditures of \$86 million, differs from the others. It consists of programs and initiatives for system-wide structural supports for efforts within the other three result areas. The four result areas combined show total expenditures of \$371 million.

Exhibit 2: Total Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 by Result Area



*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers

First 5 county commissions are required to report to First 5 California revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. In collaboration with the First 5 Association, First 5 California annually develops and adopts annual reporting guidelines to standardize data collection. County commission revenues are reported in Appendix A1. For expenditures, county commission fiscal and service data are aggregated to the statewide level under four result areas (Appendix A2) using specific definitions for each result area with service category detail (Appendix B). The four result areas are listed below.

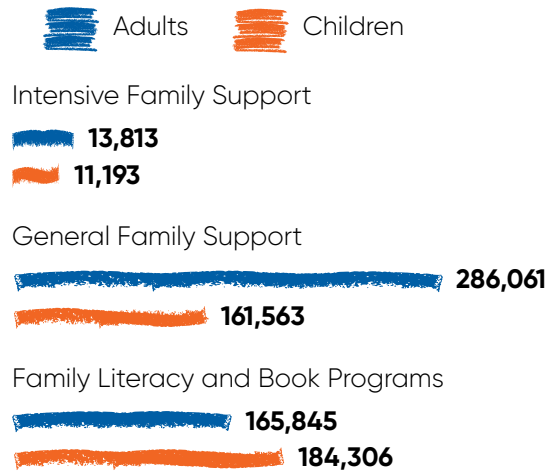
Improved Family Resiliency

Family Resiliency includes the categories Family Literacy and Book Programs, General Family Support, and Intensive Family Support. Services include instruction on general parenting topics, support for basic family needs and case management, parent education and literacy, referrals to community resources, assistance for parents and families, and support to schools and educational institutions, nonprofit community-based agencies, government agencies, and private institutions.

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 357,062 services to improve family resiliency for children ages birth to 5, with 184,306 child services in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 161,563 child services in General Family Support and 11,193 child services in Intensive Family Support.

First 5 county commissions provided a total of 465,719 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 165,845 adult services in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 286,061 adult services in General Family Support and 13,813 adult services in Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 3 displays the numbers of services provided.

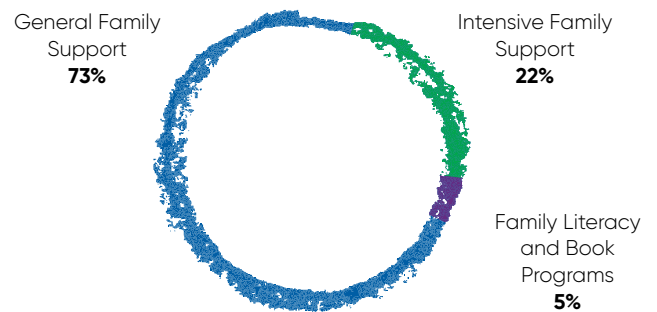
Exhibit 3: Family Resiliency—Total Numbers of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 by Service



*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

First 5 county commissions expended \$97 million to improve Family Resiliency, with 5 percent of expenditures in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 73 percent of expenditures in General Family Support, and 22 percent of expenditures in Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 4 shows the distribution of expenditures by service category.

Exhibit 4: Family Resiliency—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2021–22 by Service



*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers

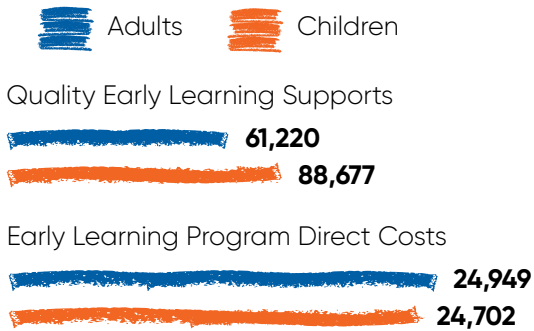
Improved Child Development

Child Development includes the categories Early Learning Program Direct Costs and Quality Early Learning Supports. Programs include professional development for educators, high-quality preschool, services for diverse populations, and school readiness.

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 county commissions delivered 113,379 child development services to children ages birth to 5, with 88,677 child services in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 24,702 child services in Quality Early Learning Supports.

First 5 county commissions provided 86,169 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 61,220 adult services in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 24,949 adult services in Quality Early Learning Supports. Exhibit 5 displays the numbers of services provided.

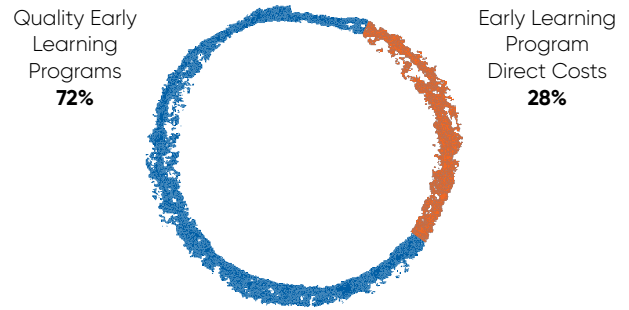
Exhibit 5: Child Development—Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 By Service



*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

In FY 2022–2023, county commissions expended \$78 million to improve Child Development, with 28 percent of expenditures in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 72 percent of expenditures in Quality Early Learning Supports.

Exhibit 6: Child Development—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 by Service



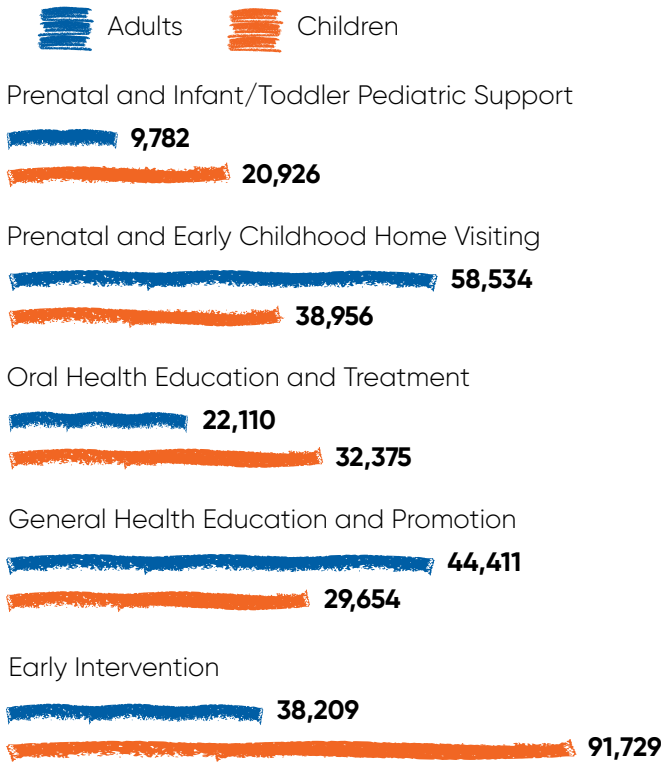
*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers



Improved Child Health

First 5 county commissions fund a variety of Child Health services promoting identification, treatment, and elimination of risks that threaten health and may cause developmental delays and disabilities. First 5 Child Health services are far-ranging and include the categories Early Intervention, General Health Education and Promotion, Oral Health Education and Treatment, Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

Exhibit 7: Child Health—Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2022–2023 By Service

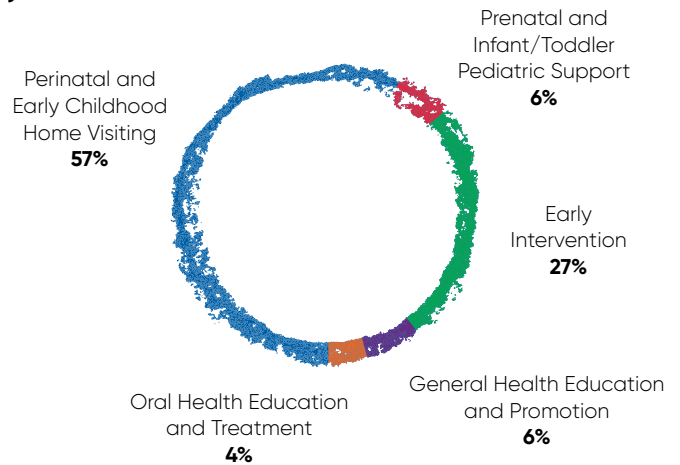


*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 213,640 services to children ages birth to 5, with 91,729 child services in Early Intervention, 29,654 child services in General Health Education and Promotion, 32,375 child services in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 38,956 child services in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 20,926 child services in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

First 5 county commissions provided 173,046 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 38,209 adult services in Early Intervention, 44,411 adult services in General Health Education and Promotion, 22,110 adult services in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 58,534 adult services in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 9,782 adult services in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

Exhibit 8: Child Health— Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2021–22 by Service



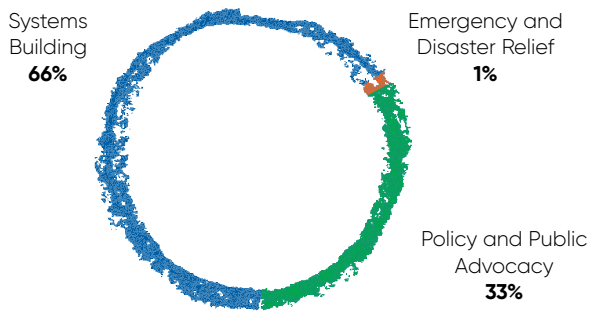
*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers

In FY 2022–2023, county commissions expended \$110 million to improve Child Health, with 27 percent of expenditures in Early Intervention, 6 percent of expenditures in General Health Education and Promotion, 4 percent of expenditures in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 57 percent of expenditures in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 6 percent of expenditures in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

Improved Systems of Care

Systems of Care addresses system-wide structural supports as county commissions focus efforts within the result areas of Family Resiliency, Child Development, and Child Health. For example, interagency collaboration allows coordinated wrap-around efforts from multiple organizations providing focused client services. Since this result is at a systems level, counties do not report numbers of children and adults served. Expenditure data indicate that for FY 2022–2023, county commissions expended \$86 million to improve Systems of Care, with 1 percent focused on Emergency and Disaster Relief, 33 percent on Policy and Public Advocacy, and 66 percent of expenditures toward Systems Building.

Exhibit 9: Systems of Care—Distribution of Expenditures in FY 2022–2023 by Service



*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers

Populations Served

County commissions served a diversity of populations by age, race/ethnicity, and language (Appendix C). Statewide, 643,624 children were served by county commission programs. The total of 687,864 adults served included primary caregivers such as parents and other family members (600,395) and service providers (87,469).

By age, 31 percent of children served were under 3 years old, 32 percent were ages 3 through 5 years old, and 37 percent were of unknown age.

By race/ethnicity, children served included Hispanic or Latino as the largest group (38 percent), followed by White (10 percent), Asian (5 percent), Black or African American (4 percent), Other (2 percent), Two or More Races (3 percent), Alaska Native or American Indian (less than 1 percent), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (less than 1 percent) and unknown race/ethnicity (41 percent).

With respect to primary language of children served, the two largest groups served were speakers of English (42 percent) and Spanish (20 percent), followed by speakers of Asian languages (Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, 2 percent) and language unknown (34 percent).

*Missing data from Glenn, Lake and Madera counties.



LA Boo at the Zoo

First 5 County Highlights

The following reports have been submitted directly from each individual First 5 county commission.

Alameda

In fiscal year (FY) 2022–2023, First 5 Alameda County advanced our comprehensive whole community, whole family, whole child system-building approach in support of kindergarten readiness and the 100,000+ young children who call Alameda County home. We expanded our partnerships and programs by building out our capacity, restructuring our agency, hiring experienced staff, and increasing our budget by 108%. In 2022, we were awarded the City of Oakland contract to serve as administrator and implementation partner of the Oakland Children’s Initiative Early Education Fund. In the first six months of implementation, we allocated over \$10 million to stabilize the early education programs at Oakland Unified School District and City of Oakland Head Start by supporting neglected physical infrastructure and urgent staffing needs. This year, we launched a Pediatric Care Coordination Division, integrating programs and expanding capacity to reach more children through existing programs like Help Me Grow and DULCE (Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone), while also working to maximize resources and leverage partnerships to expand impact. Building on this proven track record, we bolstered our partnership with Alameda Alliance for Health by successfully advocating for a \$300,000 budget increase for Help Me Grow. In FY 2022–2023, we continued to invest in programs and initiatives that engage fathers, like Fathers Corps, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2023. The program has received state and national recognition and, in 2023, its cofounder and Program Administrator presented the program model to the California Fatherhood Council, which is being considered for replication in a statewide initiative. Through our Neighborhoods Ready for School initiative, we grant funding directly to community organizations in neighborhoods that have been traditionally underserved due to racist and classist systems and policies, to support their work with children and families. In FY 2022–2023, we invested over \$3 million in four neighborhoods across Alameda County.

Alpine

First 5 Alpine partnered to prepare children, families, and the school system for the start of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in Alpine County. Six of seven (or 86%) children anticipated to attend 2022–2023 school term participated in the 2022 Kindergarten Meet and Greet. In partnership with the Alpine County Office of Education (ACOE), First 5 Alpine invited families to gain familiarity with the school, the kindergarten teacher, and their classmates prior to the start of the school year. Families met the kindergarten teacher and classmates, toured the classroom, were encouraged to complete enrollment forms, and received a backpack full of supplies. Seven of 10 (or 70%) students who were anticipated to attend the 2023–2024 school term participated in the Kindergarten Roundup in May 2023. Participating partners included the Speech Language Pathologist, the Tribal Liaison, and the school nurse. Families were encouraged to complete enrollment paperwork and participate in school readiness assessments, and First 5 distributed books and activities. Partners answered families’ questions and connected them to resources. The results of these events included:

- Increased Family Engagement: Both events provided community partners and the school district an opportunity to engage families earlier in their educational journey through the Alpine County school system. Partners were able to better understand families’ needs and begin to establish ongoing relationships with parents/caregivers and their children.
- Improved Service Coordination: While First 5 Alpine organized and promoted the events, the ACOE educated families about the pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten experience, and other partners promoted services. Both events represent coordinated efforts to enroll children in pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten and to connect families to services and support available.

Amador

First 5 Amador continued to work closely with county agencies and community-based organizations, leveraging local resources to increase the value of its investments. Primary investments of the commission included Welcome Baby—a universal (local model) home visiting program that distributes a customized First 5 California Kit for New Parents and introduces families to resources that would support their family. First 5 Amador completed 119 visits, serving 235 infants and their siblings, and screened 58 mothers for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, with referrals made for clinical support for those in need of follow-up. Family literacy efforts included the Imagination Library, which has seen participation increase to nearly 70% of the age-eligible children in the county. We attribute this success to the seamless cross-referrals made through Welcome Baby, playgroups, and Messy Mornings as well as our partnerships with the county library and WIC. Messy Mornings (conducted in First 5 Amador’s Outdoor Learning Lab) was launched at the end of FY 2021–2022 with the goal of providing a child-led experience that encouraged children to explore, play, and learn. These weekly “messy” events have the highest participation rate of all First 5 events, with 30–45 children and their caregivers in attendance each week. While the children and caregivers are participating in the activities, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and family, friends, and neighbor caregivers are also making connections and providing support to one another. Amador’s Quality for Kids provided an opportunity for child care providers, preschool teachers, and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers to participate in educational opportunities that enhance the care they provide to children 0–5. The 30 Quality for Kids participants received financial incentives as well as early education materials that address their individual quality improvement plans.

Butte

The First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission envisions that every child will have the opportunity for a resilient, thriving future through a nurturing, supportive network of families, caregivers, and their community. This past year, First 5 Butte County continued to support priorities in all areas of its strategic plan, despite experiencing a substantial decline in tobacco tax revenue. In addition to its ongoing program investments, the Commission released \$500,000 in Strategic Investment multiyear funds, which support a child advocate position for families living in transitional housing and a mobile live-

scan service to serve rural communities, and bolstered the structure of the local Child Abuse Prevention Council in developing the systems needed to create a more sustainable agency model. Each investment will reap benefits for families far exceeding the contract terms of service. In addition to funding directly to partners, the Commission supported maternal mental health training, family strengthening training, grant writing training and technical assistance, executive coaching and board development, and nonprofit leadership trainings for partners to support their growth and sustainability. As a support to the Help Me Grow Butte (HMGB) system, the Commission received funds from Connecticut Children’s Hospital to develop pediatric physician champions and infuse the Healthy Outcomes of Positive Experiences framework in the pediatric ecosystem in Butte County. HMGB staff have provided outreach and training to 716 partners and community members and care coordination to 301 families. HMGB was also expanded to encompass maternal mental health referrals and care coordination, and First 5 staff have assumed the role of Postpartum Support International local coordinator. These efforts have resulted in a single point of entry for home visiting referrals, developmental screening and early intervention, and maternal mental health navigation.



Toxic Stress Takedown

Calaveras

After significant community planning, First 5 Calaveras collaborated closely with community partners to develop and implement new programs based on critical unmet needs identified for children under the age of 5. These new services helped build a stronger and more comprehensive service approach for young children. One glaring gap identified was the need for infant/early childhood mental health services and supports. Two new programs were implemented, Metta Services and Social-Emotional (SE) Coaching Services, which both address the provision of early mental health services for young children, caregivers, and teachers. A range of social-emotional curriculum support and training was provided for early learning staff through SE Coaching Services. Also, children's behavioral observations were offered for those in need of more intensive social-emotional strategies, supports, resources, and referrals. Parent-teacher conferences were held, and materials (feelings charts, problem-solving materials, and calming/breathing activities) were prepared for use at home and school. Metta Services, which began start-up activities in April 2023, provides early mental health trauma-informed services. This program includes assessments/screenings for developmental and behavioral delays, home visits, case management, one-on-one and group therapy for both children under 5 and their families, playgroups, and linkages for caregivers toward resources. Another critical gap identified was the need to bring back oral health preventive screening services for children after a three-year interruption. After extensive year-long planning and collaboration with the Tuolumne County Office of Education, the Smile Keepers Dental Program began implementation in April 2023. And, in order to strengthen early literacy promotion, First 5 Calaveras created a community planning partnership with the Calaveras Community Foundation to implement Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at a local level.



First 5 San Bernardino,
Community Outreach Events, Halloween

Colusa

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Colusa served 2,113 children birth through age 5 and their families in three focus areas: Improved Child Health, Improved Family Resiliency, and Improved Child Development. The largest number of children and families were served through nutrition and food access programs offered through First 5 Colusa's Family Resource Centers (FRCs). Located in rural areas of the county, designated as food deserts, the FRCs distributed 505,085 pounds of food, including fresh produce, to low-income families. Approximately 96% of the families served in the nutrition programs indicated that they depend on the food programs to adequately feed their families. In FY 2022–2023 First 5 Colusa also focused on the addition and expansion of several programs offered to the community. In coordination with Colusa County Public Health, First 5 Colusa launched a new program, Bumps & Beyond, a perinatal/postnatal support group for new and expectant parents. The semimonthly program addresses birth disparities, provides information on local resources and programs, and offers a network of peer and professional support to parents. First 5 Colusa continues to work with families, the community, and their agency partners to identify and address disparities and concerns facing children and families. With a systematic, coordinated, and equitable approach, First 5 Colusa continues to evolve as a leader and champion for the children and families of Colusa County. (See full County Highlights submitted via the Annual Report e-mail.)

Contra Costa

We aim to change systems of services and supports to better meet the needs of children and families through a whole-child, whole-family approach.

- **Strengthening Families:** In FY 2023, we served 5,166 adults and children through programming at our First 5 Centers—a 71% increase from the previous year. As families face economic challenges, we distributed 1,425 cases of diapers and 149 car seats. Our Community Advisory Councils, composed of 22 First 5 Center parents/volunteers, completed a community needs assessment using the 5 Protective Factors framework and presented recommendations to better address community needs—the Centers will implement them in FY 2024.
- **Early Childhood Education:** In our Ready Kids East County initiative—an effort to reform the systems and services available to African American and Black families—we held seven family engagement workshops and four parent/child meetups with 75 community members to build connections and foster school readiness. Based on a needs and interest survey for providers, 240 early learning providers were offered 23 professional development opportunities. Our Quality Matters Family Child Care (FCC) Partner Program involved 17 FCC providers to serve as mentors to 39 FCC providers. Mentors offered peer-to-peer support for quality improvement and strengthened connections between FCCs—an effort to support quality early learning and foster retention.
- **Early Intervention:** With increased outreach to participate in the Help Me Grow (HMG) model, 185 more children were screened for developmental concerns compared to last year. To increase screening in early learning spaces, we launched an Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) screening pilot with a school district serving high-needs communities. Our 2022 pilot program that linked our HMG model to health clinics trained to conduct adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) screening was featured in several publications. Aliados Health showcased it in its Promising Practice papers and podcast. We also published a brief and practice paper to share the successes and lessons learned.

Del Norte

First 5 Del Norte (F5DN) expanded our reach of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library throughout the year with registration forms handed out to every preschool class, kindergarten class, child care provider, community baby shower participant, partner program participant in programs like Toddler Time and Happy Toes, and new parent kit registration in the county. Enrollment continues to increase, and feedback from families has been positive. In 2022–2023, F5DN continued providing and developing culturally appropriate content of the parent-support texting program Ready4K. Working with ParentPowered, we are adapting their existing texting program, Ready4K, to provide connections to local programs and resources, encourage community connections, and educate families on school readiness skill building. F5DN has also taken a leading roll in the oral health education and outreach in Del Norte County, with educational outreach at health fairs and youth and family fairs, and is working to help ensure that the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments happen in our county. Additionally, we have spent the past year laying the foundation with our community partners to begin a Health Families America home visiting program in Del Norte County. We are unique in that we are partnering with nurses to provide an elevated level of medical supports to the families who need additional supports, and F5DN will provide the social support side of the home visits. We continue to work with our collaborating partners on our 3Read23 literacy initiative, working to support our educators and child care providers to provide high level literacy and community supports to our families. We also partnered with Open Door Community Health around ACEs awareness, which we incorporated into our Healthy Families America model.



El Dorado

First 5 El Dorado Commission is the collective impact lead in a systems change effort to increase access to services and supports for children, families, and individuals in their community referred to as Community Hubs. Hubs were established to connect families and individuals with services, offer preventive screenings, and walk with them toward resiliency. When COVID-19 persisted in 2021–2022, Hub Leadership noted an increased demand for basic needs support including food, housing, health insurance, assistance with bills, and behavioral health interventions. In response, Hubs were reimagined with a focus on navigating families to existing services that meet their needs. Since COVID-19, consecutive fires and winter storms have been traumatic events for individuals and families who live in the county. Hub staff were deployed for crisis response and engaged in a multiagency effort to evaluate and support the health and wellness needs of El Dorado County residents. This flexibility demonstrated the effectiveness of the model to evolve and meet community needs. During FY 2022–2023, a total of 3,655 individuals were provided with Community Hub services. Key elements of the model include:

- Local libraries serving as community resource centers with bilingual navigators to walk with families
- Navigators connecting families and individuals with supports and services that address their unique situations both in the libraries and the community
- Community advisories with local voices identifying service gaps and barriers, learning why they exist, and developing equity-based approaches
- Integrating continuous quality improvement strategies such as monthly data review, improvement coaching, and staff rounding

First 5 El Dorado reaffirmed its commitment to the Hub model within its 2021–2025 amended strategic plan.

Fresno

At First 5 Fresno County (F5FC), we believe that addressing challenges facing families requires systemic change. From private businesses to community-based agencies, schools to hospitals and beyond, we can all make things work better for families. The following are examples of cross sector partnerships to innovate new ways of supporting families with young children.

- Glow! Group Prenatal Care is an enhanced prenatal care program that brings together 8–12 pregnant patients with similar due dates to receive prenatal medical care, education, and peer support in a group setting. Patients are provided with free

wraparound services (e.g., child care, food support, transportation stipends, information on community resources) to create a one-stop appointment. Since 2019, we and our partners have implemented Glow! as part of a national study comparing two types of prenatal care (group and individual care), with hopes to determine which type of care is best suited to address maternal mental health stressors such as depression and anxiety, preterm birth, and satisfaction of care. Findings will inform policy decisions determining the type of prenatal care available to women and birthing people locally, statewide, and nationwide.

- Seventeen years ago, the Commission launched the Child-Friendly Business Awards (CFBA) Campaign to advocate for systems and policy change to improve the lives of families with young children. For almost two decades, CFBA has been a tool to develop, nurture, and strengthen relationships between F5FC and local businesses in order to highlight and promote outstanding efforts made by employers to promote a work-family integration for their employees. To date, over 80 local businesses, ranging from a small tire company to the local state university, have been honored as award winners. This investment, although not large, has become a desired recognition for employers as a new strategy to show care and acknowledge their employees.



First 5 Fresno, Community Learning Center

Humboldt

First 5 Humboldt (F5H) has partnered with Open Door Community Health Centers through the ACEs Aware PRACTICE grant, which included a F5H bilingual community health worker (CHW) to support parent education and referral from Open Door pediatrics, ages 2–17, for a Help Me Grow-like support system. The grant gave F5H 11 months to pilot a CHW-staffed bilateral workflow referral system initiated after an ACEs screening. This workflow established a plan to work with onsite case managers to create a supportive health plan for patients, which included a warm handoff to the CHW, who is now co-locating in a newly developed family space at the health center. The navigator received 17 referrals between April and June 2023. Open Door and F5H have also begun onboarding for the local Community Information Exchange, which is a new closed-loop referral system that integrates community resources. This partnership has been a rich opportunity for learning, integrating positive childhood experiences and a whole family lens into the clinic's workflows.

The Medi-Cal reimbursement system drives many of the decisions within clinic workflows, and pushing the system to include nonclinical, whole-family solutions in response to ACEs screenings has been a challenge. The California Surgeon General's office recommends their list of stress busters to prevent and mitigate toxic stress. In addition to clinical behavioral health support, these include healthy food supports, mindfulness activities, shared physical activities between children and parents, time in nature, and social connection. Referral to clinical behavioral health is familiar to most medical personnel, but integrating referral to other stress busters has been an education and advocacy opportunity for the team. As the PRACTICE grant comes to a close in January, Open Door has said they are eager to continue the partnership, and F5H is exploring Cal-AIM Medi-Cal billing as an opportunity to partially fund the work after January.

Imperial

Through local partnerships and funding strategies, First 5 Imperial and local agencies continued to support the positive development of children and their families. For FY 2022–2023, with investments of approximately \$1.8 million, the Commission offered diverse services and activities targeting children, families, and providers. One important area of focus this year was an increase in home visitations, recognizing the impact of these services. First 5 Imperial partnered with agencies to offer home visitations, such as the County Office of



First 5 Chula Vista, Lemon Festival, 2023

Education, Migrant Head Start, Child and Parents Council, Volunteers of America, and a number of school districts. For instance, one notable program offered home instruction to families with children 2–5 years of age and aligned services to support Quality Start Imperial by incorporating Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) providers into the home-based program. Therefore, parents and FFN providers were involved in 30 weeks of home visits, which included monthly support group sessions. Certified Home Visitors utilized the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) curriculum, on a weekly basis and also worked with parents to include developmental screening services using the ASQ for participating children. Through support, the primary caregiver learns to be the child's first teacher. Home-based services targeted 105 children and parents/FFN providers, where the majority participated in home instruction and group activities. A parent survey used to assess involvement indicates that, overall, parents reported significant increases in their level of involvement in home, community, and literacy activities. For example, there was an increase in parents spending more time reading with their child, teaching school readiness skills, enjoying learning together, promoting literacy, as well as promoting an educational environment in the home. The most meaningful long-term benefit is that parents are spending more quality time with their child.

Inyo

First 5 Inyo County continued to be a catalyst for positive change in FY 2022–2023, serving families and agencies still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. In systems building, First 5 Inyo County continued to facilitate the Perinatal Taskforce. Using the results from the 2021 Maternal Mental Health Survey to guide projects and initiatives, the Perinatal Taskforce worked alongside partners from Northern Inyo Hospital Occupational Therapy, Bishop Pediatrics, and Inyo County WIC to elevate and advocate the need for more local maternal mental health services. This story of more families accessing services held true across First 5 Inyo County Resilient Families programs like Triple P Positive Parenting, You & Me Home Visiting, and literacy programs Reach Out and Read and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Families expressed gratitude to Triple P practitioners and home visitors for the support and connection.

First 5 Inyo County also provided programs like Community Grants to help decrease the challenges of recovering from the pandemic, including assisting one child care site in launching a pilot program to offer teachers and child care providers with self-care stipends. The teachers reported feeling more valued and yielded higher retention rates. First 5 Inyo County continues to bring awareness to the child care crisis, highlighting the need to pay child care providers a living wage and ensuring all children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

Kern

The 2022–2023 fiscal year commenced with the appointment of a new executive director, Amy Travis, who promptly assumed her role by embarking on a county-wide tour to personally visit all 39 funded programs. Ms. Travis previously spent 10 years with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kern County, including three years as executive director. In March, we initiated an extensive process to revamp our strategic plan for the upcoming funding cycle. A public planning session attracted a substantial turnout of community members, followed by a comprehensive review of the Objectives and Result Indicators conducted by our Technical Advisory Committee members. These endeavors will persist through fall 2023, with the addition of a public survey and more, as we approach the release of our next Request for Proposal, launching 2024. On May 17, 2023, First 5 Kern hosted the 2nd Annual Kern County ACEs Conference: Building Community Resilience. This half-day event was

conducted in person and drew an impressive crowd of over 300 attendees. The event received praise for its engaging speakers and informative workshop sessions, fostering an environment in which community partners came together to discuss trauma-informed care practices. In June, First 5 Kern forged a partnership with the Kern County Department of Human Services to conduct developmental screenings on children ages 0–3 within the foster care system. This collaboration underscores First 5 Kern's unwavering commitment to supporting this crucial service, alongside the continued efforts of the Help Me Grow Kern County program, which continues to provide screenings for hundreds of children annually. In addition to the highlighted projects, First 5 Kern funded 39 programs in FY 2022–2023, expanding its impact to benefit 12,602 children ages 0–5 and 11,003 family members. This highlights the organization's dedication to providing essential services to children and their families in Kern County.

Kings

The Kings County Children and Families Commission continued to support local initiatives related to quality early child care and education, parent education and support, children's health, and systems integration and alignment. Commission-supported Family Resource Centers collectively served 569 children and 520 primary caregivers, ensuring access to a variety of early learning, parent education, and family support services. These figures represent a 10% increase in service reach compared to the previous fiscal year. Our local Comprehensive Approaches for Raising Educational Standards (CARES) program provided professional development and training and technical assistance to the early care and education field through coaching and training to enhance the skills and knowledge of 172 providers. Surveys of CARES providers demonstrated that 90% of all survey respondents rated the quality of instruction they received as "good" or "excellent," and 83% felt more confident in their teaching or caregiving abilities as a result of their CARES participation. United Cerebral Palsy school readiness programming and coaching for providers who work with children with special needs was the focus of another locally supported program, which reached 145 primary caregivers, 113 providers, and 231 children. The Commission also supported the distribution of 753 Kits for New Parents in English (81%) and in Spanish (19%) to first-time parents throughout the county. Additionally, First 5 Kings staff facilitated networking and coordination with other community

partnerships and initiatives, including regional home visiting coordination, managed care plans, Court Appointed Special Advocates, child support services, city recreational programs, and local activities related to formulation of our County's Comprehensive Prevention Plan in accordance with the Families First Prevention Services Act.

Lassen

The First 5 Lassen County Children and Families Commission's primary strategy in realizing its vision and fulfilling its mission is through the Pathways Home Visiting Program. During FY 2022–2023, First 5 Lassen County investments in home visiting resulted in the following accomplishments. Families are receiving the services and support they need through home visiting services. A total of 43 high-need families were provided with intensive home visiting services. A total of 591 home visits were conducted by home visitors in which the bulk of services they provided were centered on supporting the family's basic needs. With declining revenue, First 5 Lassen worked with Pathways to gain additional funding to sustain this program. They have started receiving funding through the Cal WORKS Home Visiting Program and applied for the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) grant through the California Department of Public Health. If they are selected for CHVP funding, the program will be able to become more sustainable as First 5 Lassen receives less revenue and increases partnerships within the county. First 5 Lassen also updated its strategic plan, to start FY 2023–2024 through FY 2027–2028. While there is uncertainty around how much the commission can fund home visiting in Lassen County, this plan will allow the commission time to adjust to the declining review while promoting home visiting and continuing the work of Lassen Links to help children and their families thrive in Lassen County.

Los Angeles

In FY 2022–2023, over half of First 5 LA's 86 programmatic contracts focused on advancing systems of care work.

- Building the P-5 Movement in Best Start Communities (BSC): BSC demonstrated power sharing by centering parent and resident voices and cultivating networks committed to improve conditions for young children. For instance, the participatory budgeting process in multiple regions is being spearheaded by community members to decide how to allocate public funding based on community priorities.

- Help Me Grow (HMG) LA: Collaborative partnerships were established to advance local early identification and intervention (EII) work and increase accessibility to EII services by linking children and their families to appropriate supports. Partners developed a strategic plan focused on strengthening the local resource network—coordinating and aligning the local partner referral and resource systems. HMG is also developing an equity plan. The planning process for the equity plan centers the lived experience of families and communities impacted by historical barriers to accessing EII services.
- Select Home Visiting (HV): HV grantees established new recruitment pathways with family-serving systems (e.g., Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles Unified School District), increasing access to HV for families. In addition, select HV grantees increased outreach efforts in the community. As a result, the number of families enrolled tripled in just one month for one grantee. HV grantees also provided linkages to external services, including connections to mental health supports, basic needs, and resources (food, diapers, personal items, etc.). In addition, the HV grantees fostered stronger social connections by providing families with opportunities to connect with other families in the program, share resources, learn about their children's development, and feel less isolated in their parenting journey.



First 5 LA, CAT AAIMM



First 5 San Luis Obispo, Parent Pods Fall 2022, Nutrition

Madera

First 5 Madera County invested in community projects and internal initiatives aligned with the 2020–2024 strategic plan. The long-standing First 5 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are a trusted entity by the community. Through additional local funding, the FRCs offered the Emergency Diaper Assistance (EDA) and Food Box projects to address the increased needs of families with children 0–5 in a tenuous financial climate. As such, the EDA project consisted of a six-month bimonthly diaper, wipes, and food box subscription model aimed at supporting families and improving nutrition in priority areas. Through these programs, 65 families registered for the EDA subscription, and 300 food boxes were distributed. These projects supported families' immediate needs and lessened caregiver stress, which in turn may help reduce stress in children for improved health outcomes.

Also, this year, community-driven projects introduced promising evidence-based curriculums, Triple P and Raising a Reader. Our funded partner, Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño, trained staff reflective of the Indigenous population they serve to deliver Triple P to Indigenous parents in the native Oaxacan languages of Triqui, Mixteco, Zapotec, and Chatino. The facilitators provided awareness and increased knowledge to over 1,138 parents; of those, 247 parents participated in Level 2 and 3 sessions. Raising a Reader project by the Madera County Libraries aimed to increase caregiver awareness of early literacy practices to increase caregiver and child confidence and strengthen the relationship with their libraries. The libraries delivered Red Book Bags to 101 children and their caregivers.

Marin

First 5 Marin is the fiscal agent for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that support the work of the Marin Children Care Council's Teacher Investment Pilot. The Teacher Investment Pilot provides stipends and other resources to participating early childhood education workers to encourage retention in the early childhood workforce. The early care and education teachers enrolled in the pilot receive professional and personal well-being support through goal setting and case management. First 5 Marin continues to work closely with Help Me Grow Marin to strengthen early identification and intervention systems through convening system leaders to identify and address barriers experienced by Help Me Grow clients. First 5 Marin also provided funding to expand and support Jewish Family and Children Services Early Childhood Mental Health programs. They served 135 child care staff, serving 635 children from low-income and at-risk families in Marin. Support included early childhood mental health consultations in subsidized preschools/child care settings and consultations with Home Visitors at the Early Head Start program.

Mariposa

During this past year, the most significant accomplishment of First 5 Mariposa County was the School Readiness Program, which serves two preschools (Catheys Valley and Lake Don Pedro) located in remote areas of Mariposa County. The two preschools provide an outstanding play-based program that prepares the children for kindergarten. The facilities, curriculum, and activities are creative and educational and focus on developmentally appropriate activities using Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM curriculum). This program is free of charge to children in Mariposa. Another funded program that was highly successful was the instructional aide hired to work in the Mariposa Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten classroom. The instructional aide worked with the reading program/assessments and provided extra assistance to children who were having difficulty. Having the aide in the classroom also provided time for the teacher to work with the children individually. A growing and successful program in Mariposa is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The 243 children enrolled in 2022–2023 make up almost 25% of the children 0–5 in Mariposa County.

Mendocino

This past fiscal year, First 5 Mendocino (F5M) continued to build the professional skills of those who work with the county's youngest and most vulnerable. This was done through an annual State of the Child conference and a variety of Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and Community Resiliency Model® trainings, all targeted to decrease the negative effects of ACEs and to further build resiliency. January 2023 celebrated Mendocino County's annual Positive Parenting Awareness Month with a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors. F5M saw an increase in local engagement of local initiatives like the Home Visiting Consortium, Breastfeeding Coalition, and Birth-3 consortiums throughout the county. During the fiscal year, the activity to develop a Family Empowerment Center began and will guide our efforts into the next fiscal year to meet our Integrated & Equitable Systems strategic plan goal. The Home Visiting Consortium continues to identify programmatic needs to further increase enrollment and build family resilience. F5M acts as the community pathway to many programs that provide home visiting, breastfeeding support, prenatal support, and childhood essentials like diapers and wipes. F5M's adopted equity statement guides our communication with our partners to ensure that families, children, and communities are protected against racism, oppression, and inequality. By doing this, we have maintained strong relationships with our populations who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color. F5M is committed to ongoing quality improvements and conducting regular assessments to best meet the needs of our community.

Merced

During FY 2022–2023, First 5 Merced County (F5MC) spent approximately \$2,484,788 million to support services for 16,313 children, caregivers, other family members, and providers to enhance the five protective factors that promote optimal development and enhance the system for effective family support. F5MC funded culturally responsive programming and reached diverse children and families—including over 5,222 English- and 1,254 Spanish-speaking children and families. For strategies focused on system strengthening, capacity building efforts took place for the implementation of home visitation capacity building efforts, an investment that aims to strengthen the system of home visitation in the county. For strategies directly serving children and families, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library book distribution program successfully implemented its second year of programs, an initiative that is meant to increase children and families' access to books to support daily reading. A total of 34,764 books have been mailed out to 4,215 children in FY 2022–2023. Another notable initiative that was launched during the fiscal year is the Safe Play initiative. This initiative is implemented by the cities of Merced, Atwater, and Los Banos and the County of Merced. As part of the Week of the Young Child, funded partners and community agencies hosted activities with children in Applegate Park in Merced and Pacheco Park in Los Banos to increase access throughout the county. A total of 870 adults, 771 0–5-year-olds, and 524 6–18-year-olds attended the celebration.

Modoc

In 2022–2023, First 5 Modoc focused on collaborative systems change efforts to bring 0–5 program awareness and access, bridging system gaps and implementing collaborative systems of care to promote cross-sector sustainability. Collaborative partnerships were built with nine funded programs serving 552 children and 656 primary caregivers. Funded collaborations included the Strong Family Health Center Strong Starts culturally responsive playgroups for Native American and non-Native families. Early Mental Health Services provided families with intensive family support through home-based psychotherapy and increased access to therapy for families experiencing crisis. Tulelake/Newell Family Resource Center promoted self-sufficiency through service coordination, case management, and parenting classes. Budding Tree Preschool provided



First 5 San Luis Obispo, Parent Pods, Jan 2023, Sensory Experiences.

high-quality early education to families not eligible for subsidized programs. Modoc Harvest Sprouts provided local food education and nutrition to early learning and care settings through expanded classroom and community learning and developmental activities. Modoc 4-H Cloverbuds offered an experiential program engaging children and families in agriculture and life skills learning. Fort Bidwell Tribal Council provided a traditional Pow Wow celebration focusing on healthy nutrition practices, physical wellness, traditional practices, and cultural sharing. TMS Tiny Tots provided a summer bridge camp for children aged 2–5. OD Austin Foundation focused on physical and emotional health in organized wrestling sports. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library provided 1,406 books to 160 families. First 5 Modoc Early Learning & Resource HUB assisted in family connections to systems of support through community outreach and pop-up events. First 5 Modoc provided Quality Counts county leadership and coaching to 21 early education/care sites. Additionally, First 5 Modoc led efforts for Home Visiting through quarterly workgroup facilitation and systems focus on an electronic referral system.

Mono

The two largest investment areas in Mono County are Home Visiting and the Childcare Quality System. First 5 Mono’s Home Visiting program, Welcome Baby and Healthy Families, continued to grow thanks to support from the California Department of Public Health Home Visiting Program, First 5 California’s Home Visiting Coordination grant, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors. Satisfaction survey data collected from participating clients remains very high, with 100% responding they strongly agree, “I am satisfied with the program.” The Childcare Quality System, an umbrella for all Quality Counts California investments in Mono and Alpine Counties, served 81% of licensed providers in the two counties. Thanks to a new investment from the Mono County Board of Supervisors, site stipends were augmented with individual provider stipends to begin to address the issue of low wages for child care providers. Thanks to the continued efforts of First 5 Mono staff in trust building with the community, programs enjoyed the success of families’ and providers’ participation including a high proportion of clients with Latine heritage.

Monterey

First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) served over 20,000 children, parents, caregivers, providers, and educators during FY 2022–2023. Services were provided to meet families where they are while also building their voice and advocacy power for systems change. This meant providing emergency relief supplies for flood victims and continuing vaccine clinics while also tending to the growing mental health crisis in our county. Mental health services are essential for building a healthy and thriving society. Thanks to local support from the Mental Health Services Act, F5MC was able to continue our celebrated Infant Family Mental Health Training series. In addition to supporting over 150 providers, we expanded the work at a systems level by bringing reflective leadership practices to the Monterey County Children’s Council. At the direct service level, frontline community health workers (CHWs) also received reflective practice. Given the level of complex needs impacting our children and families, reflective practice helped the CHWs process intense feelings in order to be able to provide the best possible support for families. F5MC also influenced statewide mental health systems and amplified the community voice by organizing community listening sessions and focus groups for the new Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.

Lifting parent voice and power to influence the state of California’s approach to investing in early childhood development will continue to be a focus of F5MC’s work. F5MC supports the Tri-county Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network (CCECAN). Now over 500 members strong, CCECAN helps identify community priorities and mobilizes local advocates to focus efforts together. With parent leaders, CCECAN held two power-building opportunities—the Parent Power Summit and the Policy Learning Community; both supported attendees to hone their abilities to share their lived experiences with elected representatives to advocate for legislative changes.

Napa

Developed in 2019, the First 5 Napa Network brings together a cross-sector network of community members to learn about the needs of Napa County's children, families, and providers. The network uses a systems-level, human-centered design approach to increase collective capacity, integrate systems, and identify and implement creative solutions to the challenges that Napa County's children face. During FY 2022–2023, participants from the network's third training prototyped a project focused on diversifying and sustaining the early childhood workforce. Participants in this prototype included five mentees (junior and senior high school students, one first-year college student, and two caregivers looking to return to the workforce) and 10 mentors representing a variety of roles in the early childhood field including speech language pathology, early childhood special education, center directors, and transitional kindergarten. Evaluation strategies used for this project included a pre- and post-prototype survey, empathic interviews with both the mentors and mentees, and a focus group session with mentees to design the future of this program. The program began its pilot year serving nine junior and senior high school students and seven mentors. First 5 Napa County is providing access to college-level coursework in child and family studies and financial assistance for this coursework. In FY 2022–2023, eight of the nine participating mentees are participating in the college coursework opportunity.

The First 5 Napa Network engaged in a Racial Equity Plan workshop series open to all 56 network members and First 5 Napa County's commission and staff. The network was supported by Dr. Lori A. Watson of Race-Work in systemic engagement for personal, professional, and organizational recognition where a lack of focus on racial equity exists, utilizing a variety of tools including individual and team coaching, learning seminars, and intersessional collaboration.

Nevada

First 5 Nevada County staff have been involved in several systems-change efforts this past fiscal year. Most notably, staff have been participating in the Families First Prevention Services Act Comprehensive Prevention Planning process for over two years. Throughout this process, we have been able to focus not only on the data (which is a crucial element of the planning process) but also on lifting up the voices of families and community members to ensure that the process is reflective of their lived experience and ongoing needs. The report was completed in FY 2022–

2023 and approved by the State in FY 2023–2024. Staff look forward to reporting on plan implementation in the new fiscal year. First 5 Nevada County staff have also been involved in planning processes with Nevada County Public Health, which will lead to ongoing improvements to health equity for families in our county. The two community collaboratives supported by First 5 Nevada were also heavily involved in these processes. Above all else, the First 5 Nevada County Commission celebrates the work being done by our funded partners. The Commission had the opportunity to tour three partner sites located in the geographically isolated town of Truckee. Service providers in the Truckee area exemplify the collaborative spirit, truly taking a whole-child, whole-family approach to serving families. Additionally, with Truckee being such a small town, service providers work together across agencies to ensure that families' needs are met. Unfortunately, another of our funded programs, the Partners Family Resource Center, had to close its doors at one of its three locations. However, as a result, their staff was able to exercise their creativity to find ways to continue serving families in the community. This included playgroup in the park and building partnerships with other organizations that opened their doors to staff for ESL classes, one-on-one and group parenting support, and other supportive services.



First 5 LA, CAT AAIMM



First 5 San Luis Obispo, Parent Pods, Jan. 2023, Bubbles

- **Childcare Workforce:** With OC Community Foundation's Workforce Development Initiative, launched a Child Care Business Incubator that leverages partnerships to grow small businesses in child care and sustain a vital workforce. Goal is to create a new pipeline of Family Child Care providers taking care of children from their homes. Anticipate that 400–700 additional child care slots could be created through this Incubator project.
- **Elevate Voices:** Helped launch OC Fatherhood Coalition (OCFC) that has finalized goals and started working on activities like provider trainings and surveys. Connected fatherhood work with Engaged Neighborhoods and requested participation by two new ambassadors in the OCFC steering committee.

Orange

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Orange County (F5OC) supported the county's early intervention system, strengthened the early childhood workforce, and elevated family voices.

- **Early Intervention:**
 - Supported HealthySteps implementation at FQHCs in five priority communities. Clinics completed practice transformation to effectively implement timely well-child visits—screening for maternal depression, developmental screenings, and real-time behavioral treatment.
 - Launched Vital Village to model/learn about alternative 0–3 services, holding six events between January and June 2023. Vital Village events bring birthing families together, increasing awareness/access to prenatal support services, teaching about healthy living practices, engaging in community-building activities, and providing concrete support.
 - Updated Kid Builder activities to provide practical ways parents can help their children develop. Held a launch event in May with approximately 180 participants, then held four events at Mission Viejo Library to help F5OC gain additional experience hosting Kid Builder events with children and families (about 300 children and families attended these events).

Placer

First 5 Placer (F5P) has been proud to support the healthy development of our community's youngest children. By partnering with local systems and community leaders, and strategically investing Proposition 10 revenues, we've helped to improve early literacy, pre- and neonatal care, oral health, and maternal mental health supports. We've increased the availability of culturally responsive supports and services for parents, and helped grow and strengthen the grassroots nonprofit organizations that directly serve our communities. Two multi-partner collaborative initiatives coordinated by F5P were key to equitable and culturally appropriate access to services for families. The Refugee Family Services grant by First 5 California provided learnings across three counties (Yolo, Placer, and Sutter) to address needs of newcomer families and assist with resettlement in local communities. Partnering with Child Advocates of Placer County, local faith-based entities, the Latino Leadership Council, Placer County Human Services, and the Placer County Office of Education, F5P was able to assist 50 families from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Latin and South America with resettlement in Placer County. Chapa-De Indian Health Services, Sierra Native Alliance, KidsFirst, and Granite Wellness Centers are partners on the Road to Resilience program (funding from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention) targeting mothers with a history of substance abuse. Together, partners provided navigation services toward health access for moms and babies, home visiting, and community referrals to support recovery and wellness.

To address ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on community-based agencies serving children and families, F5P partnered with the Placer Community Foundation to contract with the Impact Foundry to offer its Certified Sustainable Program to nonprofits in Placer County. COVID-19 hit local community-based organizations hard; fundraising efforts were stalled, and staff turnover was common. Organizations expressed a need to rethink and refresh their practices. Critical support agencies, including those that serve families, victims of violence, children in the welfare system, and Native Americans, were provided access to two years of training and support to help strengthen their organizational capacity. As part of the process, key components of successful nonprofits were examined. This included Revenue Structure, Operational Framework, Nonprofit Brand & Community Engagement, Cultural Responsiveness, and Change Management. Organizations have developed sustainability plans and are working toward their goals.

Plumas

Primary investments of the Commission are home visiting services, which include group support and support for a county-wide network of family service providers. A total of 69 families were provided with home visiting services between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. A total of 708 home visits took place through which a total of 3,825 services were provided. The top services provided to families included parent support, listening and guidance, and child development activities. In addition, 49 children received developmental screenings, and 16 children received integrated service delivery, meaning they were served by more than one home visiting program. A total of 42 children and 42 adult parents and caregivers, including 20 grandparent and kinship care providers, were provided with 370 service contacts during groups support activities. To better engage families, First 5 Plumas has implemented playgroups and infant massage classes and is developing a Fatherhood Engagement program in 2023–2024. First 5 Plumas collaborated in order to fully fund Imagination Library, collaborated with the local planning council to make an ASQ video and to support Universal PreKindergarten, worked with Plumas STARS to distribute bilingual books and ASQ activity bags, and coordinated with the library to have ASQ Kits available in four communities. First 5 Plumas Systems Improvement work included making progress on a number of its priorities. The First 5 Plumas website was redesigned to incorporate Help

Me Grow and to anticipate the Plumas County launch of the 211 system. Help Me Grow was initiated in spring 2023 in order to adopt a framework and to begin to expand the use of developmental screening, as a way to increase early identification and intervention, improve family and community engagement, improve health care provider engagement, and to ultimately develop a resource network to address the community-identified gaps in services and use data to identify systems inequity and remedy these.

Riverside

First 5 Riverside County's investments promote an integrated system of prevention and early intervention services and coordinated care in diverse settings to meet families where they are. First 5's HealthySteps sites integrate HealthySteps specialists in pediatric primary care teams to ensure universal screening of all families and provide referrals and additional intensive services as needed. Coordinated care provided by HealthySteps specialists improve engagement in preventive services and connection to community resources such as Home Visiting and other First 5 investments. HealthySteps sites partner with Help Me Grow Inland Empire to ensure families are connected to the resources they need when they need them. Participating sites reached over 10,000 children, with 40% of children requiring referrals for early intervention, mental health, and other family services. First 5's engagement with Health Management Associates supports integration of HealthySteps in managed care plans and supports participating agencies' plan for sustainability, leveraging new Medi-Cal benefits such as dyadic care and the community health worker benefit.



First 5 Riverside, Car Seat Distribution

Sacramento

For the past 25 years, the First 5 Sacramento Commission has supported a range of historical systems-focused efforts. The focus on systems work has further increased due to awareness of the importance of systems change for lasting improvements in the lives of children and families, paired with an uncertain financial climate for future direct services. For the first time, the Commission identified Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Responsiveness, Parent Partnership, and Systems Improvement as stand-alone priorities for the 2024–2027 strategic planning cycle, including a major realignment of funding for these areas. As First 5 Sacramento plans for its new funding cycle with a stronger focus on systems efforts, the Commission funded the development of a summary report highlighting historical First 5 Sacramento systems work, including their ongoing impact, to start a conversation about successes and lessons learned. Systems work highlighted in this summary included Baby Friendly hospital designations, the Early Smiles dental partnership, countywide water fluoridation, dental clinics, the Home Visitation Coordination Collaborative, community Tot Lots, and the Certified Sustainable Initiative. Together with input from community members and partners, the successes of these highlighted initiatives created the foundation for systems and sustainability efforts to grow and improve. First 5 Sacramento's reflection on historical successes while planning and implementing new critical systems change initiatives will ensure the Commission's continued reach, increased impact, and improved financial sustainability. The Commission's dedication to systems sustainability creates a path to a strengthened, supported, and collaborative future for programs meeting the needs of children and families despite declining revenues.

San Benito

In 2022–2023, First 5 San Benito (F5 SB) and the Family Impact Center continued to provide services to children, families, and providers. Families received weekly distributions of food and essential supplies, as well as Chromebooks. Many families with young children took part in weekly Story Time, designed to improve bilingual language development and foster a love of reading. Multiple community events informed families of local services and resources, while children received developmental and health screenings. Families in need of additional support were referred for case management, parent education, and home

visiting services. According to surveys completed by participants, families demonstrated improvement in their protective factors, including family resiliency, knowledge of parenting and child development, positive parenting practices, access to social and concrete supports, and strengthened parent-child relationship. Their children also gained resilience, measured by an improved ability to stay calm when faced with a challenge. F5 SB also continued facilitating a multisector collaborative, consisting of over 20 agencies and individuals. The collaborative's objectives included: improving capacity of local agencies to provide high-quality, culturally sensitive, trauma-informed care; addressing complex problems by breaking down communication silos and promoting collaboration and alignment within and across service sectors; and providing multiple entry points to the service system with warm handoffs and a collaborative treatment approach to limit fragmentation and promote continuity of services. As part of this work, the collaborative made progress toward systems change initiatives, including launching a new community center. F5 SB also continued to invest in transitioning data collection to the Apricot 360 database as a systemwide way to track and collect participation, outcome, and referral data.

San Bernardino

First 5 San Bernardino had many accomplishments during FY 2022–2023, especially in partnership with local organizations and San Bernardino County (SBC) departments on health, education, and safety topics.

One such partnership was with the SBC Department of Public Health (DPH), Local Oral Health Smile SBC program. Smile SBC collaborated on a bilingual (English/Spanish) comprehensive campaign launched for National Children's Dental Health Month in February that combined a variety of elements, including campaign images and messaging, a social media toolkit, social media posts and paid advertisement, billboards, e-newsletter article, and video and press release all centered on Little Teeth, Big Responsibility and the importance of oral health in the 0–5 population. The campaign received the 2023 National Association of Counties Award.

In response to the multiple state initiatives focused on the Whole Child, Whole Family Framework with the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) rolled out, the Department of Health Care Services Child Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, Universal

63 Prekindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten, and First

5 San Bernardino are active participants in discussions with all sectors, including health plans, superintendent of schools, county departments, and community-based organizations on various topics relating to family resilience, early childhood prevention, early education, and primary prevention of mental health impacting children 0–5 and families. The system building and network of care efforts in FY 2022–2023 resulted in roughly more than 2,500 training/collaborative meetings and engaged more than 500 partner entities.

San Diego

First 5 San Diego providers continued to offer both in-person and virtual services during FY 2022–2023, a practice that developed out of necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic. First 5 San Diego providers value the ongoing flexibility to meet families where they are by connecting with them via office visits, home visits, phone calls, text messages, and video appointments. Providers also started seeing a higher volume and higher level of need in the children and families who come to them. Services continue to be family-centered, but approaches have shifted to prioritize safety while addressing family preferences for service delivery. Virtual and in-person options are available based on appropriateness and family choice, and family engagement services are being enhanced. First 5 San Diego invests in public education campaigns to educate parents, caregivers, and the San Diego community on the importance of the first five years of a child’s life. The FY 2022–2023 Talk, Read, Sing campaign promoted early childhood literacy and positive parenting practices that support healthy, social-emotional development of children ages 0–5. Campaign messaging, which achieved more than 95 million gross impressions, was broadcasted via television, radio, digital media, and outdoor advertisements. Over the past few years, First 5 San Diego providers have been challenged by stagnant funding levels, increased costs, and staffing and workforce recruitment and retention issues. First 5 San Diego is strategic about our future investments by taking a systems change focus. To continue to support long-term positive outcomes for our children and their families, the early care and education system will require strong collaboration and continued advocacy for long-term sustainable funding. Over the last 5 years, First 5 San Diego has been very intentional about diversifying its revenue portfolio that includes receiving funding from various county departments and First 5 California.



First 5 San Diego, Nice Guys Christmas Party, Dec. 2023

San Francisco

In July 2022, San Francisco established one of the state’s first municipally funded systems of comprehensive early childhood services and supports, the Department of Early Childhood, which is the new local administrator of First 5 programs and Proposition 10 funds, allowing the county to take bold strides in ensuring every child’s ability to thrive. This significant community investment directed toward early care and education expansion, family support, developmental screening, early intervention, and early childhood research and evaluation has resulted in funding to 486 early care and education sites, 26 family resource centers, and a preschool enrollment rate prior to kindergarten that tops 95%. Sparkler mobile developmental screening app is an innovative tool that promotes early brain and child development through off-screen interaction between young children and their parents/caregivers. With an extensive library of play activities, developmental screening function, and account sharing between adults caring for an individual child, Sparkler offers resources to support children’s social-emotional, cognitive, communication, and physical development. Designed by early childhood educators, over 2,000 play activities and tips guide children’s early learning, sparking their passions and developing their skills. Currently, there are 135 programs and 1,555 families utilizing Sparkler, contributing to an overall screening total in San Francisco of 4,621 children. Along with San Francisco’s only school district, the San Francisco Department of Early Childhood and First 5 have institutionalized an annual district-wide kindergarten readiness assessment, providing a valuable gauge to assess the impact of investments, strategies, and programming on children’s readiness for kindergarten over time. The city captures all evaluation and outcome data in an annually updated Community Report Dashboard, which is available on its website.



First 5 San Joaquin, Home Visiting Program

San Joaquin

First 5 San Joaquin's (F5SJ) investments yielded significant outcomes. In 2023, 1,064 parents benefited from home visits focused on child development, family self-sufficiency, job skills training, and healthy lifestyle practices through F5SJ's Home Visitation (HV), FamilyWORKs, and JourneyWORKs initiatives. This was a 21% increase in participation from the previous year. F5SJ leveraged ARPA funds to expand HV services to additional underserved communities facing significant health, education, and economic challenges. ARPA funds also supported the San Joaquin (Treatment + Education for Everyone on Teeth) TEETH program aimed at enhancing oral health outcomes for children in the county. A total of 636 children benefited from care coordination services, of which more than a quarter were children with special needs and 96% were Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Care coordination was instrumental in helping over 53% of SJ TEETH participants receive dental services. F5SJ made significant strides in its commitment to HV Workforce Development. In May, F5SJ held its first HV Summit themed "Stronger Together," uniting over 140 local home visitors/family service providers for professional development and recognition of their hard work and dedication. Dr. Gina Cook delivered an inspiring presentation, emphasizing the role of home visitors as coaches, and Shalek Chappill-Nichols led an uplifting session on self-care approaches. F5SJ also hosted its first Play in May campaign and event celebrating Mental Health Awareness month. This community-driven initiative elevated family health and well-being by promoting outdoor play. In May, F5SJ commissioned and unveiled a mural at the Kennedy Community Center designed by a local artist, portraying children playing. Community partners promoted the campaign using a Play in May educational toolkit and participated in the event by providing family friendly games, resources, and information. Over 1,700 toolkits were distributed throughout the campaign.

San Luis Obispo

First 5 San Luis Obispo County committed \$25,000 to the local Community Foundation Disaster Support Fund to provide relief to families who were already struggling post-pandemic, then were further impacted by storms, flooding, rockslides, and associated damage in our area. Our Health Access Training Project held seven workshops designed to increase nonprofit and government agency leaders' knowledge of what trauma-informed care looks like in both concept and practice at the individual, organizational, and community level. We celebrated a great show of support for "Mental Health in the Context of Early Childhood," the focus of our Pediatric Town Hall that took a deeper dive into Support & Referrals for Young Children & Families; more than 90 people turned out for this combined presentation, panel discussion, and resource fair centered around early identification and intervention gaps—with the goal of creating more efficient, cohesive systems of care. The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Home Visiting Coordination project organized three lunch-and-learn events, attended by 117 participants from 14 local agencies. These gatherings addressed topics such as networking, programmatic knowledge, homelessness, and mental health—with the objective of enhancing service delivery and enabling home visitors to expand their networks, gain insights into other programs, and advance their professional development. A growing number of local employers aligned with the Family-Friendly Workplaces Program, established in partnership with the County of San Luis Obispo and San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce—and born out of the universally felt child care crisis. The initiative is a point of pride and a promising example of the power of relationship building and cross-sector, local collaboration in strengthening the community commitment to supporting children and families.

San Mateo

During FY 2022–2023, First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC) maintained its multifaceted investments in programs supporting all aspects of a child's early years, including Quality Early Learning, Healthy Development, Resilient Families, and Policy, Advocacy, and Communications. Supported by over \$5 million in community investments, our funded partners served over 11,600 children, parents, and providers. Highlights included continuing to engage deeply in work related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB), including: agency

coaching on developing and applying DEIB and healing approaches to our internal processes, conducting interviews with funded partners to learn about their DEIB-related practices, and participating in county and statewide efforts.

Santa Barbara

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Santa Barbara County (F5SBC) invested in services for over 13,000 children (duplicated) and their families and over 1,000 providers/professionals (duplicated). Investment strategies included Early Learning Implementation Plans to school districts, Family Literacy & Book and family support programs, as well as communications and policy development. Two of the most notable achievements this year were:

- Early Learning Implementation Plans: F5SBC and its UCSB Evaluation Team worked with nine local school districts on the development and/or implementation to improve continuity between the ECE and K-12 systems and reduce readiness opportunity gaps among young, higher-risk children. The goal of this initiative is to expand efforts to improve children's social-emotional and cognitive development, thus promoting kindergarten readiness and early elementary school success. School districts participating in this project administered the Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile to incoming kindergarten students and results from the 2022–2023 school year showed that 29% of students screened in the county were "Ready to Go" for school.
- Help Me Grow (HMG) Santa Barbara County (SBC): In July 2021, a four-year development plan for implementation of the National HMG model began in SBC under the direction of Alpha Resource Center. Through HMG SBC, children will benefit from an organized system of community resources to help them thrive, including early screenings to ensure early identification of developmental challenges, parent education and support, quality learning experiences and systems navigation. Families and providers will receive follow-up to ensure families access resources and support when and where they need it. The first pilot began in early 2023 in the Guadalupe community, followed by implementation of the Centralized Access Point and website launch in March 2023. Community momentum is high among allied organizations.

Santa Clara

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County's Early Learning initiative supported the implementation of two new early learning workforce programs: Early Learning Apprenticeship and Shared Services Alliance. The FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Early Learning Apprenticeship initiative is an equity-oriented workforce initiative, focused on bringing a diverse set of individuals into the field of early learning and care. The initiative offers paid on-the-job training, no-cost college courses, and cohort learning at community-based locations. This two-year program leads to a wage increase and an Associate Teacher permit. After the first year of implementation, Apprentices described the flexibility of the program and that the program exceeded expectations and helped them gain confidence to implement practical approaches for early learning.

The Shared Services Alliance—an administrative structure that enables services at scale (e.g., share costs for business supports that promote quality early care and learning environments)—incentivized, prepared, and supported Family Child Care Home Providers (FCCH) to meet demand for quality early learning and care by developing and implementing shared services. . In FY 2022–2023, Shared Services Alliance focused on designing their governance/structure and identifying key themes and priorities for the network. The Design Team kicked off in November 2022; meetings were hosted by Family Child Care Early Educators and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Early Learning team members. Meetings were held in two Zoom rooms (one hosted in English and the other in Spanish). The Design Team conducted Empathy Interviews with other providers in their community to gain a deeper understanding of providers' experiences, needs, and priorities in the county. In addition, the Design Team utilized a Business Needs Survey to capture business needs and priorities for FCCH providers throughout the county.



Santa Cruz

The Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program supports mothers and newborns at all three county hospitals by providing Medi-Cal enrollment assistance, linking newborns to a medical home, and offering the First 5 Kit for New Parents, all during a visit from a Newborn Enrollment Coordinator (NEC) before they leave the hospital. The program also expanded partnerships with key agencies to offer additional support to families.

- Connected to medical care: In 2022–2023, 99% of all mothers had a newborn visit, and 98% of these received a Kit for New Parents. Of mothers with Medi-Cal births, nearly all were assisted to complete an application for their newborn, and 99.9% chose a medical home for their child. In 2022, over 67% of infants with Medi-Cal insurance had received at least six well-child visits within the first 15 months of life, a success that was likely assisted by this program.
- County programs: First 5 continued assisting with county programs, which NECs incorporated into their visits: the Statewide Student Identification number created for newborns by the County Office of Education, used to support their social, emotional, and academic development from birth through 12th grade; and Ventures' Semillitas savings account program for newborns, with incentives throughout childhood to save money to be used for college or vocational education.
- Access to food: Many families are struggling with access to food. NECs provide families with resources to apply for the CalFresh and WIC programs.



First 5 Santa Cruz, VisionFirst, 2023

- Lowered emergency department (ED) use: This Program may affect the use of the ED for very young infants, particularly those covered by Medi-Cal. Since the launch of this program at Watsonville Community Hospital, the number of infants on Medi-Cal who visited the ED dropped 49% by 2022.
- Summary: Through these efforts, the program is helping increase access to affordable quality health care for newborns and improve overall maternal, child, and infant health.

Shasta

First 5 Shasta (F5S) helped identify children with developmental delays through funding Help Me Grow (HMG) Shasta. In FY 2022–2023, HMG Shasta completed 615 developmental screenings (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE). HMG Shasta also provided referrals and case coordination services to over 2,200 children and families. To date, HMG Shasta has served more than 3,500 children aged 0–5 and their families. HMG presented a Champions for Children event for parents, caregivers, and children. F5S is using a grant from Practitioners' Voice CA to train a cohort of 15 participants in understanding leadership and advocacy in Early Childhood Education (ECE) to use their knowledge to advocate for policies that support early childhood development and education. F5S distributed 8,472 new, high-quality books to children, care givers, and ECE providers. F5S works with partner organizations on ACEs education, screening, and intervention to increase public awareness of the prevalence of ACEs, the long-term negative effects on health, and the long-term costs to society. F5S funds the First 5 Institute (F5I), which presents high-quality training and resources to providers of services to children 0–5 and their families. F5I presented a two-day Nurturing Fathers training to 24 community care providers and parent partners along with additional professional trainings to more than 75 ECE providers. F5I sponsored 12 Smart Starts & Smart Lunches. F5I provides access to high-quality early literacy programs by funding community Storytimes, which provide children and their families access to high-quality early literacy material and opportunities for social connections. F5I funded four Storytime sites, which directly served 1,300 children ages 0–5. F5S continued to fund the Launch Parent Partner Program aimed at children in kindergarten and their families. Launch Parent Partners provided services to families in 17 different elementary schools to reduce chronic absenteeism in kindergarten.

Sierra

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Sierra County focused on building relationships with the local early childhood system and families affected by the lack of services. Mini-grants and partnerships enabled the creation of new programs in isolated communities that had no services for children and their families. Mini-grants also supported the improvement of existing programs such as preschools, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten classes. Music Together, an early childhood music and movement program that helps create lasting family and community bonds through music, launched in Sierra County during FY 2022–2023. This subsidized music program was established in two small communities with great success, attracting participating families from neighboring counties. First 5 Sierra partnered with the Sierra County Public Health department and the local Family Services on the development of Welcome Home Bundles, a bag full of baby essentials and information about existing services that could meet families' needs. First 5 Sierra continues investing in professional development stipends for providers who participate in continuing education. All licensed child care providers participated during FY 2022–2023. There is no federally funded Head Start program or state-funded preschool. This is why First 5 Sierra preschool tuition subsidy program continues to be our greatest achievement. This program supports working families, most of whom could not send their children to preschool without tuition assistance. Every year, First 5 Sierra distributes backpacks filled with necessary supplies to all preschoolers. Kindergarten Roundup was a coordinated event to register families for transitional kindergarten or kindergarten and connect them to local services. First 5 Sierra provided backpacks with school supplies to every child entering transitional kindergarten or kindergarten.

Siskiyou

Consistent with their vision and mission, First 5 Siskiyou County continued to invest in collaborations, funding, and support of programs aiming to improve health, development, and early learning of children, as well as the resilience of their families. As part of these efforts, First 5 Siskiyou co-funded 10 Family Resource Centers (FRCs), which continued to provide critical support to Siskiyou County populations of focus throughout FY 2022–2023. Specifically, FRCs held 389 events, including over 205 nutrition-oriented events, such as commodity distributions and nutrition education; 62 assistance outreach events; over 100 parenting classes

and workshops; 66 family events; 90 parent-child playgroups; over 30 youth groups; nearly 70 senior programs; and close to 60 community enrichment and support groups. Moreover, FRCs provided one-on-one services, such as food distribution and support with enrollment in CalFresh, Section 8 Housing, Medi-Cal, and other assistance programs. Over FY 2022–2023, FRCs cumulatively initiated over 300 referrals for local resources to meet basic needs, mental health services for adults, developmental and literacy services for children ages 0–5, and parent-child services. Duplicated counts show that cumulatively, these activities reached 1,549 children ages 0–5 years and 2,135 of their caregivers, as well as over 14,000 community members. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: First 5 Siskiyou County FRCs served as critical community hubs, connecting families across vast geographic space and building community spirit through many events, workshops, and enrichment activities; helping families access basic necessities, from food and housing to legal support; enhancing child and family health through health education and resources; and informing parents on effective child development and early literacy strategies through parent education classes.

Solano

Reinvigorating a Community: How we took a shuttered Vallejo elementary school and are transforming it into a vibrant Early Learning Center, offering a variety of child care options (300 spaces), supporting parent choice while also emphasizing high quality care across programs, so all children will leave our programs and enter school ready to learn. Public school enrollment continues to decline, and districts find themselves closing schools. Meanwhile, the child care system cannot keep up with the demand for high-quality early learning spaces. A 2019 study identified lack of facilities as the number one barrier to child care expansion. In 2020, First 5 Solano was asked to relocate two Head Start preschool classrooms. What started as a simple real estate search turned into purchasing an elementary school in a high-needs neighborhood of Vallejo and converting it into an Early Learning Center. Funding was obtained from city, county, state, and federal governments, along with philanthropic partners, totaling an astounding \$14 million to date. In winter 2023, the purchase will be finalized, with our local Head Start provider (Child Start) taking over as the property owner and future operator. In early-2024, the renovations will begin, with a hard launch slated

for summer 2026. Families will be welcomed to the Early Learning Center, complete a simple screening process, and be linked to the appropriate public or private early learning programs. Families can participate in educational activities and peer-to-peer socialization activities. The campus will host events for the entire surrounding community, bringing to life a school in a neighborhood that has been historically underserved. Plans include an outdoor and indoor STEAM lab/classroom, a children's library, child care coaches, and new play structures to engage children in healthy physical activity. This project will turn an unfortunate outcome of a school closure into a thriving early learning campus that benefits the whole community.

Sonoma

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Sonoma County had many highlights! This past fiscal year, the local First 5 team continued on a journey of equity, belonging, and inclusion, both internally and externally. Through this exploration, five members of the management team had the opportunity to train with the Kahakulei Institute and were trained and certified as circle facilitators. Internally, the team is utilizing these circles to work through the development of an antiracist workplace and will soon work with the community to facilitate circles. We have continued to give families the best start possible by seeding Child College Savings Accounts, with a total of 1,267 accounts started in FY 2022–2023, of which 713 are within the city of Santa Rosa.

Stanislaus

It is the mission of First 5 Stanislaus to be a catalyst to help give children and families the best start. Despite navigating through tremendous changes within the organization and experiencing staffing shortages during FY 2022–2023, First 5 Stanislaus did not lose sight of its ultimate objective and continued to contribute to the well-being of children and families in the county. First 5 Stanislaus' partner organizations reach thousands of the most vulnerable members of our community each year. In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Stanislaus' funded partners delivered services to the community, which allowed 15,838 children, families, and early care education providers to remain connected to their support systems and basic needs when they were most needed. Through its partnership with a network of 12 local Family Resource Centers (FRCs), First 5 Stanislaus continued to distribute emergency funding into the local community for basic human needs and support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over

2,100 individuals impacted by the pandemic received assistance such as housing and utility payment relief, grocery assistance, cleaning supplies, or basic needs. In addition, First 5 Stanislaus and its partners distributed supplies to assist families, including 1,500 COVID-19 test kits, 8,900 books, and over 43,000 diapers. First 5 Stanislaus' funded partners fostered the ability of children and families they serve to thrive in their communities. The parents of 5,845 children received family support services through countywide FRCs or other programs, including over 2,100 parents and caregivers who attended parent education or support sessions. Approximately 81% of pregnant and parenting women (297 out of 368) reported less stress as a result of attending support group sessions during their pregnancy through their child's first year. Children 0–5 received 2,919 books to nurture their desire to read and to support literacy skills at home.

Sutter

Sutter County Children & Families Commission (SCFC) forged a robust partnership with Yuba City Unified School District and Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way, initiating the United Way Born Learning (UWBL) program. This initiative underscores our concerted efforts to invigorate the learning landscape for young children and their families, marking a significant stride in community enrichment. The Academy, a segment of the UWBL, hosted six thematic workshops attended by 75 parents, focusing on child development nuances and nurturing relationships, designed to cultivate a fertile ground for early home-based learning. We ensured inclusivity by offering child care, meals, and



First 5 Stanislaus, Kids Connect Celebration

translation services, which saw an average of 37 attendees each session. Adjacent to the Academy, the Born Learning Trail transformed a Yuba City park into an arena of exploration and discovery. Families can navigate a series of learning stations, blending nature's serenity and educational enrichment. The positive feedback accentuated the program's success, highlighting the community's desire for integrative, experiential learning experiences. The UWBL initiative has received community-wide acclaim, with SCCFC receiving a community award for its efficacy and resonance. The success narrative of UWBL doesn't end within the borders of Sutter County. In a remarkable endorsement of the program's effectiveness and adaptability, a neighboring county has taken a leaf from our book, integrating the Academy model within their school district. This cross-border adoption underscores the program's potency and affirms our belief in the scalability and adaptability of our initiatives. The UWBL initiative represents a milestone in community engagement and educational enrichment, encapsulating the vision and mission of the SCCFC, aiming to nurture, empower, and elevate every child and family in Sutter County and beyond through impactful educational and sustainable programs.

Tehama

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Tehama embarked on new strategies and goals established in its 2022–2027 strategic plan, including efforts to expand upon the care coordination and resource linkage, as well as parent-focused education efforts. The consistent theme for 2022–2023 was increased knowledge and capacity. Through successes like doubling the Positive Parenting Program facilitators as well as celebrating the first Dual Language K–3 classrooms, Tehama County Professionals are deepening their knowledge, skills, and awareness of 0–5 development. First 5 Tehama leveraged relationships through the Pregnancy to Preschool (P2P) Partnership to increase access to basic needs for families that were not previously being addressed (e.g., car seats). As a companion collaborative to P2P, the Tehama Car Seat Coalition came together to share information and data on the need for car seats. Already trusted members of P2P, Help Me Grow and Northern California Child Development, Inc. (known as NCCDI) each applied for grants to support car seat access in Tehama County and are establishing a referral system for car seats connected to the already reliable P2P referral tracker. To deepen connection between agencies and include

service providers, First 5 Tehama held the second annual Stressbusters Café. Twenty-four attendees also completed a provider survey describing their knowledge of local resources and experiences at the training. Nine out of ten participants learned something new from the training, including the following key learnings: understanding the types of stress and the role of stress as a motivator to solve problems, tools to cope with stress and work with families to understand children's stress, and relationship-building between partners and the importance of self-care in being able to help others.

Trinity

The First 5 Trinity County Children and Families Commission invests in a variety of services aimed at supporting children prenatal through age 5 and their families. Primary investments include School Readiness, Trinity Smiles, and a Welcome Baby program.

Tulare

First 5 Tulare County's vision is that all Tulare County children will thrive in supportive, safe, loving homes and neighborhoods and will enter school healthy and ready to learn. In 2022–2023, all funded programs served 22,486 parents and children. This year we would like to highlight the Goshen Family Center and all of our seven Family Resource Centers in the communities of Cutler-Orosi, Goshen, Lindsay, Dinuba, Porterville, Visalia, and Woodlake. The Goshen Family Center's community made national news this year when there was a horrific mass shooting in Goshen, California. The Goshen Family Center was there to support the community's youngest population. The Goshen Family Center was a safe, trusted, "home" convener for families. The staff poured themselves into the children by reading books about feelings, safety, and community helpers. The team also provided referrals for services as needed. All seven First 5 Family Resource Centers served as a safety net of services during the floods that occurred in spring 2023. All sites worked alongside local officials to ensure families had safety items, shelter, rescue, cleaning supplies, water, food, advocates, and sand. Our very own First 5 Tulare County Commissioner Pete Vander Poel coordinated efforts with our south county Sheriff's Officers and Family Resource Centers to ensure that resources reached families despite flooded streets, weather conditions, and obstacles. The sites all acted swiftly to serve their communities and organized to secure resources and donations for families.

Tuolumne

First 5 Tuolumne County provides leadership and support for programs to achieve the vision that all children are healthy and ready to learn. First 5 Tuolumne invested \$725,369 in FY 2022–2023, providing services to roughly 1,700 young children, parents, and providers.

Family Resiliency: Data collected by our home visitors reflected that 28% of our highest-risk families receiving In-Home Parenting Supports were able to make significant progress on their parenting goals by increasing their positive behaviors with their children. Additionally, home visitors observed that 42% of parents were never observed helping their child identify their feelings, which highlights the need for continued targeted and intensive parenting support.

Improved Child Health: Twenty years of our Smile Keepers Oral Health program suggests that the comprehensive prevention approach has sustained a reduction in the incidence of active cavities in the pre-K population.

Child Development: Tuolumne County invested \$258,000 to improve the quality of our early care and education providers and sites. This was done by investing in professional development stipends for providers who participate in continuing education and/or coaching.

Improved Systems of Care: We now have Help Me Grow in Tuolumne County and a partnership with Unite Us, in the effort to connect all family serving systems and get all children screened for developmental delays using the ASQ. After five years of investing in the Imagination Library, we now have 29% of our 0–5 children getting a book in the mail each month. Since we know 90% of a child's brain is developed by the age of 5, we encourage parents to talk, read, and sing to their children every day. We are confident that the Imagination Library supports caregivers in those vital interactions.

Ventura

First 5 Ventura County's (F5VC) FY 2022–2023 investments in the early childhood system supported the place-based Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL), providing Parent and Child Together classes and family support services, Help Me Grow (HMG), and systems integration, advocacy, and capacity building. Recognizing the negative impact of the pandemic on families with young children, F5VC secured \$3.5 million of the county's ARPA funding to expand NfL services and pilot a light-touch home visiting program Welcome Every Baby (WEB) in a high-need area, targeting pregnant moms and new parents. WEB advances maternal and child health outcomes, promotes upstream prevention efforts, fills gaps in services, and provides referrals with Ventura County Public Health to triage families into the most appropriate home visiting services. The evaluation design was informed by Managed Care Plan performance standards around maternal and child health outcomes, such as linkage with medical home, timely completion of postpartum and well-child visits, immunizations, screenings, and follow-up. F5VC continued to refine the in-house implementation of HMG and leveraged its expertise to build provider capacity for developmental screenings and follow-up. HMG launched an online training for pediatric clinics and child care providers on implementing the ASQ. Additionally, the HMG team also offered in-person ASQ training and technical assistance to Managed Care Plan staff, Ventura County Public Health, and pediatric providers. F5VC also continued to promote the importance of early literacy through partnerships. NfLs provided ongoing training and technical assistance to library staff on implementing Parent and Child Together classes and hosted regular First 5 storytimes at local libraries. Take 5 and Read to Kids!, F5VC's signature literacy event, hosted 62 celebrity readers who helped spread the message about the importance of early literacy.



First 5 California, Dia de los Muertos Event



Toxic Stress Takedown

Yolo

In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Yolo amplified its focus on prevention and sustainability by coordinating multiple state and local funding streams, efficiently using public resources to advance systems transformation. Achievements included the full launch of Welcome Baby and notable improvements in maternal and child health, building resiliency and early health equity, helping families avoid the need to enter Child Welfare Services, screening and support for early childhood mental health, stabilizing and promoting underserved child care providers. Together with direct service providers and funding partnerships, First 5 Yolo expanded its largest systems initiative, The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R), focused on high-risk perinatal families and inclusive of behavioral health and parenting supports. R2R fuses medical and social services with in-clinic/in-home navigation and, at a time when local and statewide data indicated significant backslides in maternal and child health, supported critical health markers (child immunizations, pre/postnatal and well-child visits) at rates significantly higher than those not served by the program. Building on the infrastructure of R2R, First 5 Yolo received ARPA funding to add Welcome Baby, opening access to postpartum nurse and community health worker visits to all Medi-Cal families and expanding intensive R2R home visiting. Welcome Baby reached full launch in 2022, networking nine medical system partners and quickly exceeding an 80% enrollment rate, with families themselves identifying services as needed and wanted. First 5 Yolo is actively seeking sustainability for Welcome

Baby/R2R by finalizing enrollment with Partnership Health as a Medi-Cal provider and by leveraging CalWORKS Home Visiting Program, among other sources. Welcome Baby and R2R connect all families to First 5 Yolo's Help Me Grow program, a key component of ACEs Aware work. In FY 2022–2023, First 5 Yolo also delivered a Child Care Recovery Package with ARPA funding, leveraged with First 5 Yolo's IMPACT to provide infrastructure grants to child care providers.

Yuba

First 5 Yuba has strengthened internal capacity to reach, connect, and engage children 0–5 and their families through direct services. As tobacco tax revenues continue to decline, combined with the recent passing of Proposition 31, First 5 Yuba has been driven to find solutions to continue meeting increased needs of families. As a result, First 5 Yuba has secured external resources, shifting focus from a traditional funder to a funded agency establishing additional direct services and increasing access to services. Through direct service, First 5 Yuba was able to provide developmentally appropriate programs, addressing skills and milestones, promoting positive play and interaction between parents and children such as developmental play groups, caregiver cafés, and topic-based health and wellness classes. Our Help Me Grow program instituted monthly community-based developmental screening events at various sites throughout the county and expanded systems work to 60 additional family serving agencies, home visitors, and clinical staff to integrate early screening and referral policies, resulting in a 34% increase in screening rates and nearly 100 families navigated and linked directly to intervention services.

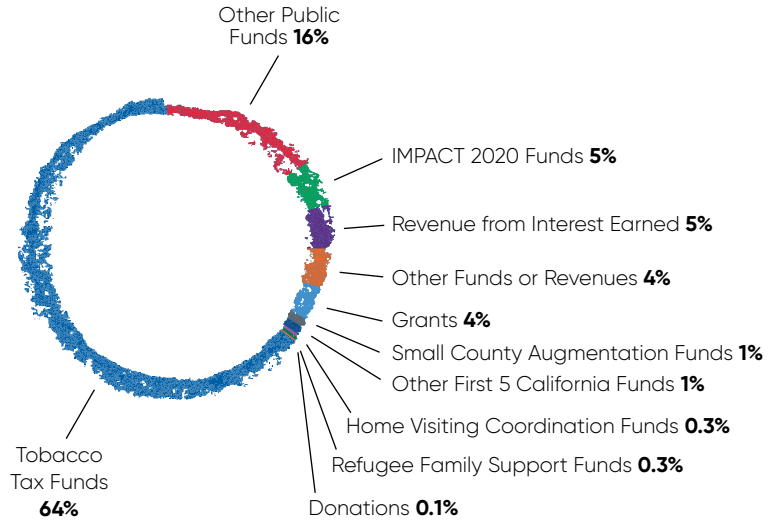
Two new additional programs were established to fill identified gaps in maternal and paternal mental health. A dad's monthly social support group has proven successful in providing engagement opportunities for dads in addition to providing developmentally appropriate activities. Direct maternal mental health programs included an in-person eight-week facilitator-led support group, weekly walking groups with integrated maternal wellness topics, and a full day maternal health awareness conference for local providers.

This past year, First 5 Yuba has broadened its role, built capacity, and strengthened internal expertise to meet the enduring needs of families, all while sustaining current services and supporting funded projects.

72 *Missing county highlights from Glenn and Lake counties.

Appendix A1: Revenues by Source, FY 2022–2023

Tabacco Tax Funds ¹	\$265,354,842
IMPACT 2020 Funds ²	\$20,567,007
Small County Augmentation Funds ³	\$3,861,743
Other Funds or Revenues ⁴	\$16,973,246
Other Public Funds ⁵	\$67,019,570
Other First 5 California Funds ⁶	\$3,889,209
Grants ⁷	\$15,658,512
Donations ⁸	\$420,953
Revenue from Interest Earned ⁹	\$21,007,240
Home Visiting Coordination Funds ¹⁰	\$1,313,762
Refugee Family Support Funds ¹¹	\$1,118,183
Total Revenue	\$417,184,267



This table represents revenues for all 58 county commissions.

1. Total Proposition 10 and Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenue
2. Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT 2020) consortia or regional hub funds received from First 5 California
3. Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) funds received from First 5 California
4. Other funds or revenues received, may include rental income or revenue from services provided.
5. Other federal, state or public funds received
6. Other funds received from First 5 California
7. Grants received by the county commission
8. Donations received by the county commission
9. Interest earned in all Children and Families Trust Fund revenue accounts by the county commission
10. Other funds received from First 5 California
11. Other funds received from First 5 California

Appendix A2: Number of Services and Expenditures by Result Area and Service Type, FY 2022–2023

Improved Family Resiliency										
Result Area and Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers & Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
General Family Support	161,563	256,872	29,189	286,061	447,624	54%	32%	\$70,736,975	73%	19%
Intensive Family Support	11,193	13,728	85	13,813	25,006	3%	2%	\$21,001,187	22%	6%
Family Literacy and Book Programs	184,306	165,339	506	165,845	350,151	43%	25%	\$5,223,689	5%	1%
Total Improved Family Resiliency	357,062	435,939	29,780	465,719	822,781	100%	59%	\$96,961,851	100%	26%

Improved Child Development										
Result Area and Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers & Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Quality Early Learning Supports	88,677	19,745	41,475	61,220	149,897	75%	11%	\$55,991,170	72%	15%
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	24,702	17,596	7,353	24,949	49,651	25%	4%	\$22,230,318	28%	6%
Total Improved Child Development	113,379	37,341	48,828	86,169	199,548	100%	15%	\$78,221,488	100%	21%

Improved Child Health										
Result Area and Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers & Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
General Health Education and Promotion	29,654	38,023	63,88	44,411	74,065	19%	5%	\$6,143,952	6%	2%
Oral Health Education and Treatment	32,375	20,720	13,90	22,110	54,485	14%	4%	\$5,233,027	4%	1%
Early Intervention	91,729	33,146	5,063	38,209	129,938	34%	9%	\$29,983,496	27%	8%
Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting	38,956	58,081	453	58,534	97,490	25%	7%	\$62,355,992	57%	17%
Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support	20,926	9,479	303	9,782	30,708	8%	2%	\$6,272,669	6%	2%
Total Improved Child Health	213,640	159,449	13,597	173,046	386,686	100%	27%	\$109,989,136	100%	30%

Improved Systems of Care										
Result Area and Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers & Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Policy and Public Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$27,957,622	33%	8%
Systems Building	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$56,390,182	66%	15%
Emergency and Disaster Relief	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,289,306	1%	<1%
Total Improved Systems of Care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$85,637,110	100%	24%

Grand Total **74** **\$370,809,585**

(1) Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Appendix B: Result Area and Service Type Definitions

Result Area: Improved Family Resiliency

Providing parents, families, and communities with relevant, timely, and culturally appropriate information, education, services, and support.

Family Literacy and Book Programs

Programs promoting family literacy, parent-child book sharing, or book ownership for families with children ages birth to 5. The Kit for New Parents and Talk. Read. Sing.[®] may be included if these statewide efforts are locally modified to promote literacy, for example, by adding a children's book to the Kit, or using Talk. Read. Sing.[®] as a message for distributing books. Program models or initiatives include Bookmobile, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Habla Conmigo, Kit for New Parents, Little by Little, Potter the Otter, Raising a Reader, Reach Out and Read, Story Cycles, Talk. Read. Sing.[®] and other Local Models.

General Family Support

Programs providing short-term, non-intensive instruction on general parenting topics, and/or support for basic family needs and related case management, including meals, groceries, clothing, and temporary or permanent housing acquisition assistance. General family support may include general playgroup programs that provide parents/caregivers with opportunities to engage, learn, and play with their children. Playgroups are structured, intentional opportunities for parents and/or caregivers and their young children to support the optimal development of the child, the social-emotional needs of the family, and increase social connectedness. General family support may also include referrals to family services such as Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and other community resources. Core Operating Support includes staff, facilities, materials, and other general operating costs associated with an organization's day-to-day functioning. Fatherhood programs and other operational and support for family support agencies and/or networks are included. In general, these programs are designed to provide less intense and shorter term ("lighter touch") support services and classes for families by paraprofessional staff (e.g., FRCs). Program models or initiatives include Abriendo Puertas, Avance, Core Operating Support, Playgroups, Triple P Levels 2-3, and Five Protective Factors.

Intensive Family Support

Programs providing intensive and/or clinical services by a paraprofessional and/or professional, as well as one-to-one services in family support settings. Programs are generally evidence-based and designed to support at risk parents and families prenatally or with young children to increase knowledge and skills related to parenting and improved family resiliency (e.g., counseling, family therapy, parent-child interaction approaches, and long-term classes or groups). This also is the category for comprehensive and/or intensive services for special populations (i.e., homeless, teen parents, foster children, special needs). Program models or initiatives include Incredible Years, Nurturing Parenting Program, and Triple P Levels 4-5.

Result Area: Improved Child Development

Increasing the quality of and access to early learning and education for young children.

Early Learning Program Direct Costs

Early learning programs for children ages 0 to 5 years old may include preschool programs, kindergarten transition services, and early learning programs for all ages. Programs may include child related early literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs; programs for homeless children; migrant programs; and similar investments. Extra supports in early learning settings for homeless children, Federal Migrant or Tribal Child Care programs, and children receiving Alternative Payment vouchers for childcare should be included here. Program models or initiatives include Facility Grants, First 5-funded Preschool/Childcare Reimbursement, and Summer Bridge Programs.

Quality Early Learning Supports

Programs designed to enhance early learning programs such as professional development for early educators, or implementation and integration of services. This service category may include quality and improvement system investments as part of IMPACT investments and Quality Counts California. This service category covers early learning and care (ELC) settings work, most commonly by licensed care providers, but is also inclusive of alternative settings such as FRCs; Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care; Boys and Girls Clubs; and libraries. This service category may include interagency collaboration, quality improvement supports, support services to diverse populations, and database management and development. Program models or initiatives include Quality Counts California.

Appendix B: Result Area and Service Type Definitions (continued)

Result Area: Improved Child Health

Promoting optimal health through identification, treatment, and elimination of the risks that threaten children's health and lead to developmental delays and disabilities in young children.

Early Intervention

Programs providing screening, assessment, and diagnostic services, including referrals or follow-up to needed services. Programs including early intervention or intensive services to children with disabilities and other special needs, or at-risk for special needs, should be included here. May include strategies targeting language and communication skills, social and emotional development, developmental delays, and related parent education. Developmental playgroups are specifically intended for children who have been identified as at-risk for developmental delays. Additionally, the playgroup staff are trained to support each child's specific early intervention goals. Mental Health Consultations in early learning and care (ELC) settings are included here. Program models or initiatives include Care Coordination and Linkage, Developmental Playgroups and Mild-to-Moderate Supports.

General Health Education and Promotion

Programs promoting children's healthy development, including nutrition, fitness, access to insurance (health, dental, vision) and health services. Programs also may focus on increased awareness of information about child safety seats, fire, safe sleep, and substances education (drugs, alcohol, tobacco). Program models or initiatives include Nutrition/Breastfeeding, Safety Education, and Smoking or Tobacco Cessation.

Oral Health Education and Treatment

Programs providing an array of services including dental screening, assessment, cleaning and preventive care, treatment, fluoride varnish, and parent education on the importance of oral health care. Category may include provider training and care coordination of services. Program models or initiatives are Local Models.

Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Home visiting is the primary service delivery strategy for inter-generational family-centered supports. Home visiting services are provided in the home by qualified professionals with parents, prenatally and/or with children birth to age three. These voluntary programs tailor services to meet the needs of individual families and offer information, guidance, and support directly in the home environment. While home visiting programs vary in goals and content of services, in general, they

combine parenting and health care education, early intervention, and early learning supports for young children and their families. Their visits focus on linking pregnant women with prenatal care, promoting strong parent-child attachment, and coaching parents on learning activities that foster their child's development and supporting families during the pivotal window of pregnancy through early childhood. Program models or initiatives include Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, Healthy Steps, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Other Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Approved, Welcome Baby, and other Local Models.

Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support

Out-of-home programs include prenatal care and follow-up for healthy development-related services during the first three years of a child's life. These programs are designed to improve the health and well-being of women during and after pregnancy, and the infant or young child by a paraprofessional and/or professional outside of the family home, including, but not limited to, pediatric or clinical environments. Programs may provide comprehensive support, including parenting education, health information, developmental assessments, providing referrals, and promoting early learning. Program models or initiatives include Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone, Healthy Steps, and other Local Models.

Result Area: Improved Systems of Care

Implementing integrated, comprehensive, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to achieve improvements in one or more of the other Result Areas.

Emergency and Disaster Relief

Unplanned expenditures made in response to a community disruption resulting from local, regional, or statewide events such as fires, earthquakes, floods, widespread illness (epidemic, pandemic), or riots. Direct materials or support may include addressing immediate needs of individuals or communities for items such as diapers, clothing, food, shelter, transportation, childcare, and lost wages. Also includes coalition building funding used in concert with other philanthropic, government, and business partners to support broader emergency response systems efforts. Program models or initiatives include Direct Material Support and Coalition Building.

Appendix B: Result Area and Service Type Definitions (continued)

Policy and Public Advocacy

Services include community awareness, public outreach and education on issues related to children ages 0 to 5 years old and their families. This also includes work focused on policy change, work with local and statewide stakeholders, Town Halls, policy development, and related efforts. Program models or initiatives include Resilient Families and Communities, Child Health, Early Learning, and Revenue Sustainability.

Systems Building

Efforts to improve service quality, connections between programs, infrastructure support, and professional development. This category includes activities such as strategic planning, business planning, grant writing workshops, sustainability workshops, and assistance in planning and promoting large community conferences or forums. These improvement efforts should result in improved outcomes for children ages 0 to 5 years old. Improvements could be geared toward creating a well-trained workforce with shared professional standards and competencies, creating strong and effective linkages across system components, or leveraging funding to sustain the system of care. Database management and other cross-agency systems evaluation are also reported here. Program models or initiatives include Early Identification and Intervention (e.g., Help Me Grow), Family Resiliency, Health Systems, Place-Based, and Trauma Informed Care/Adverse Childhood Experiences.



Toxic Stress Takedown

Appendix C: Demographics of Populations Served, FY 2022–2023

Age Category	Individuals Served
Children Less Than 3 Years Old	199,484
Children from 3rd to 6th Birthday	203,887
Children—Ages Unknown (birth to 6th birthday)	240,253
Primary Caregivers	600,395
Providers	87,469
Total Children 0–5	643,624
Total Primary Caregivers	600,395
Total Children, Caregivers, and Providers	1331,488

Race/Ethnicity Category	Children 0–5	Primary Caregivers	Total (1)
Alaska Native/American Indian	3,228	2,920	6,148
Asian	34,235	52,027	86,262
Black/African-American	25,823	18,942	44,765
Hispanic/Latino	245,602	202,262	447,864
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,319	921	2,240
Other	13,999	22,252	36,251
Two or more races	21,070	8,571	29,641
White	61,852	48,099	109,951
Unknown	263,533	244,723	481,256
Total	643,661	600,717	1,244,378

Language Category	Children 0–5	Primary Caregivers	Total (1)
English	267,935	223,148	491,083
Spanish	130,275	125,293	255,568
Vietnamese	8,679	32,027	40,706
Other	11,896	13,695	25,591
Cantonese	2,412	1,566	3,978
Mandarin	996	1,639	2,635
Korean	226	831	1,057
Unknown	221,205	202,501	423,706
Total	643,624	600,700	1,244,324



- E.2. Conduct a Public Hearing of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Pursuant to the California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code Section 130140 and Ordinance 784 and Adopt First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission Current July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 Strategic Plan - Tammi Graham, Executive Director
- E.2.a. **Public Hearing:** First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan 2023-2026 - Zachary Ginder, Chair
- E.2.b. **24-10:** Review and Adopt First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan 2023-2026 - Zachary Ginder, Chair



AGENDA ITEM: 24-10
DATE OF MEETING: March 13, 2024
ACTION:
INFORMATION:

**REVIEW AND ADOPT FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026 AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING
PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT AND
SAFETY CODE SECTION 13140 AND ORDINANCE 784**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Pursuant to the California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code section 130140, and Ordinance 784, review and conduct public hearing of the Strategic Plan.

The First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan 2023-2026 for annual review today was adopted on January 25, 2023.

BACKGROUND

January 25, 2023 Action Item No. 23-10: Annual Review and Public Hearing of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2023-2026

May 11, 2022, Action Item No. 22-15: Annual Review and Public Hearing of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Revised Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2018 – 2023.

Statutory Requirement

The California Children and Families Act, Health, and Safety Code Section 13140 (Proposition 10) requires local county commissions to adopt a strategic plan for the support and improvement of early childhood development. It further requires that the plan be consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes of, the act and any guidelines adopted by the state commission.

At a minimum, Commissions are to annually review strategic plans and adjust accordingly based on revised priorities. In addition, legislation requires the Commission to conduct at least one public hearing on its proposed county strategic plan annually and before changes to the plan are adopted. All funding allocations by the Commission must be consistent with the adopted strategic plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

- 1) Conduct a Public Hearing and
- 2) Review and adopt the Riverside County Children and Families Commission 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

BUDGET IMPACT

Funding for approved contracts will be included in future budget requests.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Quality Early Learning
Comprehensive Health and Development
Resilient Families

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None Known

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023-2026 First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN



Fiscal Years
2023-2026

CONNECTING FAMILIES and the **COMMUNITY**
with resources to build a **STRONG FOUNDATION**
for **SUCCESS** for children 0 through 5 years of age.



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All children in Riverside County
are healthy and thrive in

SUPPORTIVE, NURTURING, *and* LOVING

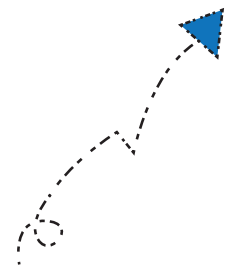
environments

AND

enter school ready to learn &



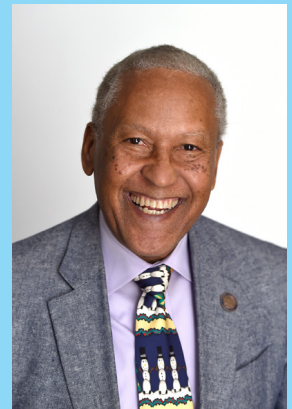
Lifelong
Learning



I. OVERVIEW

On August 4, 2020, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to declare racism as a public health crisis. The resolution passed by the Board listed several planned actions describing what the County will do to act on this, including seeking more diversity in county's workforce and in leadership positions, implementing solutions to eliminate systemic inequality in all external services provided by the county, and enhancing public education to increase understanding and awareness of systemic inequality and its impact. Similarly, the First 5 Association has established a commitment to "center race, equity, diversity, inclusion (REDI) in all we do" in its 2022-2025 strategic plan, including an objective to build local First 5 capacity to advance REDI locally. While both entities are still formulating plans for what this work will entail, First 5 Riverside County shares the commitment to centering race equity.

The County of Riverside is blessed with incredible diversity that makes us unique and is one of our many strengths. Therefore, we will focus on developing programs and initiatives that are equitable to create a better future for our residents. This will build a solid foundation to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. We have a strong sense of community, and we must ensure this is inclusive of all. I am proud that we are moving forward together to address the needs of our residents to further health, wellness, and success in every aspect of all lives.



**-Chuck Washington, District 3 Supervisor
First 5 Riverside County Commissioner 2022**

First 5 Riverside County understands that this commitment will have a significant bearing on its own work to advance the vision stated above through its investment of its resources, which are largely but decreasingly comprised of revenues from Proposition 10.

State voters passed Proposition 10, the "California Children and Families Act of 1998," in November of that year. Subsequently, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors created the Riverside County Children & Families Commission, also known as First 5 Riverside County. The act levies a \$.50 tax increase on cigarettes and other tobacco products to provide funding for early childhood development programs. The revenue generated from this tax, which was increased in 2016 by Prop 56, is distributed by the state to the counties to ensure that our youngest Californians, from prenatal through age 5, get the best start in life.

Revenues generated from the tobacco tax must be used to enhance the early growth experiences of children, enabling them to be more successful in school and ultimately to give them an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Since inception, First 5 Riverside County has invested more than \$505 million of Proposition 10 and Prop 56 funds

in local programs. Additionally, since 2016, First 5 Riverside County has identified and accessed an additional \$22 million in federal, state, and inter-county funding to expand and support integrated whole child and whole family supports. In the past 23 years, through diverse funding strategies, approximately \$527 million has been invested in the County.

First 5 Riverside County supports and advocates for the strong start all children deserve and is committed to engaging in partnerships that maximize investments to ensure children and families have every opportunity to succeed.

II. ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The Commission is required to conduct an annual review of the adopted strategic plan and to adjust the plan to respond to opportunities, challenges, or changes in the environment. In 2018, a mid-course revision reflected the evolution of the entire First 5 system, which is occurring in the context of a slow but steady decline in the tobacco taxes that are the main revenue source for First 5 Commissions. In 2020, the Commission revised and extended the Plan through 2023.

Since inception, many First 5 Commissions initiated their work by funding direct services for children and families since it was an obvious need, evidenced by services that were limited and not supporting children and families adequately. These efforts also gave First 5 Commissions an opportunity to gain valuable practice knowledge and to identify where gaps existed in the provision of programs and associated systems that resulted in inadequate and/or interrupted services, especially for vulnerable children. Grants to fund services created the possibility to address these issues quickly and efficiently. Although the majority of Proposition 10 funds have been focused on supporting families through direct services, First 5 Commissions have shifted increasingly toward funding services with an intent to change the core practice of organizations and improve or develop systemic approaches. The First 5 Association defines system change as: “working with organizations, communities, and public agencies in new ways to change how services and supports are organized and delivered.”¹ This approach reflects First 5 Commissions’ role as stewards of public resources, and the associated imperative to maximize the public’s investment and invest those funds strategically in a way that creates real and lasting change for children and families. Furthermore, given that funding entities can be politically influential, First 5’s are in a unique position to engage relevant and significant stakeholders, such as elected officials and senior leaders of public agencies, to highlight the challenges faced by children and families in respective communities.

Several important changes have occurred in recent years that shift the context for this work even further. Building on, and leveraging, its role as leader and convener, First 5 Riverside County has become an official department of Riverside County, more deeply embedding it within the public systems it seeks to improve on behalf

of children. First 5 Riverside County and the county's Department of Public Social Services established a partnership to redesign county-operated family resource centers (FRCs) to be essential sites for innovation and a part of the larger county-wide prevention and early intervention strategy for children and families. This includes supporting and nurturing a larger family resource center network beyond the county operated FRCs to contribute to building a much larger coordinated system of care for child abuse prevention and child well-being efforts. Combined with additional learning based on recent experimentation and innovation in engaging formal and informal systems of care, First 5 Riverside County is investing in meaningful and lasting systems change on behalf of children and families. This learning and success have engendered another evolution in the First 5 system: an increase in the level of coordination between and alignment of approaches taken by individual First 5 Commissions. This alignment has reflected an effort to incorporate and codify the learning and success on the one hand, and to set the stage for more effective system-wide and statewide advocacy on the other.

Since the adoption of the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, the Commission has made timely revisions to support the evolution of its work and has extended the Plan through 2023. To account for and leverage its changing context, First 5 Riverside County has updated both the content of the strategies (an increase in level and sophistication of systems-change investments) and the structure and language of its planning framework (to reflect a more intentional change model and align with the rest of the First 5 system wherever possible). The strategies contained in this document reflect the updated content and the following sections explain and present First 5 Riverside County's updated strategic framework.

Riverside County Profile

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California and the 10th largest in the United States. It covers more than 7,300 square miles and is home to 2.4 million residents.² There are 28 cities, large areas of unincorporated land, and several Native American tribal entities. The population by race is as follows: 56.24% White, 6.63% Black/African American, 1.12% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 6.82% Asian, 0.34% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 23.36% Other Race and 5.49% Multiracial.² The population by ethnicity is 51.97% Hispanic/Latino and 48.03% Non-Hispanic/Latino.²

The median household income of Riverside County is \$70,732 compared to \$78,672 for the State of California.² In Riverside County, 33.6% of individuals are living in households with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) compared to 31.0% in California.³

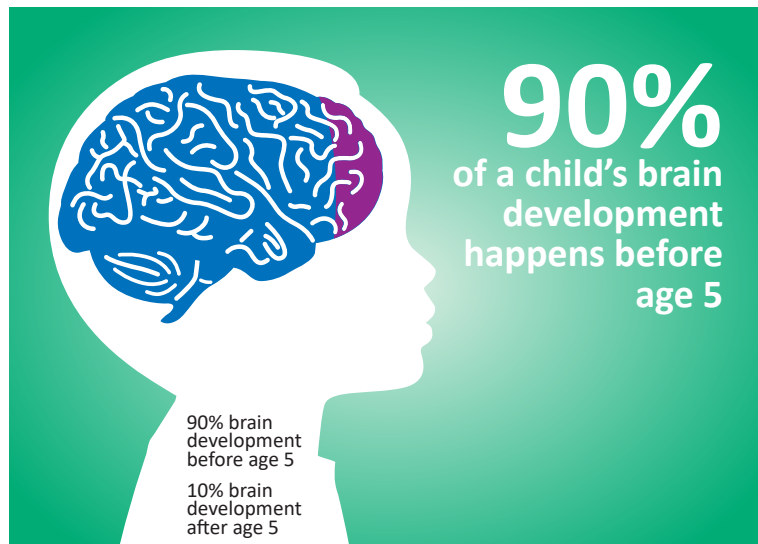
In 2020, Riverside County was home to approximately 175,500 children under age 6.⁴ Births average 30,000 annually.⁵ Enrollment in Medi-Cal for children 0 through 5 years is at 48.2% for Riverside County compared to 44.7% for the state.⁶ In the 2018-19 academic year, 23.2% of 3rd graders met English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) Common Core State Standards, and 28.5% in Riverside County met

the mathematics Common Core State Standards.⁷

While this County-level data is critical for informing our County-wide approach, understanding the regional variation in needs and assets of children and their families can help us determine how to focus our resources even more efficiently. To this end, First 5 Riverside County will begin work to develop datasets at the supervisorial district level, so that strategy refinements can be made that are responsive to community need at the local level. This work is anticipated to be complete in time to inform our next strategic plan in 2023.

The Importance of Early Childhood

First 5 Riverside County's commitment to serving our youngest children stems from research in brain development showing that the experiences of children in their earliest years significantly affect the way they grow and develop. The first years are the most rapid period of brain growth, with nearly 90% of brain development occurring by age 5. This remarkable growth happens in response to, and in the context of, a child's experiences. During the early years, critical connections form between nerve cells, creating pathways that determine an individual's emotional, social, and intellectual makeup. Investments in the early years, when children's brains are developing and taking permanent shape, are the best investments First 5 Riverside County can make.



Early Learning Matters

Research demonstrates that children who attend a quality early learning and care program are more likely to do well in school and experience better outcomes as adults. In fact, for every dollar invested in quality early childhood education, there is up to a 13% return on investment per year through better outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity, and reduction in crime.⁸ This is especially true for children living in poverty and those who experience multiple risk factors and in Riverside County, nearly one-fifth of children under age 5 live in poverty. Moreover, over half of the County's 3rd graders score below grade level in English Language Arts.⁷ Families have a continued need for quality early learning and care programs. As of February 2022, 569 early learning providers are a part of Quality Start Riverside County. Of the 501 sites that have a quality

higher on quality standards established by the Quality Counts California Quality Rating Matrix. These standards include quality elements at five tiers in three core areas of child development and school readiness, teachers and teaching, and program and environment.

While the availability of licensed early learning and care increased between 2017 and 2019 (4% increase in center-based spaces and 7% increase in family child care spaces)⁹, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of licensed child care is still being felt. Another challenge, that is in part due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the lack of qualified early educators. During the pandemic many early educators left the field due to the low wages, lack of benefits, the high risk of working with young children during a pandemic, as well as the economic impact of program closures and lack of enrollment during the pandemic.

Over three quarters of parents who request assistance from the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Resource and Referral program need early learning and care for their children so that they can work. However, even for families earning the median family income of \$70,732 who have a preschool age child and an infant, the cost of child care is greater than the cost of housing (25% compared to 20% of the family's income, respectively).⁹ For lower income households and those who qualify for subsidized early learning and care, the availability of subsidized care is inadequate to meet the need, particularly for infant and toddler care. In fact, only 5% of the eligible infants and toddlers in Riverside County receive the care for which they are eligible, compared to over one-third of preschool age children.

Universal preschool/Kindergarten (UPK), which offers families free preschool to all 4-year-old children in the state for a minimum of 3 hours per day, is expected to have a dramatic impact on the early learning and care field. Pre-Kindergarten (PK) expansion is expected to not only increase the number of 4-year-olds enrolled in PK but will also shift the early learning and care system to serve more children ages 0-3 years. While the shift is intended to increase the availability of spaces for infants and toddlers, there is concern that the higher cost of providing care to younger children (primarily due to the lower adult/child ratios) coupled with the anticipated shift of qualified early educators to UPK, will be too great for the early learning and care system to bear. Fortunately, the state recognizes this challenge and the rates at which providers are reimbursed for serving income eligible children has increased and will continue to increase with rate reform efforts.

In addition, there is a growing prevalence of children with a wide range of special needs. Children with high needs are 50% more likely to be placed in special education classes, 25% more likely to drop out of school, 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime and 40% more likely to become a teen parent.¹⁰ Children with high needs who participate in high-quality early learning environments benefit greatly, often exceeding national averages on measures of school readiness. In Riverside County, families have a continued need for services in early learning settings which support inclusion.

Whole Child, Whole Family

With the number of critical developmental processes that are at play during early childhood in mind, the First 5 Association has adopted a whole child, whole family framework to put child development into an even more explicit ecological context that includes connections between a child and their family and community that they are a part of. While First 5 Riverside County has always incorporated these vital connections, its direct involvement and strategic investment in the Family Resource Center network in Riverside County puts it in an even stronger position to address these connections as a part of its work. As it approaches its next strategy cycle, First 5 Riverside County will be looking for ways to identify and address opportunities to strengthen comprehensive family systems in ways that promote the healthy development of children, as well as other social determinants of health that have a significant bearing on the developmental environment for children growing up in Riverside County.

Growing Need for Health Equity

Riverside County ranks 39th out of 58 California counties in relation to overall health factors. For quality of life, it ranks 42nd, 47th for clinical care, and 56th for the physical environment.¹¹ The combination of nearly all health indicators strongly correlated with race and/or class with a saturation of users to the health care system make health equity a growing area of concern for the county as a whole.

In Riverside County access to both prenatal and pediatric care are trailing state averages. There is one primary care pediatrician available for every 2,800 children through age 5 in the county; this is six times lower than the statewide rate. In addition, rates of timely prenatal and postpartum care are declining in the county in recent years and preterm, and very preterm births in the county are higher than the state average, a poor outcome that disproportionately impacts Black women and babies.¹²

Persistent health inequities exist statewide and within the county. In California Black and Latinx women experience higher rates of postpartum depression.¹² The county also has lower than State average rates of children visiting the dentist, with only two-thirds of children 2 to 3 years of age having ever visited a dentist.¹³ In addition, childhood obesity rates have more than tripled in the last four decades,¹⁴ only 77% of mothers receive prenatal care,¹⁵ and asthma prevalence continues to be higher in Riverside County (21% compared to 15% statewide in 2013-2014).¹⁶ There is also a significant increase in behavioral health needs particularly among children age 17 and younger; a challenge exacerbated by low rates of developmental screening (nationally, fewer than one in three children receive developmental screening).

Overall healthcare coverage in California has increased and reduced the need for local investment in providing premium subsidies. However, gaps in services remain and navigation of the health system and other services is not consistently available to families. A healthcare system that can effectively achieve positive birth and early childhood health outcomes will include (1) a stronger focus on prevention; (2) enhanced care coordination to assist families in meeting multi-faceted healthcare

needs and (3) resources to address social determinants of health and trauma. Most children in Riverside under age 6 have health insurance and over 40% of those children are Medi-Cal recipients, making Medi-Cal the largest health insurance provider for children in the county. Further, the 0-5 population is expected to increase over the next decade increasing the population insured by Medi-Cal.⁵

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a long-term commitment from the State to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal, offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory¹⁷. Improvements in the Medi-Cal managed care system can catalyze population-level improvements in health, especially for young children. The CA Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal procurement in 2022 is redefining how care is delivered to more than 12 million Californians by raising the state's expectations of plans in the Medi-Cal program to be committed to:

1. High-quality, accessible, and comprehensive care across all settings and levels of care
2. Reducing health disparities
3. Improving Health outcomes

Increase in Family Stress

Approximately one-third (30%) of households in Riverside County have a child under age 6.¹⁸ The physical and emotional well-being of children is largely dependent on the strength, health, and resilience of their family.

There is an increasing number of families facing critical challenges in Riverside County. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these longstanding challenges resulting in more children experiencing homelessness, child abuse and neglect, and food and housing insecurities. At some point in the 19-20 school year, 2,365 children ages birth-kindergarten (which includes infants, toddlers, pre-kindergarteners, and kindergarteners) were reported as being homeless in Riverside County.¹⁹ Approximately 19.2% of children ages 5 and under are living below the poverty level in Riverside County.²⁰ In 2020, for children under 1, the rate of substantiated reports is 26.4 per 1,000 children compared to California's rate of 22.2 per 1,000 children, 11.4 for ages 1-2 compared to 8.7 for the state, and 9.2 for ages 3-5 compared to 7.2 for the state.²¹

According to the California Office of the Surgeon General, "widespread stress and anxiety regarding COVID-19, compounded by the economic distress due to lost wages, employment and financial assets, mass school closures, and necessary physical distancing can result in an increase of stress-related health outcomes."²² Families continued to struggle to find affordable quality child care and early learning options keeping some parents from returning to work. Other challenges include a significant percentage of children in foster care and grandparents who are responsible

for raising their grandchildren while dealing with their own aging needs and health issues. These all contribute to a high number of families with limited access to the resources necessary to help children grow up healthy and ready to succeed.

III. STRATEGIC ESSENTIALS AND INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

In 2016, the Commission developed three strategic essentials to ensure the success and sustainability of the Commission’s efforts to advance its vision, mission, and long-term objectives. The Strategic Essentials include:

- **Support strategic positioning and partnerships:** Maximize return on the Commission’s future investments through leveraging resources
- **Support the development of organizations and providers:** Provide technical assistance and support to programs to build capacity and increase independence from First 5 funding
- **Integrate direct services:** Provide funding for services that integrate other First 5 programs and link to existing programs and services

Investment Guidelines

To help define and support First 5 Riverside County's shifting focus, the Commission developed five investment guidelines to express First 5 Riverside County’s point of view about how and where it can have the most impact and advance the strategic essentials.

Five Investment Guidelines to Implement the Strategic Essentials

Upstream (Prevention) → Downstream (Intervention)

PROMOTION → PRIMARY PREVENTION → EARLY INTERVENTION → TREATMENT OR SERVICE



Upstream strategies focus on improving fundamental social and economic structures, environments, and conditions that support the ability of individuals and groups to reach their full health potential and to withstand challenges. Downstream strategies focus on providing equitable access to care and services to ensure that any presenting problems or challenges are addressed effectively.²³

First 5 Riverside County position: First 5 Riverside County investments will fall on the upstream/prevention side of the continuum, prioritizing support for promotion, primary prevention, and early intervention strategies.

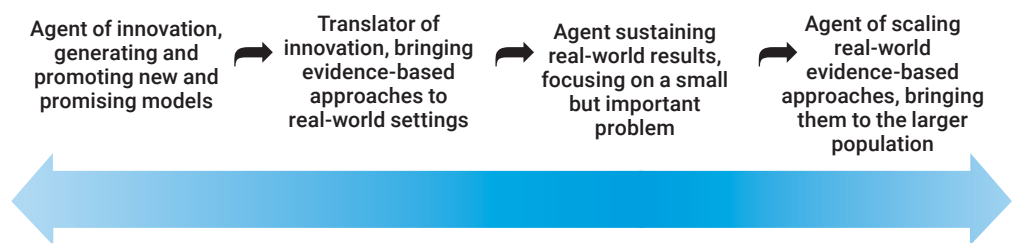
Going Broad → Going Deep



Going broad means engaging in strategies that have less impact on a greater number of people, while going deep means engaging in strategies that have a greater impact but reach fewer people.

First 5 Riverside County position: First 5 Riverside County investments will fall on the left to middle section of this continuum, with most investments ranging from low intensity with high reach to moderate intensity and reach.

Growing Local Models → Leveraging Evidence-Based Models

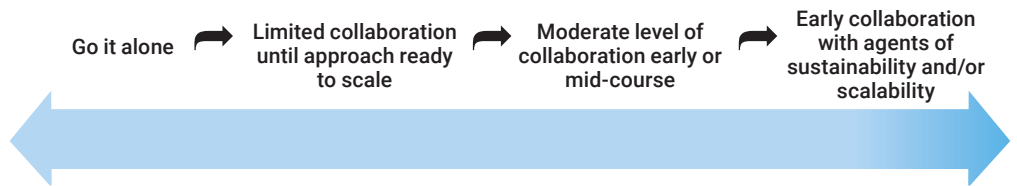


Growing local models means being an agent of innovation, generating and promoting new and promising models. In the middle of this continuum means being a translator of innovation, bringing evidence-based approaches to real-world settings, and being an agent sustaining real-world results, focusing on a small but important problem. Leveraging evidence-based models means being an agent of scaling real-world evidence-based approaches by bringing them to the larger population.

First 5 Riverside County position: Investments will generally fall in the middle of this continuum, and thus First 5 Riverside County will largely serve as a translator of innovation and agent of sustaining real-world results.



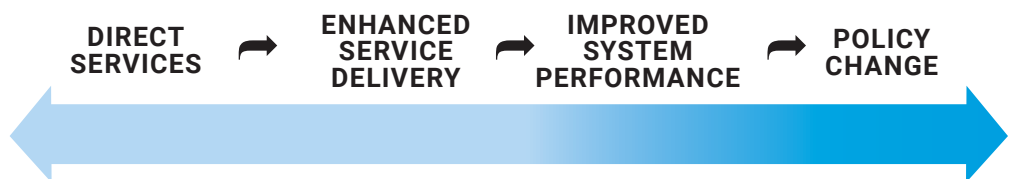
Go It Alone → Start with Partnership Opportunity



Going it alone means engaging in limited collaboration until an approach is ready to replicate or scale, while starting with partnership opportunities means engaging in collaboration early in the process with agents of sustainability and/or scalability.

First 5 Riverside County position: Investments will primarily follow a model of collaborating early with other partners and/or agents of sustainability and/or scalability.

Direct Services → Systems and Policy Change



On one side of this continuum is a focus on funding direct services; the middle of this continuum includes enhancing service delivery; and the other side of this continuum focuses on working towards systems improvement and being a champion for policy change.

First 5 Riverside County position: Investments will primarily be directed towards systems and policy change.

These guidelines establish the Commission's preferences for how future investments will be allocated and are to be considered both in evaluating individual proposals and assessing the overall portfolio of First 5 Riverside County investments.



IV. OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

First 5 Riverside County's vision, mission, and values remain constant and continue to anchor and guide the Commission's work:

Vision

All children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Mission

First 5 Riverside County invests in partnerships that promote, support and enhance the health and early development of children, prenatal through age 5, their families and communities.

Values

- Child & Family
- Outcomes-Driven
- Collaboration
- Sustainability

Protective Factors

In addition to mission, vision, and values, First 5 Riverside County utilizes the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework²⁴ (see Appendix C) as a foundational philosophy for its approach to improving the lives of young children. Extensive evidence supports the common-sense notion that, when these Protective Factors are present and robust in a family, the likelihood of a child achieving optimal health and development is greatly increased.

First 5 Riverside County's Impact Model reflects its ideal role in supporting improvements to systems that primarily serve children prenatal through age 5 and their families.

Impact Model

First 5 Riverside County's Impact Model is organized around three developmental areas for children:

1. Quality Early Learning
2. Comprehensive Health and Development; and
3. Resilient Families

These three developmental areas, aligned with the First 5 Association, correspond to the three program areas around which First 5 Riverside County organizes its investments.

The Impact Model establishes an outcomes framework for the system changes First 5 Riverside County is working towards, which is divided into four different kinds of systems change outcomes and expressed in terms of what will be different for children and their families in relation to the services and supports they need to thrive:

1. Increased access
2. Increased quality
3. Increased coordination
4. Increased consumer and community capacity to utilize services and supports, as well as to successfully face challenges

These outcome areas are important because they define how First 5 Riverside County will measure the success of its investments: in terms of their effectiveness in advancing these systems change outcomes on behalf of young children and their families. These outcome areas are used to organize the measurable results listed in the program strategies that specify what each of the program strategies is designed to achieve.



The Impact Model organizes the different types of investments First 5 Riverside County makes to strengthen the system of services and supports for young children and their families. This organizing principle divides investments into two meta-categories: direct services and systems change.

Direct services can take the form of services for children or services for families and caregivers, while systems change investments take the form of efforts to build provider capacity, to support organizations and communities to work better together through strengthened partnerships and service integration, to increase and leverage financial resources, and to educate parents and policymakers about the importance of supporting a child’s early development. Within each program area, those systems change investments target a set of stakeholders specific to that program area, while First 5 Riverside County continues to lead and advocate for change at a county-wide, cross-systems level.

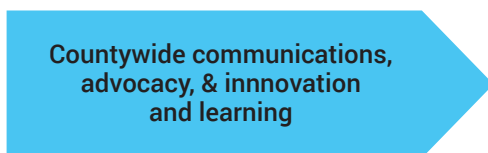
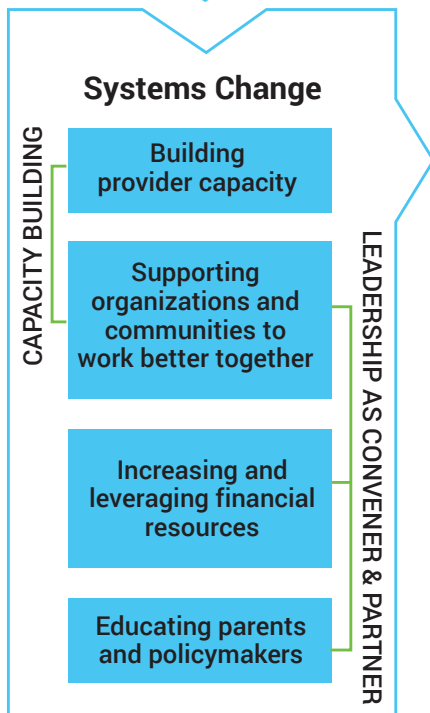
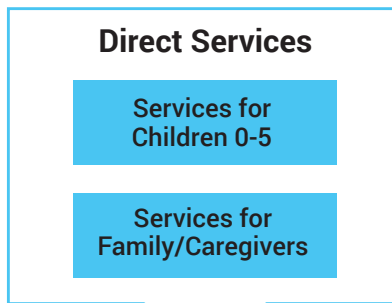
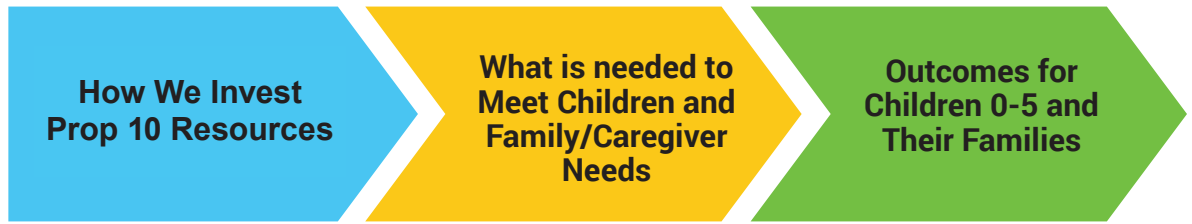
The Impact Model provides clarity and consistency of First 5 Riverside County’s investment strategies and helps to build connection and alignment between streams of work across program areas that have characteristics in common. For example, provider capacity building efforts in the Quality Early Learning program area could be leveraged in services of similar capacity building efforts in Comprehensive Health and Development.

Two significant recent developments – First 5 Riverside County’s direct involvement and investment in Family Resource Centers and its commitment to centering a heightened focus on race equity – may lead to a revision of this Impact Model in the next strategy cycle; in the interim, First 5 Riverside County will continue to use it to guide its thinking about how it invests its resources and to what end.

In the following section, goals, strategies, activities, and results are organized according to this Impact Model.



First 5 Riverside County Impact Model



Goal 1

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Goal Statement

Children, birth through age 5, benefit from high-quality early education, early intervention, family engagement, and support that prepares all children to reach their optimal potential in school and life.

Strategy Narrative

First 5 Riverside County increases access to quality child care through two major collaborative initiatives: Quality Start Riverside County (QSRC) and the Riverside Hybrid Alternative Payment (RHAP) program. In addition, First 5 Riverside County addresses key gaps in the early learning landscape.

QSRC is the region's Quality Improvement System (QIS) and provides four critical supports:

1. establishing and promulgating quality standards for early care and education,
2. supporting quality improvements with early childhood education (ECE) providers using these standards,
3. providing professional development opportunities for providers to help them increase the quality of their care, and
4. providing parents and caregivers with tools and resources to select quality programs.

The RHAP program increases the number of children accessing high-quality early learning environments. RHAP is a systems approach that aligns with and supplements the existing California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) administered by Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). In 2019, RCOE received increased state funds to enroll children into CAPP reducing the need for Proposition 10 funded RHAP scholarships.

RHAP leverages QSRC and provides scholarships for families who do not qualify for other child care subsidies. RHAP also leverages the capacity of RCOE to administer scholarships, collect data, and provide enhanced reimbursement for quality programs participating in QSRC.

Further, the Commission continues to address barriers to families' access to high quality early learning opportunities committing Proposition 10 funds to expand ECE facilities. Analysis of existing childcare licensing data has revealed that Riverside County currently has only six active, licensed ECE facilities per 1,000 children ages 0-5. The Bipartisan Policy Center indicates that, across all income levels, Riverside

County needs to add 59,750 licensed childcare slots to meet estimated current demand. The Low Income Investment Fund cost model finds that meeting this demand could cost the county more than \$1.4 billion in ECE facilities construction and expansion efforts.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the County Executive Office and First 5 Riverside County's recommendation to direct American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide wage enhancement payment to the ECE workforce and expand facilities. This was an innovative approach to support a workforce that is critical to both the educational and economic success of the county and to effectively utilize Federal relief funds.

The need for increased funding for childcare is broadly recognized and legislative efforts are underway to increase funding at the State and Federal levels. These legislative initiatives are essential to establish on-going funding streams to stabilize the child care system and increase access to a comprehensive, quality, and affordable care. In California, child care rate reform is underway that will align all child care and preschool programs, including school-based, to a single regionalized reimbursement rate structure that addresses quality standards for equity and accessibility while supporting positive learning and developmental outcomes for children. Rate reform is projected to be adopted for all child care programs and implemented in 2023.

edsourcesource.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EarlyChildhoodBudgetSummary.pdf



Goal 1 Activities

A. DIRECT SERVICES

Services for children

- Support early literacy efforts such as Ready for K and Raising a Reader
- Support the Alternative Payment system for child care and early childhood education to low-income families through the RHAP program, including scholarships for special populations and tiered reimbursement to support increases in levels of quality of QSRC Providers, in preparation for and in alignment with, rate reform at the State.

Services for families/caregivers

- Provide education and tools to parents/caregivers on how to choose a quality early learning program
- Provide parents/caregivers with evidence-based early language and literacy tools, through the use of technology and traditional resources, to maximize existing family routines to engage in more home and center-based learning.

B. SYSTEMS CHANGE

Building provider capacity

- Strengthen the professional development system for early care and education providers by making available a cohort of experts that provide mentoring, training and assessments, with a focus on increasing the quality of curriculum, teacher-child engagement, and enhanced teaching practices.
- Increase supply of high-quality early learning programs across our mixed delivery system for children 0–5.
- Support infrastructure/facility expansion of Quality Start Riverside County early learning center-based infant and toddler settings.
- Support improved facility safety in Quality Start Riverside County sites, including supporting providers' responsiveness to public health COVID-19 guidance.
- Support community and home-based child care settings that are not subsidized child care or preschool sites and provide early learning and school readiness services to parents and young children. These may include, but are not limited to, home visitation programs, family resource centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, and libraries.

Supporting organizations and communities to work better together

- Convene a consortium comprising of ECE and health-related stakeholders that share the same vision for children in Riverside County to improve the quality of early learning, and to implement the QIS framework in Riverside County.

Goal 1 Results

Increasing and leveraging financial resources

- Leverage resources and capacity to expand access to outside funding, including awards to First 5 Riverside County via Federal, State, local, foundations or other private sector funding, including CARES & ARPA funds.
- Align partnerships and investments that support infrastructure expansion for child development centers for infants and toddlers.

Educating parents and policymakers

- Inform and drive policy decisions and investments across the early education sector in Riverside County.

Increased access

- Increased access to high-quality early care and education for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a focus on families who fall between low-income level ranks who are not supported by other subsidized programs.

Increased quality

- Increased level of quality in early learning centers and family child care homes as demonstrated by site-specific improvements or implementation of evidence-based practices in alternative sites.
- Increased safety and outdoor learning environments.
- Increased supply of high-quality child development centers in Riverside County.
- Increased capacity of ECE providers to provide high quality care and learning environments.
- Utilize assessments to understand need, tailor learning experiences, and prepare children for seamless transition into kindergarten.
- Increased positive engagement and quality interactions between child and parent/caregiver or child and teacher.
- Increased knowledge and understanding on the part of early learning providers of children's development of motor, social, emotional, literacy, and numeracy skills.

Increased efficiency

- Existing professional development and subsidy programs are leveraged to expand reach.
- Early education stakeholders embed workforce development strategies to increase alignment across qualifications, competencies, preparation and training.

Increased consumer/community capacity

- Increased parent's awareness regarding the importance of choosing quality licensed learning environments and how to choose quality care.

- Increased community understanding of the important role that high quality early learning plays in young children’s school-readiness and long-term success.
- A shared vision for systems reform amongst early learning stakeholders and communities and a joint approach to solving early childhood development barriers and challenges, aligning countywide data and measurement of indicators.

Quality Early Learning Program Spotlight: MASTER PLAN FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CARE



In December 2020 a team of researchers led by WestEd, authored the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: Making California For All Kids funded by the California Health and Human Services Agency. The intent of the Master Plan is to provide an actionable roadmap to achieving the vision that "all California children thrive physically, emotionally and educationally in the early years, through access to high-quality early learning and care resources; equitable opportunities for the workforce that advance equitable outcomes for children; and greater efficiencies to the state today and every day through structures for continuous improvement" by 2020.²⁵ The Master Plan lays out the following four key objectives:

1. Improve the life outcomes of infants and toddlers by providing comprehensive early learning and care.
2. Ensure that all families can easily identify and access a variety of quality early learning and care choices that fit the diverse needs of their children, their financial resources, and workday.
3. Promote school readiness through preschool for all three-year-old children experiencing poverty and universally for all four-year-old children.
4. Advance better outcomes for all children by growing the quality, size, and stability of the early learning and care workforce through improved and accessible career pathways, competency-based professional development supports, and greater funding.

The Master Plan also lays out the following four policy goals:

1. Unify programs to improve access and equity.
2. Support children’s learning and development by enhancing educator competencies, incentivizing, and funding career pathways, and implementing supportive program standards.
3. Unify funding to advance equity and opportunity.
4. Streamline early childhood governance and administration to improve equity

Strategies outlined within the Master Plan focus on (1) Unifying a continuum of early and development opportunities from Paid Family Leave to Universal Preschool; (2) Enhancing workforce competencies, career pathways and standards; (3) Aligning funding and reforming rates of pay; (3) and Establishing more equitable and efficient administration of programs, including facilities and integrated data development. F5RC is well-positioned to continue to promote a systems approach to expanding, improving and achieving equitable access to early learning opportunities for young children that align with the Master Plan goals and objectives.



Goal Statement

Children, prenatal through age 5, and their families access the full spectrum of health and behavioral health services needed to support their healthy physical and socio-emotional development and overall health.

Strategy Narrative

First 5 Riverside County improves capacity of health and behavioral systems to meet the needs of children and families through a systemic and coordinated network, enabling increased effectiveness and navigation of services. Strengthening the system of care for children and families allows for better connection and access to the services they need and creates enhanced opportunities for high quality and seamless services.

First 5 Riverside County has identified multiple approaches for advancing improvements across health-related systems to help the greatest number of children and families. Investments in this goal area focus on improving how health-related systems connect, coordinate, and assist families in receiving early intervention services needed for their child's healthy development. Specifically, First 5 Riverside County will work to improve how systems work together to provide timely screening, effective care coordination, and appropriate referrals so that more young children at risk of developmental delays have access to the care they need to thrive. In addition, some investments will focus on directly serving children and families, including drowning prevention efforts delivered through funded partners that provide water safety and swim lessons for young children and prevention strategies for parents.

Help Me Grow Inland Empire (HMGIE) is a system integration effort conducted in partnership with First 5 San Bernardino and Loma Linda University Children's Health (LLUCH). HMGIE provides both an access point for our most vulnerable families to be connected to community resources, and a system framework for providers to work together to ensure an organized system of support is available in our community. The centralized access point assists families in connecting with specialized professionals in community-based settings, following early detection through screenings for cognitive, physical, or behavioral issues. 2020-2021 marked the first full year of HMGIE Access Center operations.

HMGIE has been intentional in its outreach and partnership development with organizations across the region's early identification and intervention system, strengthening relationships to improve services and activating new opportunities to increase the number of children who receive developmental screenings. These efforts were completed against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic hardships facing many Inland Empire families. HMGIE's dual focus on developmental delays and risk factors for delays, the



social determinants of health, enabled supports to families with a range of needs during this challenging time by linking them to needed resources and providing an important throughline as they navigate new and unfamiliar systems of care.

In partnership with California Northstate University (CNU), the Early Childhood Oral Health Assessment (ECOHA) is continuing with training provided to home visitors, improving cross system integration with Help Me Grow Inland Empire, and expanding educational training and resource materials for home visitors and families. Sustainability and expansion of ECOHA will continue through CNU's development of a network system of dentists to accept referrals resulting from ECOHA assessments and the establishment of a program dental hygienist to provide additional assessment, education and referral pathways for families determined to be at risk by the ECOHA assessment. The CNU dental hygienist identifies dentists willing to provide treatment to children ages 0-5 who are on Medi-Cal. This program was developed to sustain and expand the ECOHA created for children ages 0-5 and to embed into home visiting programs to be utilized with the families.

HealthySteps Pilot in Riverside County

In 2017, First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission approved an investment to pilot the HealthySteps model in a variety of healthcare settings with three pediatric/primary care agencies across the county serving children with the highest needs in partnership with the national organization, ZERO TO THREE.

HealthySteps Pilot Agencies and Sites:

- Riverside University Health System: A public general hospital that also operates Federally Qualified Health Centers. Piloted at the main campus in Moreno Valley
- Borrego Community Health Foundation: A non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Piloted in Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, San Jacinto, and Riverside
- Rady's Children's Hospital: A non-profit children's hospital. Piloted in satellite locations in Murrieta and Temecula-Expansion plan for Hemet in 2022

HealthySteps is increasing access to quality care, expanding screenings, connecting families to services and supports, increasing physician satisfaction, and reducing health care costs.

Underlying these comprehensive health and development initiatives is the continued emphasis on systems integration and coordination through expansion and capacity building of providers and existing services. The presence of a responsive health care system is key to universal access for children and families and to addressing children's physical and developmental needs, as well as the social determinants of health.



Goal 2 Activities

A. DIRECT SERVICES

Services for children

- Provide swimming instruction and water safety classes for children.
- Care coordination for families/caregivers for children dental screenings and assessments for caries risk. Provide culturally relevant developmental screenings, comprehensive assessments, and early intervention services through an integrated system of care.
- Connect families to HMGIE for care coordination and systems navigation to community resources for early identification and early intervention.
- Provide team-based well-child visits in a primary care setting that ensures infants and toddlers receive nurturing parenting and healthy development. HealthySteps model will be embedded through primary pediatric care practices and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across the county serving various communities and will provide:
 - Child development, social-emotional and behavioral screening.
 - Screening for family risk/protective factors and social determinants of health.
 - Connections to community resources.
 - Care coordination and systems navigation.
 - Access to HealthySteps Specialist (HSS) support between well-child visits.

Services for families/caregivers

- Through HealthySteps, provide parents with parenting guidance, information, and personalized support regarding child development needs.

B. SYSTEMS CHANGE

Building provider capacity

- ECE provider training on using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3; ASQ:SE-2).
- Support pediatric providers, early learning specialists and home visitors to use evidence-based validated screenings in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines.
- Support providers' ability to ensure continuity of care across the spectrum of developmental and behavioral services and supports.
- Support expansion of specialized practices in maternal medicine that address at-risk pregnant and/or parenting mothers through the development of fellowship and other research and clinical residency programs.

- Support telemedicine practices that increase access.

Supporting organizations and communities to work better together

- Through HMGIE, provide information, referrals and linkages to health services for high risk children and families through a coordinated and responsive system.
- Create cross-county regional systems that leverage resources, skills and partnerships to deliver comprehensive health programs. Examples of existing platforms include partnerships with First 5 San Bernardino for HMGIE and LDPP-IE.
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices amongst private and public organizations that deliver services for children and their families.
- Create an integrated system involving community health centers, early care and education centers, schools, and home visitors to improve coordination and better assist families in receiving early identification and intervention services.
- Create a system that encourages ownership of child outcomes using data to inform decision making at the population and community level.

Increasing and leveraging financial resources

- Acquire sustainable financial resources for a HMGIE system that has the capacity to develop a robust inventory of resources and services for children and families.

Educating parents and policymakers

- Increased community knowledge about healthy child development through public education campaigns and cross-disciplinary workforce development.

Goal 2 Results

Increased access

- Increased access to swim and water safety lessons for children.
- Increased number of children receiving developmental screenings per the AAP guidelines.
- Increased number of Medi-Cal enrolled children who have had an ECOHA and preventative dental visit.
- Increased continuity of care across the spectrum of developmental, health, oral health, and behavioral health services.
- Increased early identification and early intervention services for children, especially for high-risk and at-risk children.
- Increased number of children receiving an oral health assessment.
- Increased number of specialized medical practitioners in the maternal mental health and Maternal Fetal Medicine disciplines.
- Increased coordination across systems of care to connect young children to

screening and early intervention, including through the expansion of HMGIE.

Increased quality

- Increased understanding of social emotional learning and its value by health and early learning providers.
- Increased application of validated screening tools in accordance with AAP guidelines.
- Increased health provider knowledge about developmental screenings.
- Increased wellness checks within clinics with a HealthySteps Specialist.

Increased efficiency

- Early identification and intervention:
 - Increased number of referrals.
 - Increased number of referrals that lead to service uptake.
 - Decreased inappropriate utilization of the emergency room.

Increased consumer/community capacity

- Increased understanding by parents and the community of social emotional learning and its value.
- Strengthened connections for families to pediatric practice.
- Parents are empowered to identify child health care needs and participate fully in decision-making and care planning.
- Increased awareness by parents/caregivers around water safety.
- Increased utilization of specialized services by parents through targeted care coordination.





HealthySteps: Changing Pediatric Care in Riverside County

Each year nearly 30,000 babies are born in Riverside County. Decades of research show how important the first three years will be to each one of these babies. This is the time when critical connections are made in the brain that will shape how they will grow, learn, and develop. During this time some children may experience developmental delays that can affect their ability to meet their full unique potential. Unfortunately, children who are born to families living below the poverty line and children of color are more likely to have delays that go undetected.

The good news is that early identification through screenings and linkages to supportive services can make a big difference. In Riverside County, with funding from First 5 Riverside County, an innovative model of pediatric care—HealthySteps— is being demonstrated in pediatric care settings. The model integrates a child development specialist into the pediatric primary care team to promote nurturing parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers. “HealthySteps Specialists” connect with families during and between well-child visits, providing families with guidance, referrals, and care coordination tailored to their needs as identified by developmental and behavioral screenings.

HealthySteps: Changing Pediatric Care in Riverside County

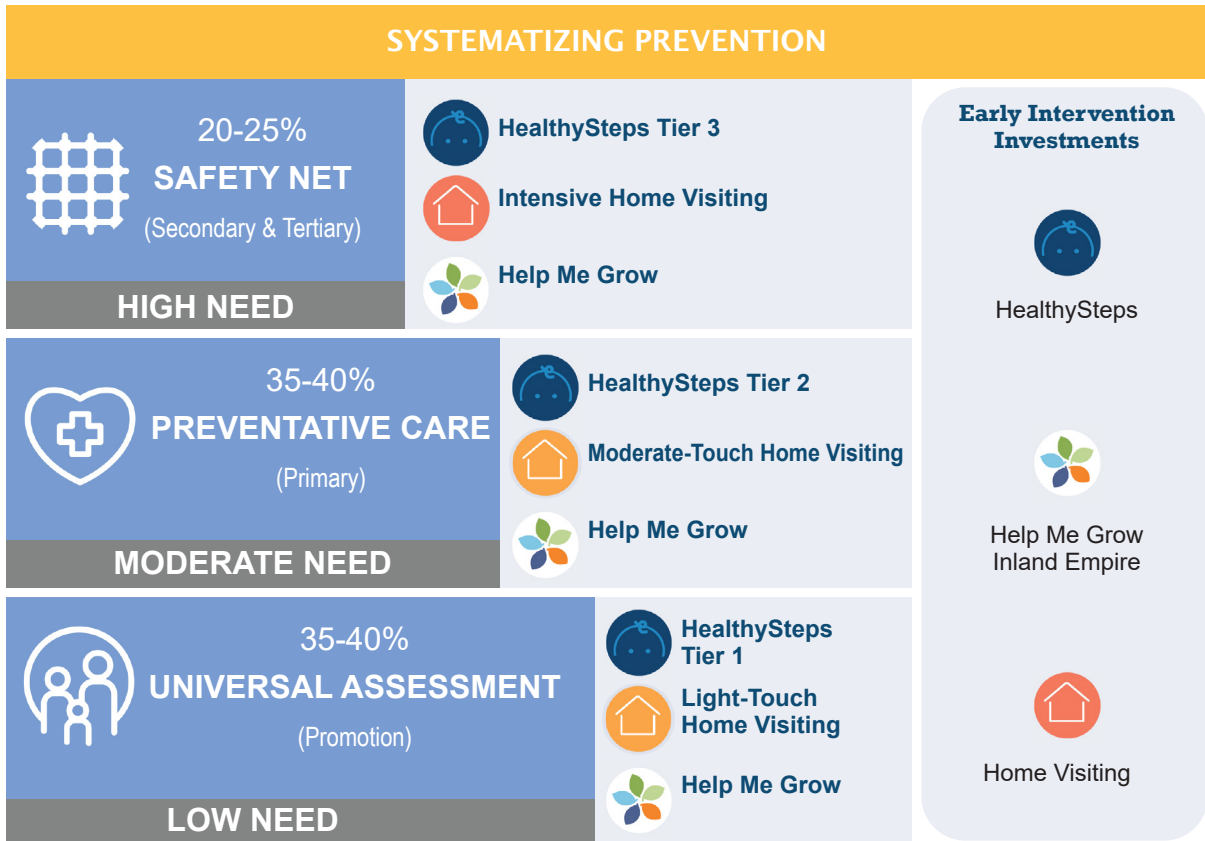
In 2017, First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission approved a three-year investment to test the HealthySteps model in a variety of healthcare settings across the county serving children with the highest needs. First 5 invested more than \$4.45 million and partnered with ZERO TO THREE to pilot HealthySteps in three pediatric primary care agencies between October 2018 and 2021.

HealthySteps Pilot Agencies and Sites:

Although still in the early stages of implementation, HealthySteps is already making a significant impact in its first years by:

- **Increasing Access to Quality Care:** HealthySteps is reaching more than 6,000 children and their families each year
- **Expanding Screenings:** Over a 2-year period more than 10,000 child development, social and emotional, autism, maternal depression, and family needs screenings were conducted
- **Connecting Families to Services & Support:** In that same period, more than 4,000 referrals and follow up was conducted for child and family needs for early intervention, mental health, early care and education, and maternal depression
- **Demonstrating a Model for Practice Improvement:** Across sites, physicians reported significantly higher satisfaction with HealthySteps and that they felt emotionally supported by the HealthySteps Specialist.
- **Reducing Health Care Costs:** A financial analysis in one HealthySteps practice serving a diverse pediatric population found that an estimated \$641 - \$959 of costs were averted by services provided by HealthySteps.

STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM BY:



Goal 3

RESILIENT FAMILIES

Goal Statement

Families and communities are engaged, supported, and strengthened through culturally effective resources and opportunities that assist them in nurturing, caring, and providing for their children’s success and well-being.

Strategy Narrative

First 5 Riverside County strives to support the community in understanding the importance of, and ways of building, resilient families. The Protective Factors™ are the foundation of First 5 Riverside County’s approach to strengthening families; the factors are:

1. parental resilience,
2. knowledge of parenting and child development,
3. social and emotional competence of children,
4. social connections, and
5. concrete support in times of need.

Research shows that these factors are essential to create healthy environments for the optimal development of all children. By helping to create safe physical and emotional environments at home, in school and in neighborhoods, First 5 Riverside County can support building vibrant and resilient communities throughout Riverside County. To this end, First 5 Riverside County’s approach to supporting family resilience is based on the expectation that all parents and caregivers can benefit from some level of support ranging from information about child development and social connections to support in navigating the safety net and behavioral health systems. By investing in Home Visiting and Family Resource Centers (FRCs), First 5 Riverside County has an opportunity to promote healthy family functioning and prevent maltreatment of children through a multi-platform approach that reaches families in their homes and communities. Both Home Visiting and FRCs are service delivery models that are able to respond to a range of needs in family-friendly spaces.

Home Visiting

First 5 Riverside County is partnering with key stakeholders and associated sector leaders to co-design a system of home visiting. The stakeholders envision a system where all families have access to home visiting services for the prenatal to five year period through an integrated system that positively impacts healthy development and early learning. The envisioned system will:

- Ensure equity in access.
- Be responsive to family strengths and needs.

- Empower and support families to speak to their own needs and advocate for the child and family.
- Advance strengths-based programming and use a relationship-based approach.
- Function as part of a bigger system of supports within communities and the county.
- To make effective home visitation available to more families who need it.

First 5 Riverside County has worked to expand funding and implementation of multiple evidence-based home visiting models that have been shown to make a positive difference for children and families on a range of outcomes related to the Protective Factors. Expansion of these models has included leveraging additional funds, including CalWORKs, and working with key partners to establish upstream efforts to assess family strengths and needs and make offers of home visiting and other supportive services from which families can most benefit.

First 5 Riverside County's investments in family resiliency draw heavily on evidence-based and promising-practice models, most of which require National affiliation and entail annual monitoring of outcomes and measurements to ensure and maintain the fidelity of the model. In addition to Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and SafeCare, other prominent family strengthening models that First 5 Riverside County supports include Parents As Teachers (PAT), Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPO), Healthy Families America (HFA), Parent Child Plus (PC+), and Nurturing Parent Program (NPP).

Investments will primarily address direct services for children who are living in communities of highest need and/or are at risk of abuse or neglect. Risk factors may include childhood-related trauma, poverty, parental substance abuse, and repeated changes in caregivers and schools, which result in poor emotional response in children, affecting their early learning development and opportunities to grow in stable environments. Supported programs will serve overlapping populations with some programs targeting first-time parents, children with incarcerated parents, and pregnant women. Other approaches focus specifically on teenage parents, low-income families, or geographically-isolated families.

The parent/caregiver and service provider relationship is foundational to increasing Protective Factors, given the critical role parents/caregivers play in their child's development. Therefore, First 5 Riverside County, in partnership with others, will seek to impact systems of services and supports to better engage parents/caregivers in fostering their child's early learning and healthy development. This will be undertaken through the expansion of existing programs that create a continuum of services for children and families and improves child outcomes through strengthening families.

Strategy Narrative

Family Resource Centers are collaborative partnerships of public and non-profit

organizations that bring together services and activities which support and promote healthy family functioning. Model Family Resource Centers are prevention focused, community responsive, strength-based spaces for families to connect, learn and exercise their leadership. FRCs may provide:

- Comprehensive Case Management
- Access to concrete supports
- Differential response programming that supports families with child welfare involvement
- Treatment programs
- Parenting education and supports
- Formal services for children and youth
- Social activities and peer support opportunities

First 5 Riverside County partners with the Department of Public Social Services to fund the county-operated FRCs, while also committing to expanding access to family resource centers by partnering with community-based and trusted agencies to provide stronger linkages for families to an array of support services through a family resource center network. Further, the Commission has matched county child welfare dollars to invest in enhancing early childhood programming within FRCs.



Goal 3 Activities

A. DIRECT SERVICES

Services for children

- Prevent children experiencing housing instability from becoming homeless through FRCs and home visiting programs.
 - Operate Riverside County Family Resource Centers through a partnership with the Department of Public Social Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Council and community-based providers, with funding targeted for the prevention of child maltreatment and matching funds from Proposition 10 to enhance services for the prenatal to five population.
 - Expand the network of family resource centers in Riverside County by investing in community-based organizations that are trusted by families to function as part of a network of Family Resource locations.

Services for families/caregivers

- Provide families/caregivers with access to evidence-based home visiting models through partnerships with providers who have expertise in the provision of home visiting programs, parent education, and parent and father-friendly practices, to optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect:
 - Connect families to community supports and resources to meet basic needs.
 - Address personal and environmental health, parenting, life course development, relationships with family and friends and community connections.
 - Provide parenting tools to support positive parent-child interactions and respond appropriately to challenging child behaviors.
 - Increase families'/caregivers' knowledge of child development.
 - Build positive parenting skills and resilient families.
- Support parent engagement on child brain development, including Talk. Read. Sing.®

B. SYSTEMS CHANGE

Building provider capacity

- Mobilize health providers to systematically engage parents/caregivers in supporting their child's development through the promotion of evidence-based programs that increase protective factors in home and community settings.
- Identify data collection tools and performance measures that inform best practice and continuous improvement in building resilient families.
- Harness local leadership to improve local services.

Goal 3 Results

Supporting organizations and communities to work better together

- Develop partnerships to strengthen the coordination of existing home visiting programs, FRCs, community hubs and alternative settings by convening and creating shared opportunities for learning and problem-solving.

Increasing and leveraging financial resources

- Align investments with programs that use the Protective Factors Framework and promote community hubs for integrated services and crisis supports for children and families.
- Align partnerships and investments supporting collaborative frameworks and local policies that address housing instability and homelessness in the region.
- Improve workforce development through leveraged skills and resources with organizational partners.

Educating parents and policymakers

- Build sustainable infrastructure through advocacy efforts with legislators and policymakers, increasing their understanding of the needs of children at risk of abuse and neglect and ensuring mutual responsibility for better outcomes for children and families.

Increased access

- Increased social supports for families.
- Increased connection for families to additional concrete support.

Increased quality

- Increased provider knowledge about child development and parenting and ability to integrate this knowledge into programming.
- Increased environments that provide safe and nurturing experiences for children.

Increased efficiency

- Strengthened and better coordinated social safety net which supports family resiliency and promotes self-sufficiency.

Increased consumer/community capacity

- Increased capacity of parents to support their child's development. Increased parent-provider engagement.
- Increased community capacity to support and promote the safety, healthy development, and well-being of children, prenatal through age 5, and their families.

Resilient Families Program Spotlight: HOME VISITING



What is home visiting?

Evidence-based home visitation models provide families of children, prenatal through age 5, with in-home support from a trained professional to strengthen protective factors and ensure that young children are safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Research demonstrates that home visiting programs that provide parent education and support to at-risk families can help to reduce rates of child abuse and neglect, and improve children's health, development, and school readiness outcomes. Home visiting increases families' access to services and resources that support family resiliency, building provider capacity to support families in caring for their children, and educating parents to have the skills and tools to help their children achieve their fullest potential.

How does home visiting strengthen the system of care for children and families?

A home visiting system that is nested within larger systems such as the healthcare, public health, child welfare and self-sufficiency systems is well-positioned to make contact with families at a time when they can most benefit from learning about resources available to support their child's development in the context of families' unique circumstances. A home visiting system with diverse offerings is able to act as a universal touchpoint for assessing how families may benefit and make best-fit offers of support. Systems of universal contact with families:

1. lower stigma associated with asking for help;
2. reduce isolation;
3. prevent poor child outcomes;
4. maximize the use of public funds; and
5. reduce longer-term need for higher-cost interventions

This approach prioritizes ensuring families are offered services commensurate with their strengths and needs and which optimizes system resources.

VI. COUNTYWIDE IMPACT

Goal 4

CROSS-PROGRAM GOAL

Goal Statement

Work with early childhood stakeholders, including State and County agencies, local educational agencies, the child care planning council, institutions of higher education, and elected officials to strengthen countywide efforts to create a comprehensive, integrated early childhood system to improve outcomes for children, prenatal through age 5, and their families.

Strategy Narrative

First 5 statute calls for County Commissions to focus on integrated and comprehensive systems of care for children 0 through 5 years of age. The Commission plays a significant role in working with partners that mirror First 5 Riverside County’s commitment towards enhancing early childhood systems and to leverage resources as a mechanism to advance the well-being of Riverside County’s youngest children and to strengthen families.

First 5 Riverside County has prioritized early intervention investments that build a foundation for a system of care that emphasizes (i) prevention, (ii) support for clinical and community linkages, and (iii) promotion of population-based approaches to addressing children’s comprehensive needs. Riverside’s investments in HealthySteps, Help Me Grow Inland Empire, and Home Visiting programs act as key drivers in actualizing a comprehensive care model of “systemized prevention.” This involves addressing three levels of preventive care, as illustrated in the graphic below: 1) universal assessment: providing universal access to early identification and basic services; 2) preventative care: providing services to families with moderate needs and preventing the need for safety net services; and 3) safety net: providing comprehensive service and safety net navigation to children and families exhibiting the highest needs for care.

SYSTEMATIZING PREVENTION



Goal 4 Activities

A. COMMUNICATIONS

- Utilize technology, including the First 5 Riverside County website, e-newsletter, and social media platforms to share information and resources such as trainings, best practices, latest research, and funding opportunities.
- Identify, update, design, and disseminate community resource materials to increase public awareness on the importance of early childhood investments.
- Participate in workgroups to facilitate communication, share learnings, and reduce silos among stakeholders on current priorities, goals, and projects to increase services for children and families and maximize resources.

B. RESEARCH AND DATA

- Support and guide efforts by Riverside County to conduct a needs assessment for children 0 through age 5 that accurately reflects the diversity of our communities.
- Improve data collection and coordination with other First 5 Commissions to enhance research and evaluation capacity.
- Develop internal measurement and learning plans, data collection processes and tools, and learning systems; train and orient staff as needed to new systems, tools, and processes.
- Integrate data systems where possible to enhance efficiencies.
- Support the dissemination and implementation of the Early Development Instrument that measures physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, cognitive skills, language and developing literacy and the ability to concentrate and follow directions.
- Maximize the use of technological tools such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to enhance visual interpretation of data in a mapping format (such as story mapping) that leads to better informed decision-making for investments.

C. ADVOCACY

- Promote and support First 5 California (F5CA) and the First 5 Association of California (F5A) policy platforms, and to the extent possible, align and collaborate on shared policy goals.
- Advocate for and support state legislative efforts for Medi-Cal expansion of home visitation to achieve sustainability.
- Explore and promote innovative funding models that have the potential to support infrastructure and increase affordable housing units within the region.
- Elevate the early care and education profession by increasing compensation,

providing professional development opportunities, and emphasizing diversity across the field.

- Regulate tobacco products and promote smoking cessation.
- Explore and advance additional revenue sources for services to children and families.
- Improve and integrate data systems to track and evaluate children’s outcomes.
- Increase use of and integrate essential Medi-Cal services across systems of care, including dental, mental health, and vision services.
- Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including home visiting and parent education, and parent and father friendly practices to optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- Strengthen the social safety net to build family resiliency and promote early relational health.

Goal 4 Results

Communications

- Policymakers and legislators have an increased understanding of the importance of early brain development and the impact on families, especially those living in poverty.
- Community members have a greater understanding of early childhood challenges through educational campaigns such as Talk.Read.Sing.®, Kit for New Parents, and Quality Start Riverside County.

Research and Data

- Riverside County specific early childhood needs assessment utilized as a tool to make data-informed decisions.
- First 5 Riverside has a robust system and internal capability for monitoring and evaluation practices that support program excellence and continuous improvement.
- Evidence-based models, practices, and positive outcomes are at the core of investments undertaken by the Commission.

Advocacy

- Shared policy goals and legislative platform recommendations developed annually.
- New, diverse, and innovative funding sources secured for prenatal through age 5 programs in the county.

VII. PROCUREMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

First 5 Riverside County is committed to funding strategies and programs that make positive impacts within the community. All strategies in this plan include results and measurable indicators that will be used to assess progress and performance. The results and indicators for each goal are all connected to the First 5 Riverside County Impact Model and will be used as the basis for contracts with external entities to carry out its work, and to guide the monitoring processes in place to ensure contract compliance and learn whether, and for what reasons, results are or are not being achieved. Annual plans for all goal areas are based on the strategies presented in this document and results will be assessed and reported to the Commission on an annual basis.

Evaluation identifies the success of past investments and defines future priorities. Evidence-based models are the premise of First 5 Riverside County's efforts in moving the needle towards positive results for children and families in the county. As collaborative functioning increasingly characterizes how we engage with partners across the county, evaluation of our efforts to build capacity will be paramount to our implementation of programs and investments. This work will involve reviewing the framework of our service systems and consider the effectiveness of the service pathways.

Systems change is complex and requires strong stakeholder engagement, commitment, and accountability. Given First 5 Riverside County's focus on systems change, the evaluation of these efforts across the service system will be critical to the ongoing prioritization for Commission investments. This provides the opportunity to identify different strategies that lead to better outcomes for children and their families.

This also aligns with the Riverside County mission to identify collaboration opportunities and innovative partnerships to maximize public funds to impact a greater number of citizens. As tobacco tax revenues continue to decrease, First 5 Riverside County will increase its efforts to increase and diversify funding streams for children and families in order to ensure the development of comprehensive, integrated systems and services for children and families.



The Strategic Plan Revision Process

Following are the Commission Review actions relating to the current strategic plan and preceding the approval of this plan:

- December 9, 2020 – Action Item 20-41, Commission approved extension of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic plan through June 30, 2023.
- December 11, 2019 – Action Item 19-33, Annual Review and Public Hearing of Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2018 – 2021.
- December 13, 2017 – Action Item 17-19, Commission approved revised Strategic Plan for July 1, 2018 implementation.
- May 10, 2017 – Action Item 17-06, Commission approved existing plan, with no changes.
- October 28, 2015 – Action Item 15-25, Commission approved and adopted 2016 – 2021, five-year Strategic Plan.

The California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code Section 13140 (Proposition 10) requires Commissions to annually review strategic plans and adjust accordingly based on revised priorities. First 5 Riverside County engaged Learning for Action (LFA) to guide the updating of its 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and to support the 2022 Annual Review, which upon approval by the Commission, will be Version IV of the current strategic plan. The process included the following components:

Management Team Workshop: LFA designed and facilitated a session with First 5 Riverside County's Management Team on September 14, 2021 to brainstorm environmental factors and recent developments that should inform the update of the strategic plan.

Executive Management Team Collaboration: LFA worked with First 5 Riverside County's Executive Management Team to integrate input from the full Management Team and solicit targeted input from other staff and board members to update information about First 5 Riverside County's context and progress towards objectives.

Strategy Development: LFA worked with First 5 Riverside County staff to use the updated information about context and progress towards objectives to refine the activities and results articulated in each of First 5 Riverside County's 4 program areas: Quality Early Learning, Comprehensive Health and Development, Resilient Families, and Countywide Impact strategies.

Strategic Plan Approval: The plan was presented and approved by the Commission during a regularly scheduled meeting held on May 11, 2022. First 5 Riverside County staff and LFA made refinements to the plan based on Commissioner feedback.

Programs, Terms & Acronyms to Know

Alternative Payment (AP) Program: State programs that provide assistance with child care payments through a subsidized (alternative) payment.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or the American Rescue Plan (ARP), is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to accelerate the United States' recovery from the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan includes \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. These funds known as the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide of the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM): CalAIM is a long-term commitment to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal, offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory.

California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP): The program provides vouchers for families to obtain childcare in licensed childcare centers, licensed family childcare homes, or license-exempt care. The family may choose the type of care that their child receives. Alternative payment programs use federal and state funding to provide vouchers for low-income families ranked on income eligibility. The Riverside County Office of Education administers CAPP and provides support to families to arrange childcare services and makes payment for those services directly to the childcare provider selected by the family.

California Department of Health Care Services: State department dedicated to providing Californians with access to affordable, integrated, high-quality health care, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services and long-term care.

Care Coordination: Involves an intentional and deliberate approach in organizing various services and activities (such as healthcare and social services) for individuals and families through a person-centered approach, including sharing information among all participants concerned to achieve better outcomes for participants seeking support. This includes ensuring appropriate delivery of services and active follow up of resources are aligned with individual and family needs and priorities.

CARES Act: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 116th U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020, in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The Act provided fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, small businesses, and industries.

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS): A county department that provides temporary financial assistance and employment services for families and individuals, programs and services to protect children and adults from abuse and/or neglect, and access to health care coverage to low income individuals and families.

Early Childhood Oral Health Assessment (ECOHA): A new screening tool for non-dental providers for children 0 through 5 to assess the current condition of the teeth and overall health of children aged 0 through 5.

Early Development Instrument (EDI): The EDI is a validated, population-based measure of early child development in five key domains (physical health, emotional maturity, social competence, language and cognitive skills, and communications skills and general knowledge). The EDI is a 103-item questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers in the second half of the school year which has shown to predict later school success.

Evidence-Based: Refers to the use of research and scientific studies as a base for determining best practices.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC): Entities as defined by the Social Security Act at section 1905(l)(2) which is receiving a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. Programs meeting the FQHC requirements commonly include the following: Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless Programs, Public Housing Primary Care Programs, Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes, and Tribal Health Centers.

First 5 Association of California (F5A): A nonprofit membership organization for the fifty eight First 5 County Commissions. The Association connects Commissions to other public and nonprofit partners, including county departments, foundations and child advocacy organizations to ensure collaboration and a common statewide agenda to ensure the best future for children.

First 5 California (F5CA): A statewide Commission created by voters under Proposition 10 to recognize that children’s health and education are a top priority, especially in the early years of development.

First 5 Riverside Hybrid Alternative Payment Program (RHAP): RHAP is a subsidized reimbursement program that provides scholarship slots for families with children 0 through 5 years of age that meet eligibility criteria to access early care and education in quality settings. The RHAP program supplements and enhances the existing California Alternative Payment Program by funding additional scholarship slots for families at a higher income or with specific needs therefore expanding services to a greater number of children.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

Healthy Families America (HFA): A home visiting approach for at-risk families that supports positive parent-child engagement, promotes optimal child health and development, and enhances parental resiliency.

HealthySteps: A national initiative that focuses on the importance of the first three years of life. Healthy Steps emphasizes a close relationship between health care professionals and parents in addressing the physical, emotional and intellectual growth and development of children from birth to age three.

Help Me Grow (HMG): A system model that works to promote cross-sector collaboration to build efficient and effective early childhood systems that mitigate the impact of adversity and support protective factors among families, so that all children can grow, develop, and thrive to their full potential.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI): A home visiting model that provides parents with moderate to intensive support that promotes early literacy practices, focuses on school readiness through

parent-involved and parent-directed early learning.

Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT): First 5 California initiative aimed at increasing the number of high-quality early learning settings, including supporting and engaging families in the early learning process.

Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF): LIIF is a non-profit community development financial institution (CDFI) that has invested over \$2 billion in capital to high-impact community development projects nationally, including \$200 million in investments to support ECE nationwide. LIIF has a dedicated focus on improving access to quality ECE and has served the ECE sector for nearly 30 years. Additionally, LIIF served as the facilities-lead on the California Early Learning and Care Master Plan.

Managed Care: Managed Care is a health care delivery system organized to manage cost, utilization, and quality. Medicaid managed care provides for the delivery of Medicaid health benefits and additional services through contracted arrangements between state Medicaid agencies and managed care organizations (MCOs) that accept a set per member per month (capitation) payment for these services.

Medi-Cal Managed Care: California's approach to healthcare and consists of established networks of organized systems of care, which emphasize primary and preventive care.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): A professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy and research.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): A maternal and early childhood health home visitation program that fosters long-term success for first-time moms, their babies and society.

Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP): A low intensity in-home (and/or group-based) program for multiple specific populations (such as parents of teens, parents of children birth to five) to increase parenting skills and strengthen parent-child relationships

ParentChild Plus (PC+): Early Learning Specialists from the community who share language/culture background from the family, provide home visiting support to parents/caregivers to support children's healthy development, increase cognitive, social-emotional and early literacy skills through reading, conversation and play.

Parents as Teachers (PAT): A parent education home visitation program designed to give children the best start in life, based on the philosophy that parents are their first and most influential teachers.

Proposition 56: California ballot proposition that passed on the November 8, 2016 ballot. It increased the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, effective April 1, 2017, with equivalent increases on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Proposition 56 backfill replaces revenue lost attributable to the decline in consumption due to this tax increase

Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS): A QRIS is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, QRIS awards quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. By participating in their State's QRIS, early and school-age care providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement. Even providers that have met the standards

of the lowest QRIS levels have achieved a level of quality that is beyond the minimum requirements to operate.

Raising A Reader: A model designed to engage caregivers in a routine of book sharing with children from birth through age 8 to foster healthy brain development, healthy relationships, a love of reading and the literacy skills critical for school success.

Reach Out and Read (ROR): An evidence-based model recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics which incorporates early literacy into pediatric practice to equip parents with tools and knowledge to ensure children are prepared to learn when they start school.

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE): The agency that provides specific educational, financial, legislative and leadership services and support to all K-12 school districts in Riverside County.

SafeCare: An evidence-based curriculum for parents who are at-risk or have been reported for child maltreatment.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH): SDOH refers to factors in the external environment (non-medical factors) where people are born, live, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life risks and outcomes. Examples of SDOH are: safe housing, transportation, neighborhoods, education, job opportunities, racism, discrimination, violence, access to nutritious food and physical activity, polluted air/water, language and literacy skills. Screening for risk factors of SDOH support a holistic approach in identifying and addressing circumstances for individuals and families.

Virtual Dental Home (VDH): Using tele-health technology, the VDH creates a community-based oral health delivery system in which children 0 through 20 years of age receive preventive and simple therapeutic services in community settings.

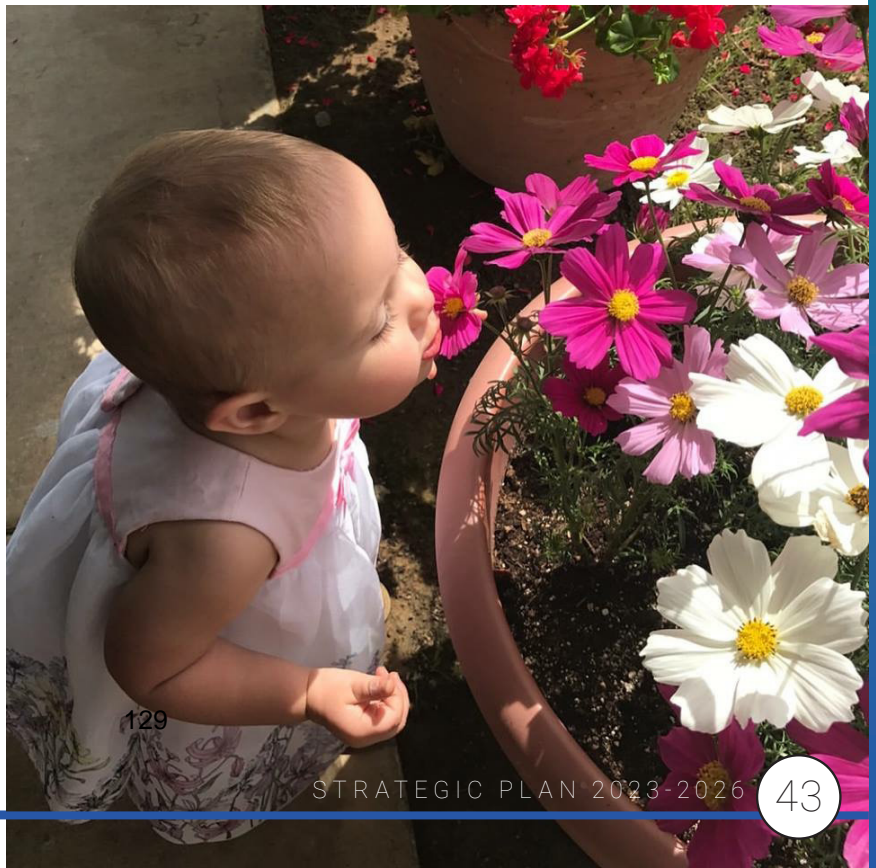
Sources

- 1 "Systems Building and Policy Engagement." Presentation by the First 5 Association of California to a First 5 Riverside Commission meeting on February 23, 2017.
- 2 SHAPE Riverside County, Demographic information provided by Claritas, updated January 2021.
- 3 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020
- 4 Kidsdata.org (CITATION ADDED)
- 5 CA Dept. of Finance
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Public Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics.
- 7 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments 2018-19 academic year.
- 8 The Heckman 13% ROI Research Toolkit
- 9 The 2015 Child Care Portfolio produced by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- 10 Center for American Progress's 2013 study of the effects of budget cuts on Early Childhood Education programs
- 11 County Health Ranking & Roadmaps: Building a Culture of Health, County by County, California. 2017 State Level Data and Ranks. (CITATION ADDED 1ST INSTANCE)
- 12 CA Health Care Foundation, October 2019
- 13 Riverside County Indicators Report 2014
- 14 Family Health Outcomes Project: Community Health Status Report 2010
- 15 CA Department of Public Health Status Profiles
- 16 Kidsdata.org
- 17 Department of Health Care Services (DHCS): California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Our Journey to a Healthier California for All
- 18 US Census Bureau American Community Survey
- 19 Kidsdata.org, a program of PRB, analysis of California Department of Education custom tabulation (Dec. 2021)
- 20 SHAPE Riverside County, Children Living Below Poverty Level, Measurement Period 2015-2019
- 21 University of California, Berkley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center cited in 2020 Substantiated Child Abuse Rate under 30 Community Dashboard in SHAPE Riverside County
- 22 Office of the California Surgeon General, Information and Resources: COVID-19 – Manage Stress for Health
- 23 National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health
- 24 Created by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework is a strength-based initiative for preventing child abuse and neglect in families with children birth to age 5 <https://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/basic-one-pagers/Strengthening-Families-Protective-Factors.pdf>
- 25 Led by WestEd, California for all Kids: Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/educator-prep/files/master-plan-for-early-learning-and-care.pdf?sfvrsn=b6512bb1_2

APPENDIX C: FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

The Family Protective Factors include the following:

- 1. Parent Resilience:** No one can eliminate stress from parenting but building parental resilience can affect how a parent deals with stress. Parental resilience is the ability to constructively cope with and bounce back from all types of challenges. It is about creatively solving problems, building trusting relationships, maintaining a positive attitude and seeking help when it is needed.
- 2. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development:** Having accurate information about raising young children and appropriate expectations for their behavior help parents better understand and care for children. It is important that information is available when parents need it, that is when it is relevant to their life and their child. Parents whose own families used harsh discipline techniques or parents of children with developmental or behavior problems or special needs require extra support in building this Protective Factor.
- 3. Social and Emotional Competence of Children:** A child's ability to interact positively with others, to self-regulate, and to effectively communicate his or her emotions has a great impact on the parent-child relationship. Children with challenging behaviors are more likely to be abused, so early identification and working with them helps keep their development on track and keeps them safe. Also, children who have experienced or witnessed violence need a safe environment that offers opportunities to develop normally.
- 4. Social Connections:** Friends, family, neighbors, and other members of a community provide emotional support and concrete assistance to parents. Social connections help parents build networks of support that serve multiple purposes: they can help parents develop and reinforce community norms around childrearing, provide assistance in times of need, and serve as a resource for parenting information or help solving problems. Because isolation is a common risk factor for abuse and neglect, parents who are isolated need support in building positive friendships.
- 5. Concrete Support in Times of Need:** Parents need access to the types of concrete supports and services that can minimize the stress of difficult situations, such as a family crisis, a condition such as substance abuse, or stress associated with lack of resources. Building this Protective Factor is about helping to ensure the basic needs of a family, such as food, clothing, and shelter, are met and connecting parents and children to services, especially those that have a stigma associated with them, like domestic violence shelter or substance abuse counseling, in times of crisis.





 **FIRST 5**
Riverside County
Children & Families Commission

585 Technology Court, Riverside, CA 92507
1.800.266.3880 • www.First5Riverside.org



Approved January 25, 2023

F. **Presentations/Information Items – Zachary Ginder, Chair**

- F.1. Autism and Developmental Delay Systems Landscape Report and Recommendations - Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Kristin Gist, Consultant, Early Childhood Development and Mental Health

Early Childhood Developmental Delay and Autism Systems Landscape

Screening, Treatment, Referrals and Linkage to Services

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A presentation to the First 5 Riverside County, Children and Families Commission
by Kristin Gist March 13, 2024

Acknowledgments: Noah Kim and Joe Parsons, MPP interns from UCR



How can we identify, support, and protect our most vulnerable children with developmental needs?

Methodology



Developed survey based upon conversations with 30+ stakeholders



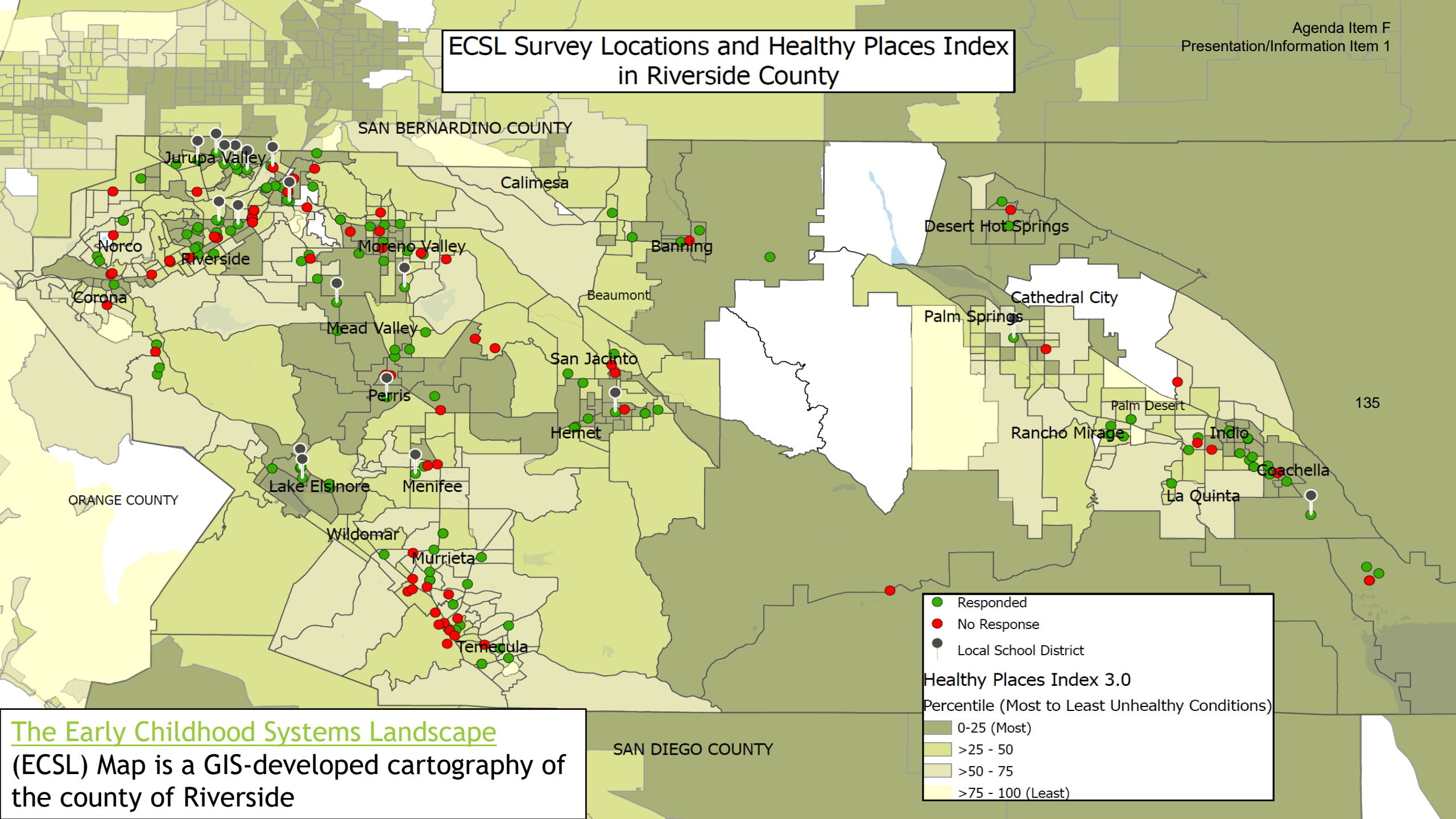
Distributed 150 surveys (direct) and others pushed to groups (e.g., ECE). Total 116 responded

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Responders included: Administrators, Early Childhood Educators, Mental Health Therapists, Developmental Therapists (Speech, OT, PT, ABA) & MDs

ECSL Survey Locations and Healthy Places Index in Riverside County



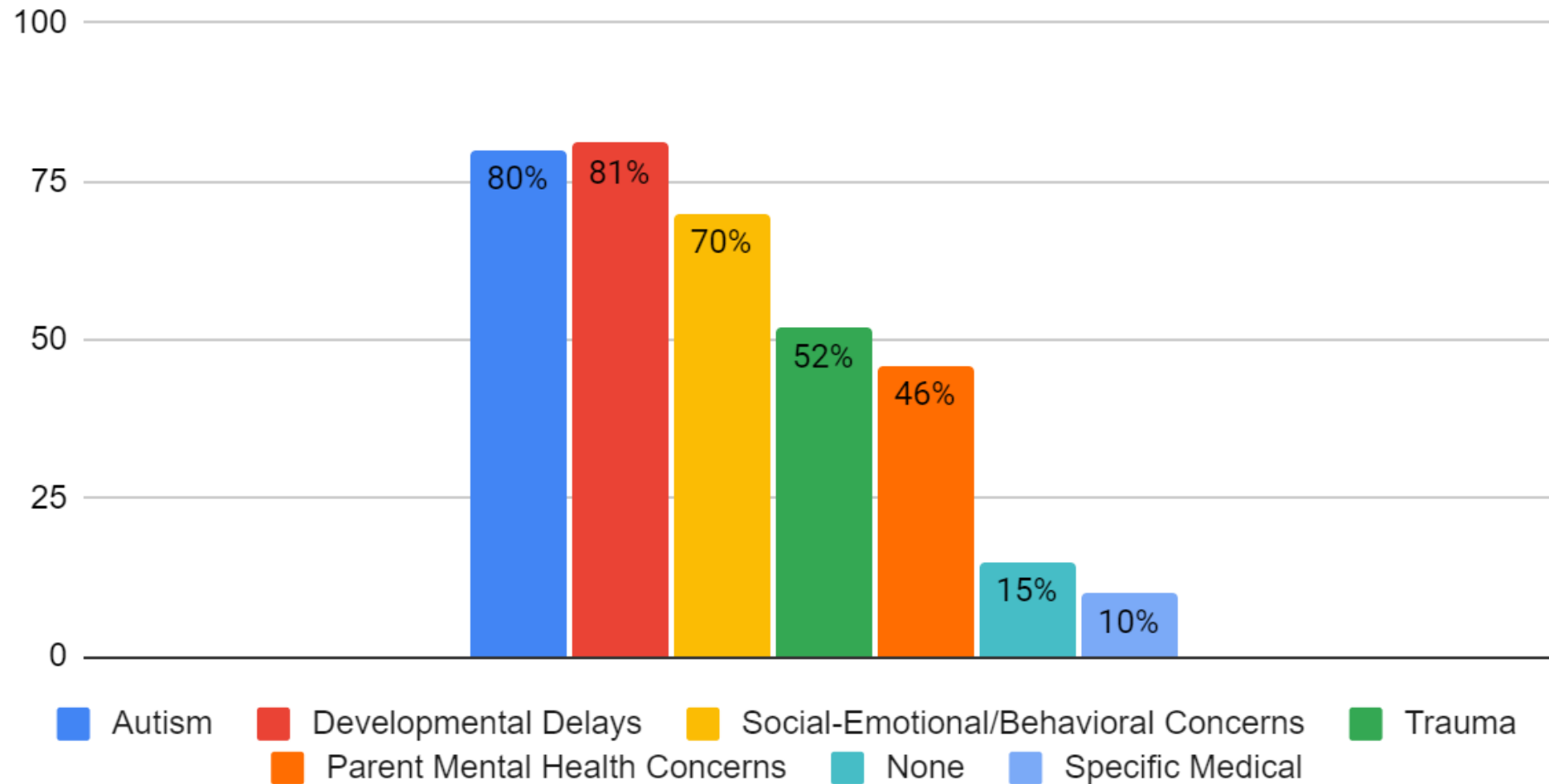
The Early Childhood Systems Landscape
(ECSL) Map is a GIS-developed cartography of the county of Riverside

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

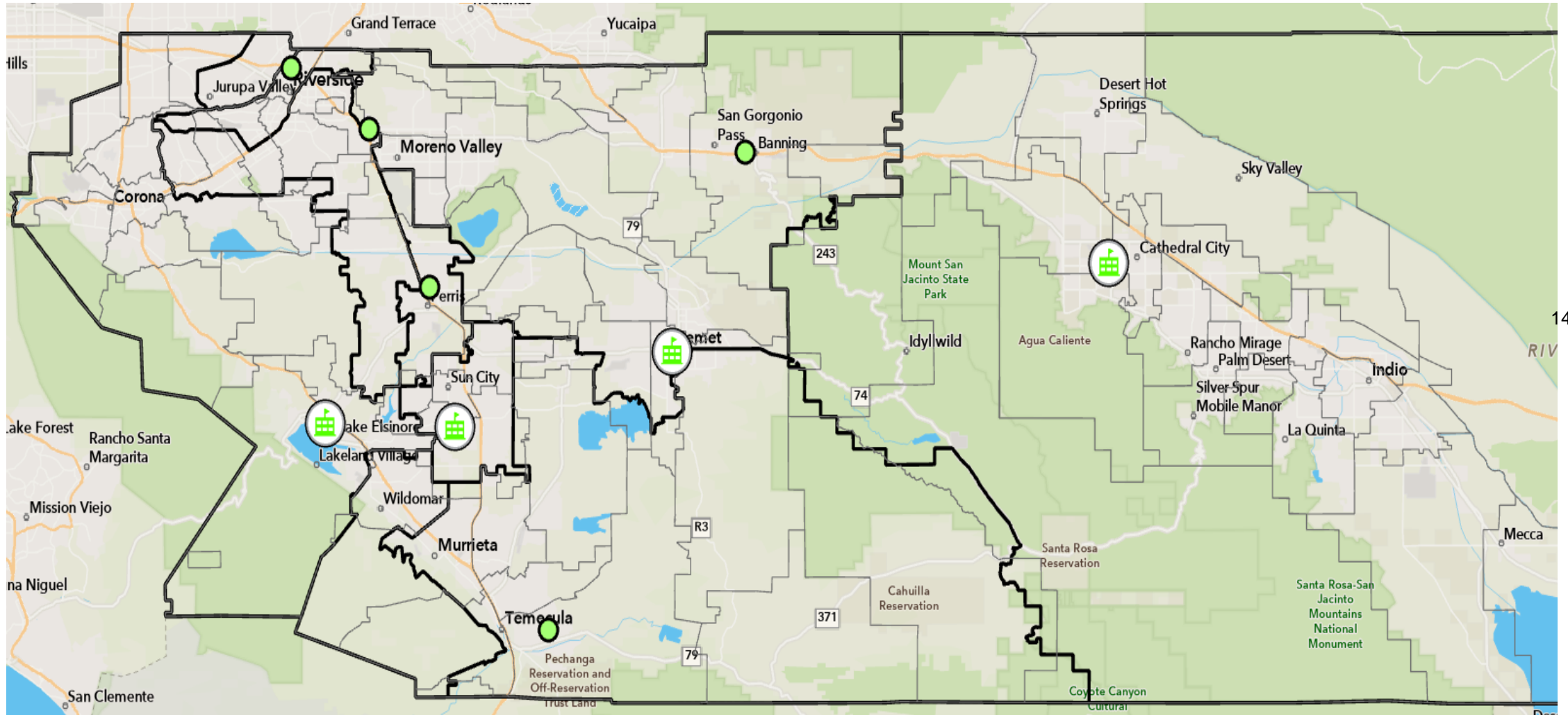
Survey: Areas of focus for treatment

- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Other Developmental Delays and Disorders
- ▶ Social-Emotional/Behavioral
- ▶ Trauma
- ▶ Parent Mental Health

Do you serve children experiencing, at risk for, or diagnosed with any of the following?



Parent mental health treatment



Survey: Continuum of services

- ▶ Screening
- ▶ Referrals
 - ▶ Provider concerns around barriers
 - ▶ Provider ideas for improvement
- ▶ Linkage to services

Screening must occur to identify children who need services

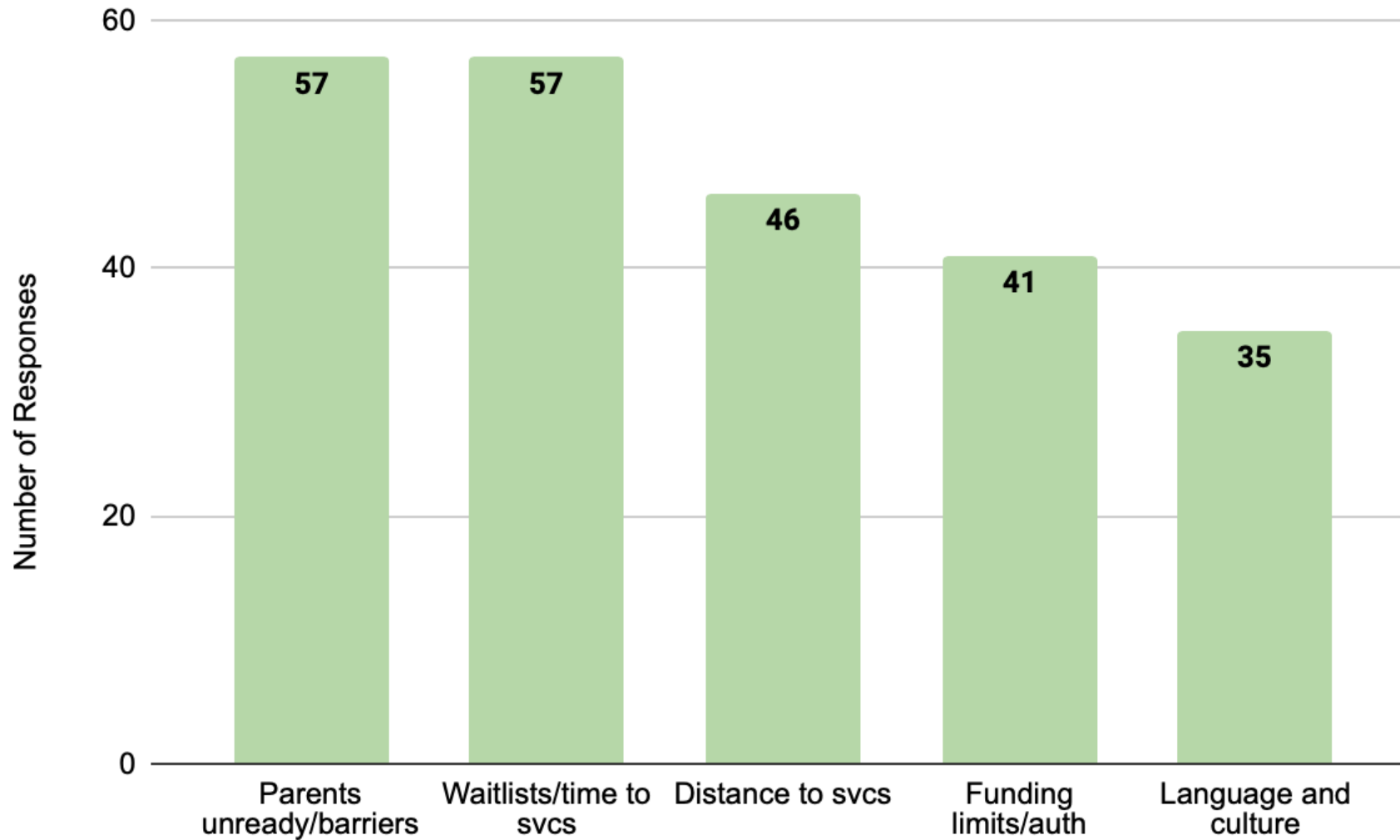
Of 116 respondents:

- ▶ Nearly all who screen use the ASQ3 and many use the ASQ SE
- ▶ 55 screen for autism but only 12 (10%) use an autism specific screening tool
 - ▶ This might impact the type of services offered
- ▶ Few offer screening for Adverse Childhood Events (ACE), but many are serving these children
- ▶ Only HealthySteps and some medical practices routinely screen for parent mental health, but many serve children whose parents have mental health concerns

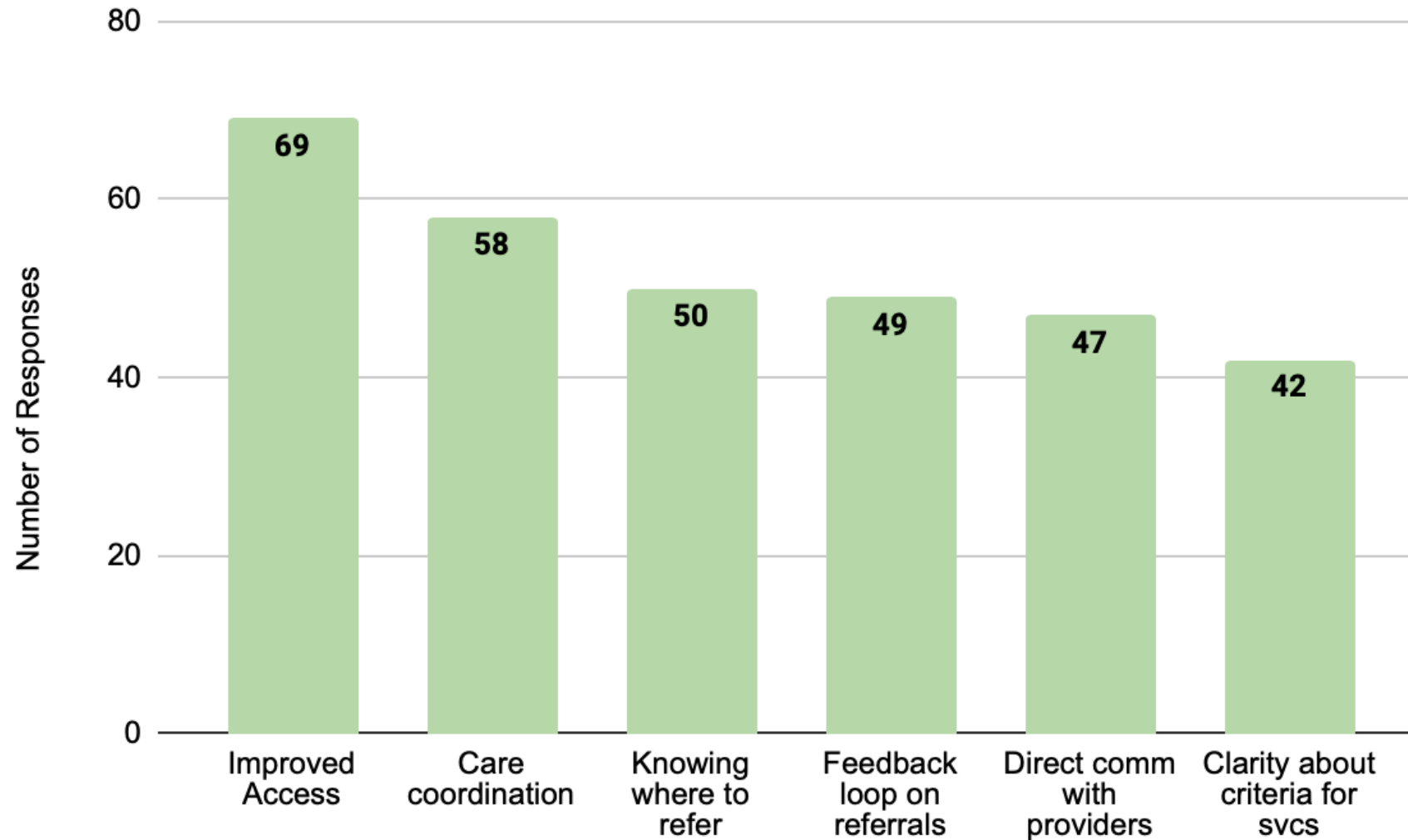
Respondents' concerns about barriers and their ideas for improvement

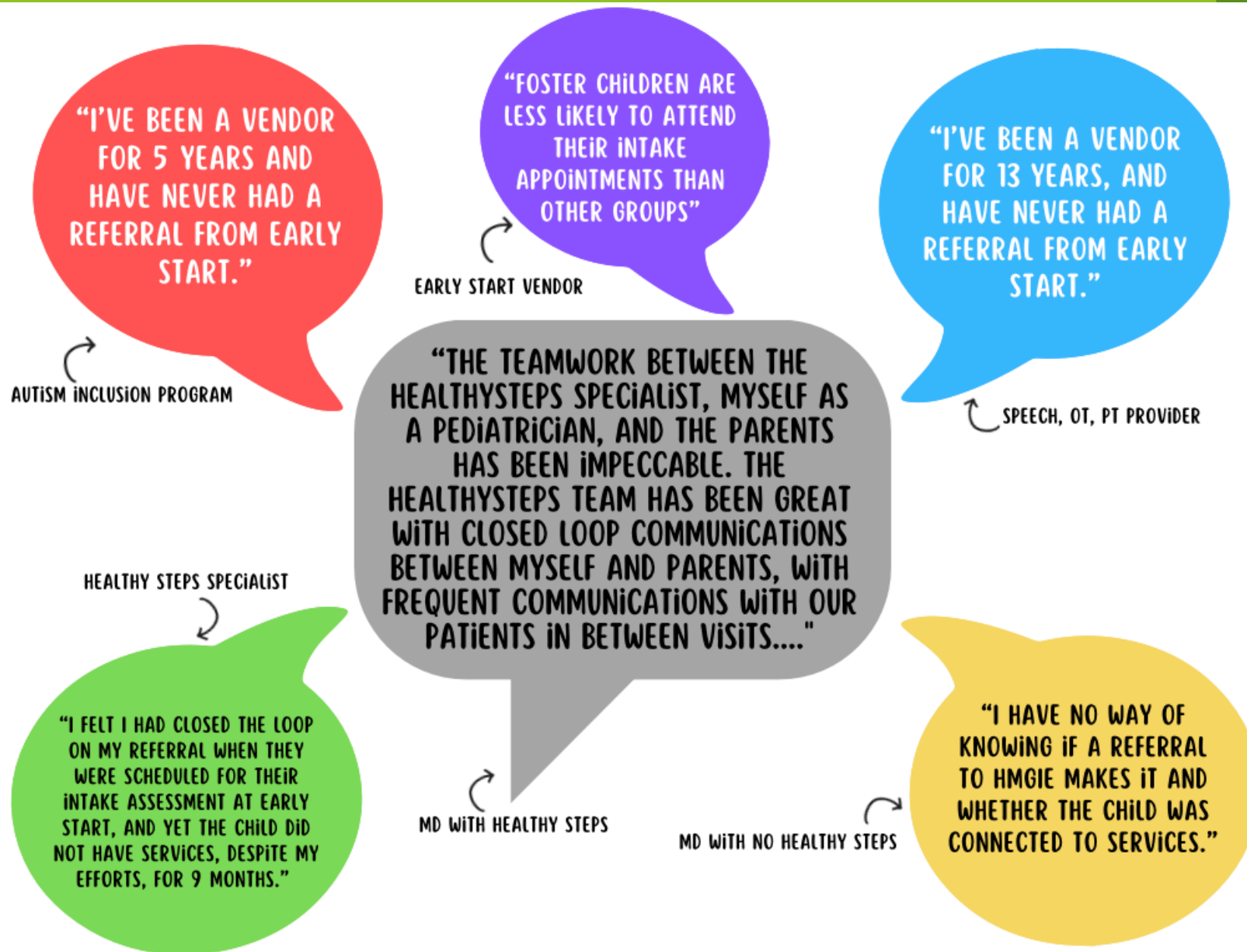


Top 5 Barriers to Securing Services



What Will Make Us Better?





Where do we go from here?



PRESENTED TO ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TODAY FOR
DEEPER DIVE



EXPLORE FINDINGS AND
DEVELOP WORK PLAN



CONSIDER WORKGROUPS
AROUND SPECIFIC
FINDINGS



DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO
IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Questions and Comments?



Resources:

Kristin Gist: gistkristin@gmail.com

<https://www.livebinders.com/b/2665813> English Version of Mind the Gap- Autism

<https://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=2835957> Spanish Version of Mind the Gap- Autism

F.2. Information Only - First 5 Riverside County Vendors Over 25K List - Receive and File



Cumulative Vendor List FY 23/24

Agenda Item F
Presentation/Information Item 2

	Vendor	Description	Action Item	Commission Approval Date	Total	YTD Expenditures as of 02/21/24
1	First 5 Association of California	Membership	23-26	5/10/2023	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2	Totalplan and/or GM Business Interiors	Office Reconfigurations	23-26	5/10/2023	\$ 200,000	\$ 138,124
3	Golden State Technology and/or Saitech	Computers & related equipment	23-26	5/10/2023	\$ 90,000	\$ 40,754
4	Raising A Reader	Training and materials	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,092
5	LakeShore Parent LLC	Learning materials	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,444
6	CM School Supply	Learning materials	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ -
7	Discount School Supply	Learning materials	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ -
8	Hexagramm Books	Learning materials	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ -
9	Zero To Three	Region 9 HUB Training	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ -
10	Teachstone	Region 9 HUB Training	24-04	1/24/2024	\$ 50,000	\$ -
11	US Bank	County Credit Card Bank	ED Approval	3/13/2024- Pending	\$ 50,000	\$ 23,807
12	Momentive Inc	SurveyMonkey	ED Approval	3/13/2024- Pending	\$ 30,000	\$ 8,000
13	California Association for Infant Mental	Inland Empire Mental Health Symposium	ED Approval	3/13/2024- Pending	\$ 48,655	\$ 48,655

- G. Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Presentation
- H. **Future Agenda Items:**
 - H.1. First 5 Riverside County Third Quarter Financial Highlights
 - H.2. First 5 Riverside County Annual Budget
 - H.3. First 5 Riverside County Champion for Children Award Recipient Nomination
 - H.4. First 5 Riverside County Communications Plan
 - H.5. First 5 Riverside County Legislative Policy Agenda
- I. **Adjournment:** Adjournment to the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on May 08, 2024 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at:
Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office
585 Technology Court - Conference Room A
Riverside, CA 92507

Conflict of Interest: Any person, or group of persons present at this meeting, who wish (es) to speak on a matter may be required to state for the record any contributions, in excess of \$250.00 made in the past (12) twelve months, made to any Commission member, the Commission member receiving the contribution, and the matter of consideration with which they are involved.

Agenda Posting: Agendas will be posted at the Clerk of the Board of Riverside County and the Commission Business Office.

All public record documents for matters on the open session of the Agenda are available for inspection at the meeting listed in this Agenda, and at the following location beginning three (3) days prior to the meeting date:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission
585 Technology Court
Riverside, CA 92507**

If a public record document that relates to a matter on the open session of the Agenda is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date, the public record document shall be available for inspection, at the same time it is distributed, at the address listed above. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.