Meeting Agenda
First 5 Merced County
July 13, 2020
3:00 PM
Online

https://zoom.us/j/98476206954?pwd=bU9VNktpUzZ0K1dtUG9kcGttQnQrZz09
Phone: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 984 7620 6954
Password: 544725

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 CRISIS, AND AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, MERCED COUNTY FIRST 5 COMMISSIONERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING OFFSITE AND ONLINE USING ZOOM MEETING SOFTWARE. PUBLIC ACCESS TO A MEETING LOCATION WILL BE UNAVAILABLE. FOR THE SAFETY OF STAFF AND THE PUBLIC, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY AND/OR OBSERVE A LIVE BROADCAST OF THE MEETING ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT INCLUDED WITH THIS AGENDA. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES VIEWING OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEETING OR REQUIRE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, PLEASE CONTACT STAFF AT (209) (385-7337).

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Commissioners Roll Call

IV. Opportunity for Public Comment
Members of the public may comment on any item under the Board’s jurisdiction. Matters presented under this item will not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For agenda items, the public may make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. If you wish to make a comment, please submit your comment via email by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the First 5 Merced Commission meeting. Please submit your comment to First 5 Merced at scott.waite@countyofmerced.com. Your comment will be placed into the record at the meeting.
V. **Consent Calendar**
All items listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if no member of the Commission or audience wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Commission concerning the item before action is taken.

2020-07-001 Approval of Minutes for the June 8, 2020 Commission Meeting

2020-07-002 Approval of Expenditure through June 30, 2020

VI. **Public Hearings**
2020-07-003 First 5 California Annual Report for FY 18/19: Commission to review, discuss and consider approving the FY 18/19 First 5 California Annual Report.

VII. **Action Items**

2020-07-004 Request for Applications (RFA) Community Engagement Event Sponsorships: Commission to review, discuss and consider releasing a RFA for FY 20/21 in the amount of $50,000.

2020-07-005 Request for Proposals (RFP) Mini-Grants: Commission to review, discuss and consider releasing a RFA for FY 20/21 in the amount of $100,000.

2020-07-006 Request for Proposals (RFP) Innovation Grants: Commission to review, discuss and consider releasing a RFA for FY 20/21 in the amount of $300,000.

2020-07-007 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) Sub-Contract with Merced County Office of Education: Commission to review, discuss and consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Contract with MCOE for FY 20/21, FY 21/22 and FY 22/23.

VIII. **Informational Agenda Items**

2020-07-008 Staff Report: July 2002

IX. **Future Agenda Items**
- Minutes from July 13, 2020 Commission Meeting
- Approval of Expenditure through July 31, 2020
- Request for Applications – Help Me Grow
- Request for Proposals – Prenatal & Postpartum Care
- Request for Applications – ACES Community Coalition “ACES Merced”
- Request for Proposals – Parent Education
- Request for Applications – Community Resource & Referral
- Request for Applications – Family Resource Center (FRC) Planning Grant
- Request for Applications – Capacity Building
- Study Session: First 5 Merced Minimum Fund Balance

X. **Commissioner Reports**

XI. **Review Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**
- August 10, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Public Comment is Taken on Each Agenda Item
Please note that the order in which the agenda items are considered may be subject to change.

All supporting documentation is available for public review at 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, California during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Any material related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the First 5 Commissioners after distribution of the Agenda packet is available for public inspection at 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, California.

The Agenda is available online at http://www.first5mercedcounty.org/

First 5 Merced County proudly supports the Children’s Bill of Rights for Merced County

Hearing Assistance Devices Are Available for Public Use Inquire Within First 5 Merced County. Persons, who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of First 5 Merced County per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation in writing addressed to 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, California 95341 or telephonically by calling (209) 385-7337. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

Dispositivos De Asistencia Auditiva Están Disponibles Para Uso Público Dentro de First 5 Merced County. Personas que requieren acomodación por cualquier discapacidad auditiva, visual o de otro tipo para revisar una agenda, o para participar en una reunión de First 5 en el Condado de Merced según la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), pueden obtener asistencia solicitando está acomodación por escrito dirigida a 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, California 95341 o por teléfono llamando al (209) 385-7337. Cualquier solicitud debe hacerse al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión programada para la cual se solicita asistencia.
IMPORTANT NOTICE AND GUIDANCE REGARDING COVID-19 & PUBLIC HEARINGS

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Office, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please comply with the following:

1. Meeting location(s) will be unavailable to the public in order to limit potential transmission of COVID-19.

2. You are strongly encouraged to observe the live stream of the First 5 Merced Commission meetings remotely by visiting:
   II. https://zoom.us/j/98476206954?pwd=bU9VNktpUzZ0K1dtUG9kcGtQnQrZz09
   Meeting ID: 984 7620 6954
   Password: 544725
   or
   Phone: (669) 900-6833
   Meeting ID: 984 7620 6954
   Password: 544725

1. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 3:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the First 5 Merced Commission meeting. Please submit your comment to First 5 Merced at scott.waite@countyofmerced.com. Your comment will be placed into the record at the meeting.

2. If you are watching the live stream of the First 5 Merced Commission meeting and wish to make either a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to scott.waite@countyofmerced.com. Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item is heard will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public comment during public hearings will be taken in real time via email. Once the public hearing is opened, the Commission will pause the meeting for ten minutes in order to receive emails directed at the public hearing (up to 250 words) and will read comments into the record after resuming the meeting, as time permits. Please indicate that comments are for a particular public hearing by putting “Public Hearing” in the subject line of the email and the title of the public hearing. Email comments to (scott.waite@countyofmerced.com).
2020-07-001

Approval of Minutes for the June 8, 2020 Commission Meeting
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2020
Meeting location: ZOOM online

Commission Members Present:
- Lee Lor
- Eva de Long
- District 2 - Vacant
- Shirley Brown
- Dr. Salvador Sandoval
- Aaron Lequia
- Paula Smith
- Genevieve Valentine

Staff Present: Tom Ebersole, Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, Xee Lor

Guests: Tamara Hamai, Rosa Barragan, Christie Hendricks, Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Monica Adrian, Dennis Haines, Steve Roussos, Shana Her, Jenna Nunes, Patricia Medina, and Fernando Granados

Call to Order

Commissioner Chair, Lee Lor, called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter within the Commission’s Jurisdiction

Members of the public were invited to come forward to speak. No members of the public came forward to speak.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director, added the Minimum Fund Balance to “VIII. Future Agenda Items” for July 2020.
CONSENT CALENDAR:

2020-06-063 Approval of Minutes for the May 11, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #063-064.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Paula Smith. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

Public Hearings

2020-06-065 Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025

Waite gave a brief history of the Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2025. Barbara Aved, the consultant with Barbara Aved Associates, outlined the Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025.

Aved read the Vision Statement to the Commissioners and asked for feedback. Commissioner Yvonnia Brown commented that the Vision Statement needs to be more concise and less lengthy.

Commissioner Paula Smith agreed and suggested that the Vision Statement end at “enter school healthy and ready to learn”.

Waite shared a few Vision Statement suggestions from Y. Brown.

- Our vision at Merced County First 5 is to help children thrive towards a bright future
- Helping all children in Merced County to achieve academic success
- Helping children to achieve the optimal

Aved suggested that if any these suggestions are considered the statements will need to be framed as a vision by using “will” in the statement.

Y. Brown commented that she also agreed with Smith to end the Vision Statement, as stated in the Strategic Planning, at “enter school healthy and ready to learn”.

Commissioner Eva de Long made a suggestion to include the learning and healthy growth aspect of children in the statement.
Commissioner Genevieve Valentine suggested “enter school healthy and ready to thrive” but the beginning statement already included “children will thrive”.

All the Commissioners agreed that the final Vision Statement will read “All Children in Merced County will thrive in supportive, loving and nurturing environments, and enter school healthy and ready to learn”.

Aved went on to discuss the Mission Statement in the Strategic Planning.

Valentine suggested adding “social” after “optimal physical”.

All the Commissioners agreed that the final Mission Statement will read “To provide for the optimal physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of the young children in Merced County”.

Next, Aved moved on to discuss the Guiding Principles.

Y. Brown commented that the Guiding Principles align with the Vision and Mission Statements and the goals of First 5.

Valentine, Smith, and de Long agree with Y. Brown.

Aved moved on to discuss the Strategic Framework. Aved went over the Health Development area first.

Valentine suggested to have the term “trauma” included in the framework to identify the behavioral and emotional health for families affected by Covid-19.

Aved will include trauma in the framework.

Y. Brown suggested, under priority strategies on bullet #4, trauma could be included on that bullet.

Valentine agrees and suggested also bullet #2 under priority strategies.

Aved then went over Strong Families.

Valentine suggested again to include trauma informed care under Strong Families.

De Long wanted clarification on objective# 5 to include both pregnant women and during pregnancy.

Y. Brown wanted clarification on where the ‘trauma informed care” would be located. Valentine suggested that this should be under Priority Strategies, bullet# 4.
Y. Brown commented that this is a great foundation and framework for the Commissioners to work with and build upon. This is a good direction for the Commissioners to move forward with the Strategic Plan.

Aved went on discuss High Quality Learning.

De Long wanted clarification bullet# 5 under Priority Strategies. De Long suggested to only include “evaluate ECE programs using Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)“.

Aved then went over Investment Approaches and Evaluation.

Waite suggested an evaluation of all grants and require some way of measuring outcomes of funded projects.

Aved asked for feedback on the Acknowledgements page.

Waite suggested to include the titles and roles of the Commissioners on the Acknowledgement page.

Lor suggested separating the Commissioners and the staff in terms of common reader. Lor also suggested under Key Informant, the names of the organizations be in alpha order.

Lor suggested that the Commissioners should be listed by title, then their district, and then the staff positions.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

Lor opened up the public hearing at 4:00 PM.

Steve Roussos suggested including racial equity and incorporate social justice in the Vision and Mission Statements of the Strategic Plan.

Dennis Haines, Family Resource Center Operations Supervisor, suggested including trauma assessments. Haines agreed with Roussos to incorporate racial/social equity language in the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval agrees with using racial equity language in Vision and Mission Statements.

Lor also agrees and suggested looking at the Vision and Mission Statements and Guiding Principles. Lor suggested adding the evaluation piece and how equitable the results are.

Y. Brown suggested to add equity on bullet#3 under the Guiding Principles and evaluate
benchmark and outcomes moving forward.

Valentine agrees with Y. Brown and suggested adding “investing in systems-level changes to promote culture equity and sustainability, while allowing for program innovation” under bullet #7 in the Guiding Principles.

Y. Brown and de Long agrees.

Lor closed the Public Hearing at 4:08 PM.

Aved will make revisions as suggested.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #06-065 to include the modifications and revisions as outlined during the discussion for a final Strategic Plan.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**2020-06-066 Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020 to 2025**

Waite gave a summary of the Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020 to 2025.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown thanked Waite for a detailed breakdown of the Long-Range Financial Plan. Y. Brown asked what would be the recommended amount to keep in the fund balance if there was a recession in the next couple of years.

Waite suggested that a financial policy could be built to set a minimum fund balance.

De Long commented that she is glad to see the Covid-19 Relief funds on the Long-Range Financial Plan.

Smith thanked Waite for explaining in detail each item on the Long-Range Financial Plan.

Lor also thanked Waite and staff for the work put into the Long-Ranch Financial Plan. Lor would like to focus more on the financials this year during the meetings.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Roussos commended the details of Long-Range Plan. Roussos suggested a community/program match and recommends peer review from groups of grantees in funding decisions.
Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #06-066 with modification to delete the duplicate Parent Education item and move the amount to another line item.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Eva de Long. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Action Items**

**2020-06-067 Augmentation to IMPACT Contract with Merced County Office of Education**

Commissioner Smith recused herself from this item.

Waite went over the augmentation to contract between First 5 Merced and Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) for IMPACT FY 19/20.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

De Long wanted to congratulate MCOE. Valentine and Sandoval also congratulated MCOE.

Lor asked for questions and comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #06-067.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Yvonnia Brown. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**2020-06-068 Home Visitation Coordination Funding Opportunity**

Waite summarized the Home Visitation Coordination Funding opportunity.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #06-068.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Paula Smith. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**2020-06-069 Grants Affected by COVID-19**

Waite stated that all of the grantees have been affected by COVID-19 in different ways. Staff has approved budget modifications to shift resources, approved modified scopes of work to reflect new service delivery methods and technical assistance. A significant
portion of the grantees have requested additional time to complete their contracts. This would carry over into FY 20/21.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Y. Brown commented that she appreciates bringing this item back for discussion and thanked Waite.

De Long commented that it is necessary to allow extension and roll-over for programs to complete their contracts due to COVID-19. Sandoval also agrees with de Long.

Smith appreciates the action item and thanked Waite.

Lor asked Waite if there are multi-year programs. Waite stated that except for two programs, all program expire on June 30th. Waite stated that programs lost about a 3 months window of progress to due COVID-19. If approved, this would give all programs the extension they need to finish out their contracts at no cost or additional funding. Programs will still be required to do their reports.

De Long asked about the reporting system with the state. Waite stated with the extensions some of these reports would be included in the FY 20/21 reports.

Y. Brown wanted clarification on the proposal that these contracts that will be expiring at the end of the month be extended until June 2021. Y. Brown suggested extending the programs until December 30, 2020 to complete their work giving them 6 months to do so.

Valentine agrees with Y. Brown. Valentine stated that this is in alignment with other state extensions. De long agrees.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Haines commented that his program was one that requested extension. His program had some scheduled trainings in May but did not happen due to COVID-19. He appreciates the 6 month extension to complete these trainings.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Item #06-069 with the modification that the grants affected by COVID-19 be extended to December 30, 2020 to finish out their contracts with no additional cost.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Eva de Long. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.
**Future Agenda Items**

Minimum Fund Balance added.

De Long welcomed Sandoval and Valentine to the Commission.

**Commissioner Reports**

There were no commissioner reports.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

**Monday, July 13, 2020**

3:00 PM

**Location:** ZOOM (unless otherwise stated by State of California Guidance on Group Meetings)
2020-07-002

Approval of Expenditure Report through June 30, 2020
### Intrafund Transfer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intrafund Transfer In</td>
<td>(95,091)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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### Total Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operations</td>
<td>225,477</td>
<td>3,155,338</td>
<td>590,749</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
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### Professional Special Services

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Special Svc Other</td>
<td>81,157</td>
<td>27,540</td>
<td>53,617</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
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### Utilities

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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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### Total Revenues

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<td>2,564,589</td>
<td>590,749</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
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### Operating Expenses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Year Appropriated</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance Remaining</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary and Wages</td>
<td>$501,850</td>
<td>$32,858</td>
<td>272,673</td>
<td>229,177</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>$238,745</td>
<td>$16,064</td>
<td>132,403</td>
<td>106,342</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$165,238</td>
<td>$9,707</td>
<td>86,723</td>
<td>78,515</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker's Comp.</td>
<td>$6,741</td>
<td>$43</td>
<td>3,630</td>
<td>3,111</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$921,374</td>
<td>$59,332</td>
<td>488,141</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>$4,968</td>
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<td>2,708</td>
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<td>Household Expense</td>
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<td>$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance - General Liability</td>
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<td>$367</td>
<td>3,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expense</td>
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<td>646</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Special Svc Audits</td>
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<td>$5,758</td>
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<td>85.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expense</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$646</td>
<td>3,055</td>
<td>5,945</td>
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<td>$81,157</td>
<td>$1,630</td>
<td>27,540</td>
<td>53,617</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication and Legal Notice</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,933</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rents and Leases</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and Travel</td>
<td>$22,650</td>
<td>$428</td>
<td>7,697</td>
<td>14,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>590,749</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
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### Program Expenses

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<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Balance Remaining</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tr>
<td>IMPACT</td>
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<td>$92,116</td>
<td>282,701</td>
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### Trust Fund Balance

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<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>Monthly Revenues</td>
<td>Monthly Expenditures</td>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$12,569,055</td>
<td>151,830</td>
<td>213,287</td>
<td>$12,507,597</td>
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FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY

FISCAL REPORT

JUNE 2020

100%

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**Monthly JUNE REPORT**

Printed 7/10/2020
2020-07-003

Public Hearing:
First 5 California Annual Report FY 18/19
AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing: First 5 California Annual Report FY 18-19

A. Background/History:
   The California Children and Families First Act of 1998 require that the each county commission make available to the public upon request the First 5 California Annual Report. Additionally, First 5 California expects that each county commission will review at a public meeting each annual report as issued by First 5 California. It is an annual requirement that this public review be conducted prior to release of funds for the fiscal term 1 year advanced from the term of audit.

B. Summary of Request, Description of Project and/or Primary Goals of Agenda Item:
   Commission staff is requesting the Commission review and discuss the First 5 California Annual Report for FY 2018-2019.

C. Timeframe:
   The First 5 California Annual Report being presented represent Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

D. Costs:
   There is no specific cost associated with this agenda item.

E. Staff Recommendation:
   Commission staff recommending the Commission review and discuss the First 5 CA Annual Report for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

F. Attachments:
   - First 5 California 2018-2019 Annual Report
Our Mission

Convene, partner in, support, and help lead the movement to create and implement a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated system for California’s children prenatal through 5 and their families. Promote, support, and optimize early childhood development.
Our Kids Our Future: Investing for 20 Years in California’s Children

2018–19 | First 5 California Annual Report

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA COMMISSION MEMBERS

George Halvorson, Chair
Appointed by the Governor

Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Vice Chair (Member until September 2019)
Appointed by the Governor

Molly Munger, Vice Chair
Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Alejandra Campoverdi (Member until December 2018)
Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Jackie Majors
Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Mayra Alvarez
Appointed by the Governor

Muntu Davis
Appointed by the Governor

Monica Fitzgerald
Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Shana Hazan
Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Ex-Officio Member:

Mark Ghaly
Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Kris Perry, Designee
Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Michael Wilkening (Member until March 2019)
Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Jim Suennen, Designee (Member until January 2019)
Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency
Message from the Executive Director

The 2018–19 Annual Report highlights the breadth of First 5 California’s mission, our shared work with First 5 counties, and our laser focus on children. The report demonstrates First 5 California’s commitment to improving outcomes for children through investments in the following key areas: 1) informing and supporting families on the early brain science demonstrating the power of talking, reading, and singing to their children; 2) advocating at the local, state, and federal levels for policies and funding to support the state’s youngest children and their families; and 3) developing a system of quality early childhood education and care. The report also outlines our county partner investments in the key areas of First 5’s mission: improving child development, child health, and family functioning.

As we enter a new decade, First 5 California is excited to move forward with implementing its new strategic plan, which was adopted by the Commission in 2019. The 2019–24 Strategic Plan provides a road map for investments, partnership strategies, and advocacy to achieve First 5 California’s vision, mission, and goals. First 5 California’s mission is to “convene, partner in, support, and help lead the movement to create and implement a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated system for California’s children prenatal through 5 and their families.” Each child deserves a strong start in life, and accomplishing this mission is only possible through the hard work of our dedicated staff, partners, and First 5 county commissions operating to bring valuable services and effective systems to children and their families.

Highlighted throughout this report are the accomplishments and collaborative efforts at both the state and local levels. They include:

- The continued success of the Talk. Read. Sing® (TRS) public education campaign to inform parents and the public about the importance of early brain development through positive verbal engagement with young children. The most recent California Health Interview Survey indicates nearly 90 percent of California parents recognize the campaign and its message. Parents who have seen the TRS campaign messages are 2.9 times as likely to read to their children at least three times per week.

- First 5 IMPACT funding has increased quality improvement support to approximately 7,558 early learning and care programs serving 426,635 children statewide and represents a 96 percent increase over the last three years for sites participating in Quality Counts California, the state’s quality rating and improvement system.

- Last year, First 5’s stepped up to support communities devastated by wild fires, supporting families as they got back on their feet. Below are two examples of this good work:
  - First 5 Butte County was heavily involved in relief efforts both during and after the Camp Fire disaster. Within months of the fire, they convened a childcare taskforce to restore child care services and ensure a focus on trauma responsiveness.
  - First 5 Shasta County provided tens of thousands of dollars in Wildfire Recovery Grants to help child care providers rebuild, and help children and families recover from the trauma of the fires in their community.

- Together, First 5 California and our advocacy partners continue to work toward enhancing paid family leave both to provide new parents the opportunity to bond with their children, and for all Californians to care for family members in times of crisis. Guaranteed job protections, adequate wage replacement, and increased leave availability are all necessary enhancements to make Paid Family Leave accessible to all of California’s working families.

With 2019 as a key transition year across California leadership, we have renewed our commitment to the principles that have guided our service to the youngest Californians over the last 20 years. Our partnerships with the Governor, Legislature, First 5 county commissions, and all those who passionately advocate for kids and families provide a constant source of renewed optimism that California will lead the way to ensuring all children have the opportunity to thrive. I am grateful to be part of the early learning and care community who are dedicated to improving the lives of young children.

Camille Maben
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA
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Ensuring California’s Children Receive the Best Start in Life and Thrive

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. For two decades, the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) has promoted standards of quality child care and invested in the development of programs and services emphasizing improvement in early education, child care, child health and development, research, and community awareness.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In April 2019, First 5 California adopted its new Strategic Plan 2019–2024, providing a blueprint for the State Commission’s investments and the agency’s primary programs, partnerships, services, outreach efforts, and advocacy. The Plan builds on the strengths of First 5 California’s 2014 Strategic Plan, while reflecting current direction from the Commission. It also incorporates in-depth input and feedback from First 5 county commissions, numerous stakeholder groups in early childhood education and health, partner state agencies, and California families.

First 5 California’s administrative resources and declining revenues are key challenges for the Commission’s future work. Despite these challenges, however, its efforts and investments strive to be the most impactful and achievable. The Commission continues to support and advocate for the strong start young children deserve to optimize early childhood health and education.

A fundamental objective of First 5 California remains to ensure all parents of newborns in this state, and particularly those living in poverty, receive critical information about early brain development in their babies’ first months and years of life, along with comprehensive information about what they can do to shape and enhance their children’s physical, emotional, and educational well-being and future.

The vision of First 5 California is for all of the state’s children to receive the best possible start in life and thrive. The agency seeks to realize this vision by working on behalf of California’s children, prenatal through age 5, and their families to create a comprehensive, integrated, culturally competent, and equitable system that optimizes early childhood development. First 5 California’s mission is to serve as a convener and partner that both supports and leads the movement to create and implement this system.

The agency’s work is driven by its values, including a commitment to equity, collaboration, civic engagement, accountability, and sustainability. The agency’s efforts are focused within the Plan on three strategic priority areas derived from the Act: Child Health, Child Development, and Family Functioning. The Plan also outlines three supportive strategies that represent the primary work and key activities that will be developed and implemented by First 5 California: Children and Families, Community Partners, and Policy and Systems.

For more information about the Strategic Plan, please go to First 5 California’s website at http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget_perf/F5CA_StrategicPlan_2019-24.pdf.
BUILDING PUBLIC WILL AND INVESTMENT

First 5 California’s Children’s State Policy Agenda guides the agency’s efforts to advocate for the strong start all children deserve, with an emphasis on optimizing early childhood development and reducing childhood poverty for children prenatal through age 5 and their families. The Commission’s 2019–20 Policy Agenda reflects First 5 California’s commitment in its Strategic Plan to participate and lead in the area of civic engagement, and the recognition of the Commission’s responsibility to the people of California to ensure the wise and effective use of public funds.

In its 2019–2024 Strategic Plan, First 5 California continues its commitment to engage and lead in building public will and investment to support the optimal wellbeing and development of children prenatal through age 5, their families, and communities. The Strategic Plan also recognizes First 5 California must engage in partnerships with First 5 county commissions, stakeholders, and other allies from local to federal levels in order to be successful in institutionalizing efforts to advance child-centered policies and increase these crucial investments.

First 5 California serves as a convener and partner in state policy conversations, collaborating with First 5 county commissions, state agencies, stakeholders, and other advocates to convene, align, support, and strengthen statewide advocacy efforts to realize shared goals. First 5 California continued to expand its policy and advocacy engagement in 2019, guided by its Policy Agenda. The Policy Agenda is focused on the following four areas the Commission identified as its top state policy priorities, including targeted goals within each priority area to achieve a seamless statewide system of integrated and comprehensive programs for children and families:

Resilient Families and Communities
- Support effective parent education and engagement, including parent engagement on child brain development and Talk. Read. Sing.*
- Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other comprehensive community hubs for integrated services for children and families
- Increase supports for breastfeeding, paid family leave, and baby-friendly policies for all families in all settings
- Expand voluntary home visiting programs

Child Health
- Protect children and families’ access to health care, and support coordination across the health care system to ensure affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage and services for every child and mother, prenatal through age 5
• Support and promote universal developmental screenings, assessment, referral, and treatment

**Early Learning**

• Expand access to quality early care and education programs for children ages 0 to 3
• Support implementation of high-quality universal preschool access for all low-income four-year-old children, and high-quality transitional kindergarten and kindergarten statewide
• Define, measure, and achieve learning readiness for all California children prior to kindergarten
• Support a high-quality early learning workforce through strengthened qualifications, compensation, stability, diversity, and robust professional development systems
• Promote statewide access to and participation in successful quality improvement systems

**First 5 Revenue**

• Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0 to 5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy discussions
• Promote regulation of tobacco-related products, including electronic cigarettes, and sustainability of licensing and enforcement programs
• Promote inclusion of funding for prenatal and 0 to 3 two-generation prevention strategies in Proposition 64 Memorandum of Understanding for prevention dollars

**ACCOUNTABILITY: FUNDING AND AUDIT RESULTS**

Under the Act, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration collects an excise tax levied on all tobacco products and deposits the revenue into the California Children and Families Trust Fund, allocating 20 percent to First 5 California and 80 percent to county commissions. In FY 2018–19, First 5 California received $68.1 million and county commissions received $272.5 million.

The amount of funding allocated annually to each county commission is based on the annual number of births in the county relative to the total number in the state. Each county must prepare an annual independent audit subject to guidelines prepared by the State Controller’s Office. The counties invest their dollars in locally designed programs, as well as in First 5 California’s statewide programs as match funding. First 5 county commissions use their funds to support local programs in four result areas:

• Improved Family Functioning
• Improved Child Development
• Improved Child Health
• Improved Systems of Care

First 5 California’s Program Management Division and Administrative Services, Evaluation, Executive, Communications, External and Governmental Affairs, Fiscal Services, Contracts and Procurement, and Information Technology Offices provide staff support for 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 administration of these and other programs is consistent with all applicable State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations. The State Controller’s Office conducts an annual review of the 58 county commissions’ independent audits. In October 2018, the Controller published its review of the counties’ audits for FY 2016–17, summarizing several findings contained in the local audits, but did not deem any of them significant enough to withhold funding. Audits can be viewed on First 5 California’s website.
LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ENGAGEMENT

First 5 California continued to garner awareness of the importance of First 5-funded programs and significant state-level support for its Children’s Policy Agenda goals from policymakers, advocacy partners, and other stakeholders during the 2019 state legislative and budget session. By expanding the reach of First 5 California’s policy education efforts, deepening its advocacy partnerships, and continuing its commitment to shared priorities with its partners and leaders in the Legislature and the Administration, significant gains were made in each priority area.

The year 2019 marked the first year of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Administration, and with the new Administration came significant budget wins for the state’s youngest children and their families. Through shared advocacy efforts between First 5 California and its early childhood education and care partners and leaders in the Legislature, over $2 billion in early childhood investments were included in Governor Newsom’s inaugural Budget Act for the 2019–20 year. First 5 California and the Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition were successful in advocating for an expansion in child care access, crucial facilities and workforce development infrastructure, and a new early childhood funding stream derived from Proposition 64 marijuana revenues.

In addition to putting forth a robust Parents Agenda that prioritizes strategic investments in California’s child care and early learning system, paid family leave, home visiting, developmental and trauma screenings, cash assistance to families with children, and child savings accounts, Governor Newsom reaffirmed in his first Budget his long-term commitment to children’s issues by establishing key infrastructures to ensure a comprehensive, sequenced, and thoughtful policy approach. This infrastructure includes the call for a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care to guide the state’s investments in early childhood education and family strengthening supports; the establishment of an Early Childhood Policy Council to advise the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy; and the formation of a Paid Family Leave Task Force to develop recommendations for how to expand Paid Family Leave to allow all California babies to be cared for by a parent or close relative for up to six months by 2021–22.

The year 2019 was an active year for policies supporting young children and families, and First 5 California once again sponsored legislation. After facilitating an 18-month stakeholder workgroup process to develop policy recommendations, First 5 California co-sponsored AB 125 (McCarty) and SB 174 (Leyva) with the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) and EveryChild California to establish a single regionalized state reimbursement rate system—called the Child Care Stabilization Formula—for child care, preschool, and early learning services.
bills would adopt a policy for a sequenced approach that takes steps toward ensuring all child care providers and teachers are fairly and competitively compensated. AB 125 and SB 174 remain alive as two-year bills to allow time for the Administration to review the policy recommendations proposed by the legislation and determine how they fit into the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

First 5 California also co-sponsored AB 324 (Aguiar-Curry), the Dion Aroner Child Care Workforce Act of 2019, with CCRC and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), to create streamlined standards for professional support stipends provided under the AB 212 program, based on the early care and education field’s best practices to support teacher professional development and higher education attainment, and expand these stipends to more providers. First 5 California staff were pleased to see the 2019–20 Budget Act adopt part of the policies of AB 324, designating $195 million for the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants Program and developing guidelines for the use of funds. Unfortunately, the remaining goal of requiring the California Department of Education to create guidelines for the use of AB 212 funds that align to the standards governing the new Workforce Development Grants was not included as part of the Budget Act, and AB 324 was held in the Senate. First 5 California and the California Department of Education have committed to work together in the coming year to achieve this goal administratively.

In follow-up to First 5 California’s 2017 sponsor bill, SB 63 (Jackson), which expanded paid family leave job protections, this year First 5 California co-sponsored SB 135 (Jackson) with Legal Aid at Work and the California Employment Lawyers Association which would further expand state family leave job protections and create parity between bonding and sick leave eligibility in California. SB 135 also would expand the definition of family members for the purpose of caregiving to include a grandparent, grandchild, sibling, parent-in-law, child-in-law, or “designated person,” to allow for diverse caregiving needs and multigenerational families. This legislation would ensure more California workers who have been paying into the Paid Family Leave insurance program are able to take leave without risk of losing their jobs or their health insurance. SB 135 remains alive as a two-year bill to allow time for the Governor’s Paid Family Leave Task Force to develop their recommendations on the future and sequencing of California’s family leave policies. The Task Force is slated to release their recommendations in January 2020 which will cover a variety of issues, including job protections.

First 5 California is committed to building on its 2019 advocacy achievements by continuing to strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders, and its efforts to build policymakers’ knowledge base and investment in shared priorities. Capitalizing on the momentum and commitment to early childhood education and care from the Administration and the Legislature, First 5 California staff and partners pledge to work with the Administration, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and Early Childhood Policy Council teams, and the Legislative Women’s Caucus as these entities work together to develop a road map for building a stronger, more comprehensive, high-quality early learning system for all California’s children, and determine how best to invest scarce resources in this crucial foundation for lifelong success. In doing so, the agency will continue to build on this year’s successes and continue working toward the underlying Strategic Plan goal to ensure all children prenatal through age 5 have the resources, foundation, and systems of support they need to thrive.
FOUR RESULT AREAS
First 5 California tracks progress in four result areas to inform evidence-based funding decisions, program planning, and policies:

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

These result areas comprise a framework for reporting early childhood investments. This reporting framework provides a statewide overview of the number, type, and costs of services provided to children and adults for a particular fiscal year. Stakeholders can use this information as one source to determine impact and resource allocation from First 5 county commissions statewide.

Exhibit 1 contains the total numbers of services provided to children ages birth to 5 and adults (including primary caregivers and providers) in FY 2018–19 for Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, and Improved Child Health. First 5 county commissions provided a total of 779,068 child services and 688,723 adult services. The distribution of expenditures in these three result areas totals $322 million (Exhibit 2).

The result area, Improved Systems of Care, with expenditures of $83 million, differs from the others. It consists of programs and initiatives that support program providers in the other three result areas. The four result areas combined have total expenditures of $405 million.
First 5 County Commission Program Result Areas

First 5 county commissions are required to report to First 5 California their annual expenditure and service data on their programs. In collaboration with the First 5 Association, First 5 California developed and adopted guidelines to standardize data collection. Counties report program service data under the four result areas. These data have been aggregated to the State level. Data reported are from programs funded by both county and state First 5 commission dollars (Appendix A) using specific definitions for each result area (Appendix B).

**IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING**

Family Functioning includes the categories General Family Support and Targeted 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, and assistance for parents and families; and support to schools and educational institutions, nonprofit community-based agencies, government agencies, and private institutions.

In FY 2018–19, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 219,537 services to improve family functioning for children ages 0 to 5, with 196,418 child services in General Family Support and 23,119 child services in Targeted Intensive Family Support.

First 5 county commissions provided a total of 345,092 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 317,378 adult services in General Family Support and 27,714 adult services in Targeted Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 3 displays the numbers of services provided.

First 5 county commissions expended $80 million to improve Family Functioning, with 53 percent of expenditures in General Family Support and 47 percent of expenditures in Targeted Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 4 shows the distribution of expenditures by service category.

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**IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

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

In FY 2018–19, First 5 county commissions delivered 232,120 child development services to children ages 0 to 5, with 186,913 child services in Quality Early
Learning Supports and 45,207 child services in Early Learning Programs.

First 5 county commissions provided 124,464 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 64,209 adult services in Quality Early Learning Supports and 60,255 adult services in Early Learning Programs. 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 2018–19 By Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Early Learning Supports</td>
<td>64,209</td>
<td>124,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learning Programs</td>
<td>45,207</td>
<td>60,255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

In FY 2018–19, county commissions expended $117 million to improve Child Development, with 66 percent of expenditures in Quality Early Learning Supports and 34 percent of expenditures in Early Learning Programs. Exhibit 6 shows the distribution of expenditures by service category.

Exhibit 6: Child Development—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults in FY 2018–19 By Service

- Quality Early Learning Supports: 66%
- Early Learning Programs: 34%

*Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, November 2019

**IMPROVED CHILD HEALTH**

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

In FY 2018–19, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 327,411 child services designed to improve Child Health to children ages 0 to 5, with 31,880 child services in General Health Education and Promotion, 40,947 in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, 3,675 in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support, 116,800 in Oral Health Education and Treatment, and 134,109 in Early Intervention.

First 5 county commissions provided 219,167 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 64,308 adult services in General Health Education and Promotion, 57,748 in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, 2,790 in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support, 35,364 in Oral Health Education and Treatment, and 58,957 in Early Intervention. Exhibit 7 displays the numbers of services provided.

Exhibit 7: Child Health—Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults in FY 2018–19 By Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention</td>
<td>58,957</td>
<td>134,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Health Education and Treatment</td>
<td>35,364</td>
<td>116,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>57,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support</td>
<td>3,675</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Health Education and Promotion</td>
<td>64,308</td>
<td>31,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

*Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, November 2019
In FY 2018–19, county commissions expended $126 million to improve Child Health, with 7 percent of adult services in General Health Education and Promotion, 48 percent in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, 2 percent in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support, 11 percent in Oral Health Education and Treatment, and 32 percent in Early Intervention. Exhibit 8 shows the distribution of expenditures by service category.

Exhibit 8: Child Health—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults in FY 2018–19 By Service

- Oral Health Education and Treatment: 11%
- Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting: 48%
- General Health Education and Promotion: 7%
- Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support: 2%
- Early Intervention: 32%

*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers.
Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, November 2019

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Systems of Care addresses system-wide structural supports as county commissions effectively work toward achievement in the result areas of Family Functioning, Child Health, and Child Development. For example, interagency collaboration allows coordinated wrap-around efforts from multiple organizations providing targeted services. Since this result area is at a systems level, counties do not report numbers of children and adults served. Expenditure data indicate that for FY 2018–19, county commissions expended $83 million to improve Systems of Care (Exhibit 9), with 40 percent toward Policy and Public Advocacy, and 60 percent of expenditures toward Program and Systems Improvement Efforts.

Exhibit 9: Systems of Care—Distribution of Expenditures in FY 2018–19 by Service

- Program and Systems Improvement Efforts: 60%
- Policy and Public Advocacy: 40%

Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, November 2019

POPULATIONS SERVED

Statewide, 30 percent of children served were under 3 years old, 45 percent were ages 3 to 5 years old, and 25 percent were ages unknown. Adults included Primary Caregivers such as parents and other family members (93 percent), and Providers (7 percent). With respect to primary language of children served, services were provided to English speakers 62 percent of the time and to Spanish speakers 32 percent of the time. While children and adults from all race/ethnic groups received services, for those with a reported race/ethnicity, Latinos were the largest recipient group (55 percent), followed by Whites (18 percent).
Child Development Focus

FIRST 5 IMPACT

First 5 California completed the fourth year of First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive), a five-year, $190 million investment that provides funding for the implementation of local quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS). Specifically, First 5 IMPACT supports the improvement of quality early learning and care settings across the entire continuum—from alternative settings and family, friend, and neighbor care, to family child care homes, centers, and preschools. Building on the previous success of California’s Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant, First 5 IMPACT supports a network of local quality improvement efforts, forges partnerships with all 58 counties via 48 consortia, builds on past First 5 California programs, and aligns with and leverages federal, state, and local investments.

For FY 2018–19, local consortia participating in First 5 IMPACT reported over 6,000 sites, or approximately 79 percent of all sites participating in QRIS, were supported in full or in part with First 5 IMPACT funding.

Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs (Hubs) continue to be a central source of support for consortia. Funded through First 5 IMPACT, Hubs support efficiencies in data collection and data systems, assessor management for rating and assessment tools, and provide assistance with local and regional training needs.

In addition to regional Hubs and First 5 California staff, ongoing support for the implementation of First 5 IMPACT is provided through a contract with the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies. In FY 2018–19, contract work continued to focus on systems building and alignment, support for the work of the Hubs, developing a QRIS website and communications plan, and supporting the Quality Counts California system in informing the Governor’s direction and prioritization of early learning and care.

In July 2019, the First 5 California Commission approved $103 million over three fiscal years (2020–21 through 2022–23) to continue First 5 California’s efforts to expand statewide participation in Quality Counts California through IMPACT 2020. IMPACT 2020 will focus on underserved and high need populations by prioritizing settings that do not receive other state or federal funding such as family child care provider; family, friend, and neighbor care; and other private market settings serving vulnerable populations such as infants and toddlers, and families who receive vouchers.

QUALITY COUNTS CALIFORNIA

Quality Counts California (QCC) is a statewide system of locally-implemented Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRISs) that provide resources and support to early learning and care providers so they can create engaging and effective experiences that help children grow and thrive. California’s statewide QRIS, QCC, is funded in large part by First 5 IMPACT, in addition to state and federal funding administered by the California Department of Education (CDE). QCC has created partnerships between state and local entities through the QCC Consortium. The QCC Consortium includes local lead agencies, representatives of First 5 California and the CDE. Through this partnership, state and local leaders are able to come together to discuss topics and issues related to local and state level QRIS implementation.

All early learning sites participating in QCC, report using the statewide common data file, which is inclusive of all of the state’s QRIS funding streams. This data provides First 5 California and the CDE an efficient and collaborative method for receiving information about each county participating in QRIS. As of June 30, 2018, there were over 7,500 participating QRIS sites across the state, an 11 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. Of the total, 54 percent were centers, 36 percent were family child care homes, and 10 percent were alternative sites such as libraries, home visiting programs, family resource centers, and family, friend, and neighbor providers.

Local consortia reported QCC has provided a statewide common effort and unified vision for improving the quality of early learning sites in the state, and most identified great success in the areas of provider participation in training and professional development, maintaining strong collaborative
partnerships, and programs and providers valuing participation in quality improvement efforts. Local consortia also identified the regional Training and Technical Assistance Hubs as very effective in facilitating communication across consortia, offering high-quality trainings that meet the needs of local consortia, and supporting the use of data to guide continuous quality improvement decisions.

In addition to First 5 IMPACT and CDE Block Grant funding, consortia continue to report new or leveraged funding sources identified to support QCC. Those include county sales tax ballot measures, city/county funds, higher education partners, private foundations/philanthropy organizations, and other federal funding sources (Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant, and more).

Throughout FY 2018–19, the QCC website has continued to expand, adding audience specific webpages, a calendar of events, county specific profile pages, and an expanded format for formal messaging around the importance of quality early learning. The QCC website continues to add information regarding local QRIS efforts to support early learning providers, and connections to local resource and referral agencies for parents and families looking for quality child care. In addition to website expansion, the QCC Digital Development and Communication Team convened a group of stakeholders to develop a statewide definition of quality, “Quality early learning and care means learning environments, relationships, interactions, and activities that support all children’s growth and development to prepare them for success in school and life.”

In the upcoming fiscal year, the QCC Consortium will continue to increase their implementation capacity to include additional local providers in QRIS, increase efforts to message locally and statewide about the importance of high-quality early learning and care programs, and refine other aspects of the system to maximize available funding and create efficiencies statewide.

For more information on QCC, visit the website at https://qualitycountsca.net/.

SMALL COUNTY AUGMENTATION

In the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) program, First 5 California provides supplemental funding above the legislated allocation of annual tax revenues to First 5 commissions in 20 counties with the smallest proportion of statewide births.

Initiated in FY 1999–2000, the First 5 California Commission provided funding of up to $200,000 to small population counties to help ensure the implementation of the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10) as a statewide effort. On January 26, 2017, the State Commission approved an annual investment of up to $8.625 million in additional funding over four years (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2021) for 20 small population county commissions to ensure
core operations and services for children and families in these communities. For FY 2018–19, small counties expended approximately $4.5 million.

In order to participate in SPCFA, counties agree to terms outlined in a Local Assistance Agreement framework to implement successful local systems, measure outcomes, monitor progress, and demonstrate quality improvement in at least one of three focused investment areas of Child Health, Family Support and Strengthening, and Early Learning and Development.

During FY 2018–19, approximately 15,235 children and 10,943 adults received services from SPCFA-funded programs across the 20 SPCFA counties. From most to least common, the percent of counties with programs in each focused investment area was Family Support and Strengthening (44 percent), Early Learning and Development (33 percent), and Child Health (23 percent).

Of the 80 programs implemented with SPCFA funds, 33 percent were evidence-based, 45 percent were evidence-informed, 6 percent were health-focused, and 16 percent were described as “other.” All SPCFA counties funded at least one evidence-based or evidence-informed program.

Key evidence-based programs continued to include the Nurturing Parents Home Visiting Program, Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program, Raising a Reader, and Positive Parenting Program (Triple P).

**EDUCARE**

The Educare Quality Early Learning Model provides comprehensive early learning services beginning at birth through preschool. Early brain science demonstrates how early learning services are necessary to narrow the achievement gap for at-risk children so they have the foundation they need to thrive in school and beyond. Research on early brain development demonstrates poverty and toxic stress can negatively impact a child’s cognitive development and ability to learn.

California children from low-income families typically enter kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind the national average in pre-reading and language skills. A study conducted by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that low-income children (including children who are dual language learners) who enroll in Educare as infants or toddlers enter kindergarten with the same skills as their middle-income peers. The Educare model also supports intensive family engagement to foster strong parent-child relationships, family well-being, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

In 2010, the First 5 California Commission voted to become an inaugural funder in bringing the public-private Educare Quality Early Learning Model to California. The Commission dedicated $6 million to support the launch, operation, and evaluation of the first California Educare centers in Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties. First 5 California’s investment in California’s two Educare sites funds high-quality classroom elements, which have proven to increase the quality of early learning programs through improved teacher-child interactions.

Through funding from First 5 California and other national, state, and local public and private partners, Educare California at Silicon Valley opened its doors in the 2015–16 school year and serves 168 Santa Clara County-area children and families. The center is co-located with Santee Elementary School, and operates in partnership with First 5 Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Office of Education Early/Head Start and State Preschool programs, and the East Side Union High School Child Development Program.

Educare of Los Angeles at Long Beach, a public-private partnership lead by Long Beach Unified School District and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, opened its stand-alone facility located on the Barton...
Elementary School campus in the Long Beach Unified School District in 2018, after a soft-launch during the 2017–18 school year in its temporary facility. With the opening of Educare of Los Angeles at Long Beach’s permanent campus in July 2018, the school now serves 182 students and parents.

Funded Research

California Health Interview Survey

The First 5 California Commission approved $1.7 million to continue funding the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research for Fiscal Years 2019–20 and 2020–21. First 5 California is the primary funder of the CHIS Child Questionnaire that collects information from parents on topics, including childcare and preschool participation and perception, positive parenting activities (parents or caregivers reading, singing, going out to play with their children, knowledge of the Talk. Read. Sing.® campaign), breastfeeding practices, health status and conditions, child oral health, developmental screening and referrals, languages spoken at home and English proficiency of parent, and receipt and use of First 5 California’s Kit for New Parents. This funding also supports online public access to CHIS via the AskCHIS data query tool (ask.chis.ucla.edu), AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition mapping (askchisne.ucla.edu), and published research reports (healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis).

In June 2019, UCLA published the policy brief, Parental Reading and Singing to California’s Young Children—Trends, Predictors, and Association with the Talk. Read. Sing.® Campaign. Researchers employed multiple statistical methods to analyze CHIS data, 2005 through 2016. Key findings of the study included:

- Nearly 90 percent of parents read and sing to their children three times or more per week.
- A high proportion (87 percent) of parents with children birth through 5 years of age recognize Talk. Read. Sing.® campaign messages.
- Parents who had seen Talk. Read. Sing.®
campaign messages were 2.9 times more likely to read to their child three days a week or more and 2.3 times more likely to sing to their child three days a week or more, compared to parents who had not seen the messages.

- Parents who are foreign-born or who speak Spanish at home are less likely to read or sing to their young children than both their U.S.-born counterparts and those who do not speak Spanish at home. The Talk. Read. Sing.® message remains especially important for these groups.

**DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNER PILOT**

First 5 California’s Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Study is examining culturally and linguistically responsive and effective intentional teaching, family engagement, and professional development strategies for DLLs. First 5 California’s investment in the study is approximately $20 million—$7.5 million for the evaluation and $12.5 million to support counties and regions to participate in the evaluation and expand effective practices. The Pilot study is led by a research team at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and will continue through June 2021.

AIR identified 16 counties in which to conduct the Pilot study, including Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo. The counties were chosen scientifically to ensure diversity of language and age groups across different early learning and care setting type. In 2018–19, AIR interviewed leaders in the 16 study counties and created a brief describing the landscape of policies, practices, and experiences related to serving DLLs in ECE settings through the county-level perspectives. AIR also surveyed site directors from early learning settings, some of which were recommended by the county agencies and others that were randomly selected, to explore policies and practices at the site level and identify study settings. First 5 California initiated contracts with lead agencies in the 16 counties to support engagement of early learning settings and disseminate incentives to educators and parents participating in the second phase of the study.

The second phase of the study (began summer 2019) looks at how specific instructional and family engagement strategies support child outcomes, with attention to differences in age (infants and toddlers, preschoolers), setting type (family child care, center-based programs, and unlicensed community settings), and language groups (home languages beyond Spanish).

The study will provide information, fill gaps in research, and inform policy about effective and scalable strategies, and the conditions under which they are effective. The findings also inform outreach and education strategies to increase early educators’, families’, and the public’s awareness about the benefits of bilingualism and home language.
Parent Support Focus

PARENT WEBSITE

While first5california.com has historically served as First 5 California’s main portal for parent engagement on child health, education, literacy, child development, and smoking cessation, in recent years, it has expanded to incorporate more information about early brain development, including activities, downloadable resources, and links to organizations that support families. In early 2017, new content was integrated into the site to support the launch of the “Smarter Birds” campaign, including tips, information, Talk. Read. Sing.® and an array of new brain building activities for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. In FY 2018–19, the parent site had 216,317 unique visits and 536,230 page views. Building upon the momentum of this campaign, the parent website will be transforming its look and usability in early 2020. It will contain even more information for parents and caregivers.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The parent website also links to multiple social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube. Across most platforms, followers receive regular posts that highlight simple, actionable tips and ideas surrounding early brain development and beyond—everything from activities to words of encouragement. As of June 30, 2019, First 5 California’s Facebook audience was at 214,507 followers. Instagram was at 6,433 followers, and Pinterest was at 1,404 followers.

KIT FOR NEW PARENTS

The award-winning Kit for New Parents targets hard-to-reach and low-income families, providing key information and resources for first-time parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Handed out at birth, the Kit is one foundational resource to support parents with the most important job anyone can succeed at—parenting. The Kit is intended to put crucial materials at a parent or caregiver’s fingertips on day one.

Since 2001, First 5 California has distributed the Kit free-of-charge to local hospitals, physicians, and community groups to reach new parents. The Kits are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The Kit is a colorful, reusable bag containing a health handbook, a baby board book, a WIC mobile website flyer, a poison control brochure and magnet, and other important information on paid family leave, and literacy and learning. It also features the Parent Guide, a resource written in collaboration with UC Berkeley’s Health Research for Action. The Guide includes tips for parents on keeping their children healthy and safe, developmental milestones, handling emotional and behavioral challenges, finding quality childcare, and much more.

First 5 county commissions are encouraged to add local references and resources to the Kit to help inform parents about services in their own communities.

To date, over 5 million Kits have been distributed throughout California since 2001, with 177,000 distributed this fiscal year alone.

FIRST 5 EXPRESS

Since 2006, First 5 California’s mobile outreach tour, First 5 Express, has traveled to every corner of the state, reaching out to families and caregivers of children ages 0 to 5 in all 58 counties. This interactive exhibit features “Edutainers” who educate parents and caregivers, and entertain children. The Express teaches families about a wide variety of topics, including nutrition, physical activity, oral health, literacy, and most recently, early brain development. In FY 2018–19, the exhibit traveled to 188 schools, libraries, resource centers, community festivals, county fairs, and other family-oriented events. The Edutainers directly engaged with more than 45,518 people who walked away with helpful First 5 resources, including a
branded hand puppet to give parents and caregivers a tool to spark conversation with their young children, bilingual storybooks to help make reading a regular routine, a healthy portions plate to encourage a balanced diet, and age-appropriate musical instruments to bring out the joy of song. Together with the already established Kit for New Parents; “Fast, Fresh, and Fun Food from First 5” cookbooks; brain development information; and the First 5 California branded bilingual book, Three Brainy Birds, families were provided resources to reinforce the healthy behaviors they experienced.

**TALK. READ. SING.® SUCCESS**

First 5 California’s Talk. Read. Sing.® campaign, prompting parents statewide to take active roles in increasing their children’s early brain development, is one of the most successful public health awareness efforts in the nation. A 2019 study and health policy brief from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research shows 87% of parents of children aged 0 to 5 recognize the messages of this campaign, understanding that engaging with their children in these simple, cost-efficient ways will increase their brain capacity and better prepare them for school and life. Parents who have seen the Talk. Read. Sing.® messages are nearly three times more likely to read to their children three or more times per week, and twice as likely to sing to their children three or more times per week. Per this survey, nearly 90 percent of parents read and sing to their children 3 times or more per week.

**TOBACCO CESSATION**

First 5 California strives to promote the health of children 0 to 5 by targeting practices that pose serious risks to children. A major health risk to young children is exposure to nicotine, tobacco smoke, and e-cigarette liquid and vapor. The California Smokers’ Helpline (Helpline) has been funded by First 5 California since the enactment of Proposition 10 to help parents and caregivers of young children quit smoking, educate the public about the harms of tobacco use, and reduce the likelihood babies and young children will develop tobacco related health problems. With the advent of e-cigarettes, First 5 California has expanded the scope of services provided by the Helpline to include cessation and education on e-cigarette dangers to young children.

Parental smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke can cause a multitude of health problems in babies and young children. Smoking and/or vaping during pregnancy exposes the developing baby to nicotine which increases the risk of health problems that can include preterm birth, low birth weight, and birth defects, and can damage a developing baby’s brain and lungs. Similarly, exposure to secondhand smoke is particularly dangerous for babies and young children whose lungs are still developing. Health problems that can result in children exposed to secondhand smoke include weakening of their lungs, making them more likely to have ear infections, and breathing problems. Additionally, newborns exposed to secondhand smoke are at an elevated risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The Helpline provides one-on-one telephone counseling through their toll-free Helpline (1-800-NO-BUTTS for smokers and at 1-844-8-NO-VAPE for vape users). Helpline counselors utilize scientifically validated protocols that have been shown to double the odds of callers quitting smoking successfully. Chat counseling support is available through www.nobuts.org. Participants also are provided self-help materials, referrals to local resources, and free nicotine patches, sent directly to their homes. Nicotine patches were sent to 2,549 participants in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018–19. Services through the Helpline are available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

In FY 2018–19, the Helpline provided services to a total of 3,050 participants. With the completion of the Helpline’s development and piloting of the counseling protocol for callers who want to quit vaping, 91 callers enrolled and received counseling to quit vaping. Fact sheets that explain the health consequences of exposing young children to e-liquid and e-cigarette vapor were disseminated and are available as a resource on the Helpline website. The charts below provide a breakdown by education and race/ethnicity of participants.
Exhibit 10 represents the educational levels of participants. The total number of participants was 3,050, of whom 52 did not report their educational level. Of the total, 26 percent had not received a high school diploma, 29 percent had received a high school diploma, 36 percent had some college, and 9 percent had completed a college degree or higher.

**Exhibit 10: California’s Smokers’ Helpline—Education Level of Participants in FY 2018–19**

- College degree or higher: 9%
- Up to 12th grade, no diploma: 26%
- Some college: 36%
- High school diploma: 29%

Source: California Smoker’s Helpline, October 2019

Nationally, there has been a steady decrease in the number of smokers calling state quitlines, a trend that has been true for the Helpline as well. Expanding the range of services to include vaping and new modalities, such as text and chat, allows tobacco users to access services using the modality that suits them best.

First 5 California funding also supports training of child care providers, preschool teachers, and other classroom staff about the importance of quitting smoking and protecting children from exposure to secondhand smoke. The online tobacco training module, *Kids and Smoke Don’t Mix*, is available on the Helpline website and continues to be used by clients and providers. For the year, a total of 178 individuals completed the online training.

In FY 2018–19, First 5 California continued to support the Clinical Effort Against Secondhand Smoke Exposure (CEASE). CEASE trains pediatric practices to screen patients for secondhand smoke exposure and to help smoking parents quit. CEASE has champions at each of four University of California Medical Centers (UC San Diego, UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, and UC San Francisco’s Benioff Children’s Hospital). These champions oversee ongoing training for pediatric residents to identify and intervene with parents and caregivers who smoke, prescribing quitting aids, and making referrals to the Helpline. During FY 2018–19, the CEASE project generated 337 proactive referrals to the Helpline. During the year, CEASE champions also recruited nine additional outpatient clinics, conducted four webinars or lectures, presented two research abstracts to the American Academy of Pediatrics, and published one article based on this work.

Exhibit 11 represents the race/ethnicity of participants. The total number of participants was 3,050, of whom 31 did not report their race/ethnicity. Of the total, 2% were American Indian/Alaska Native, 8% were Asian American/Pacific Islanders, 16% were Black/African American, 27% were Hispanic/Latino, 37% were White/Caucasian, 8% were Multi-Ethnic, and 2% were other race/ethnicities.

**Exhibit 11: California’s Smokers’ Helpline—Race/Ethnicity of Participants in FY 2018–19**

- White/Caucasian: 37%
- Hispanic/Latino: 27%
- Black/African American: 16%
- American Indian/Pacific Islander: 8%
- Multi-ethnic: 8%
- Asian American/Pacific Islander: 2%
- Other: 2%

Source: California Smoker’s Helpline, October 2019
Teacher Effectiveness Focus

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

High-quality early childhood education depends on the effectiveness of its workforce. To ensure every educator has access to well-qualified coaches and trainers, First 5 California awarded a $12 million contract (March 2017 through June 2020) to WestEd to partner with state and national experts to promote evidence-based training and continuous quality improvement practices and ensure sustainability within the long-term vision of California’s early learning system. In 2018–19, this funding enabled:

- Zero to Three, i3 Institute, and University of Florida to train and provide ongoing support to 69 local, regional, and state leaders on how to facilitate Communities of Practice (CoP) protocols and processes. CoPs are designed to strengthen integrated systems of communication, promote collaborative partnerships, and advance the implementation of innovative practices to support and sustain equitable child and family outcomes.
- University of Florida, University of Washington, and WestEd to draft a rubric for coaching competencies based on the Early Childhood Educator Competencies for coaching, as well as input from 78 coaches statewide. The rubric and certification process will be piloted in 2020 along with training to support coaches’ capacity to meet the standards and improve educators’ practice.
- WestEd and First 5 California Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Master Anchors to certify 57 regional Anchors on the ERS family of tools, and facilitated an ongoing virtual peer-to-peer learning community.
- Brazelton Touchpoints Center to develop the first of several storyboards, simulations, and modules for a family engagement toolkit. By early 2020, F5CA expects to launch all five modules of this multi-media, online, research-based professional development toolkit designed to promote caregiver-parent relationships that improve child and family outcomes, and help educators build support for families’ protective factors into their everyday practice.

SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE INTERACTIONS

Research consistently shows children have positive social-emotional and academic outcomes when they are cared for by educators with specialized training to provide higher quality interactions. First 5 California continued its partnership with Teachstone to help regions build local capacity to offer training on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®) tool. In 2018–19, 77 trainers became CLASS-certified to support stronger interactions in infant, toddler, and/or PreK early childhood classrooms and nearly 290 observers were certified or recertified to observe interactions using the CLASS tool. In addition, the CLASS-Based Coaching (CBC) program entered its final year and engaged 17 new coaches from across the state to focus on effective adult-child interactions, using CLASS as their coaching lens and language. As a result of this three-year investment, a total of 69 coaches increased their competency to support center-based teachers and administrators, family child care providers, and other coaches. The CBC uses a cohort model where coaches can learn from the wisdom of their peers and Teachstone Specialists provide specific, actionable, and practice-embedded feedback and support using research-based competencies that parallel the CLASS Secondary tool. The program continued to receive accolades from coaches: more than 90 percent reported the CBC program helped increase their confidence and competency as a coach.
First 5 County Commission Highlights

**Alameda**

First 5 Alameda County uses Results-Based Accountability to measure our contribution to two population-level results, namely, children enter kindergarten ready to learn, and children are free from abuse and neglect. To achieve these results, we focus on creating a more user-friendly early childhood system that addresses structural inequality and socio-economic challenges for families, leverages parent leadership, and supports capacity building for family service providers. Likewise, our strategies recognize the interplay between equity, place, adult health, and child well-being, and our investments represent a whole-family approach to improving outcomes for children, families, and neighborhoods.

- **Neighborhoods Ready for School**
  - served more than 2,610 children and caregivers, added or improved more than 9,880 square feet in family-friendly spaces, and added or enhanced nearly 40 early childhood programs or services.
- **Help Me Grow**
  - helped facilitate nearly 34,000 developmental screenings in pediatric practices, early childhood education (ECE) settings, and community-based organizations, nearly a 60% increase from 2017 to 2018.
- **230 Quality Counts ECE sites**
  - served over 10,500 children. 100% of the nearly 140 State Preschool Program sites participated in Quality Counts.
- **The Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone (DULCE) project**
  - a collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, served nearly 610 children, parents, and other family members.
  - To help address families’ basic needs, a diaper pilot at two sites distributed 1,350 diaper kits to the families of 230 children. Of children who experienced at least one diaper rash before enrolling in the pilot, nearly 70% had no or less frequent diaper rashes after enrollment.
  - More than 600 people attended the Fatherhood Summit at Merritt College.
  - Nearly 70 trainings were attended by 1,040 unique providers from the early childhood workforce. Nearly 80% of respondents reported implementing best or promising practices.
  - A longitudinal study found that Kindergarten Readiness scores are important predictors of 3rd grade achievement.

**Alpine**

The First 5 Alpine County Children and Families Commission invests in a variety of services aimed at supporting children prenatal through age five and their families. Primary investments include: Alpine Early Learning Center: The Alpine Early Learning Center (AELC) is the only licensed childcare center serving Alpine families. It provides early care and education to children as young as 3 months old, all the way through kindergarten. The program offers childcare to working families as well as preschool education to young children to prepare them for successful kindergarten entry. The program operates year-round, and partners with other community service providers to support parent/child craft activity nights, and field trips for the families it serves.

- In FY 18-19, the program served 28 children ages 0 through 5.
- **Choices for Children Parent Education Project**
  - The Choices for Children Parent Education Project provides learner-centered education to parents and caregivers. Workshops center on increasing the knowledge amongst parents and caregivers about research-based children rearing and child development practices, establishing a connection between parents and caregivers within the community, and increased understanding of available community resources.

- **Amador**

First 5 Amador supports parents as their child’s first teacher, investing in early literacy, developmental screening, and overall well-being (dental, physical and mental health). As a result of First 5 Amador’s investments in 2018-19, many families of newborns received effective support through a home visit, perinatal mood and anxiety disorder screening and services, and a home literacy program that served more than 60% of age-eligible children in the county. In order to sustain lasting improvements in the lives of the county’s youngest, First 5 Amador partners with community organizations, private and public agencies, and caregivers to promote the importance of the first five years,
expand services, and mobilize support for children and their families.

- Bringing back a local collaborative (Kids in Common) to align goals and share lessons learned has re-energized and engaged educators from the pre-K and K-12 systems.
- Amador’s family resource centers, located in the unincorporated areas of the county, provide opportunities such as home visiting / case management, food security programs, early learning programs including playgroups and support groups such as the Hispanic Women’s Group.
- First 5 Amador continues to spearhead the Amador / Calaveras Perinatal Wellness Coalition, Dental Transformation Grant, and is an active member of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) teams, Family Violence Reduction - Child Abuse Prevention and Domestic Violence.
- First 5 Amador’s Dad and Me program continues to be a favorite of the community engaging dads, grandfathers, etc. in early learning activities and experiences.
- First 5 Amador manages MHSA funding that supports services for children, ECE providers and families; perinatal wellness screening and clinical services; and community education to address stigma.

As First 5 Amador looks to the future, work will continue to be done in partnership with local organizations and community leaders as we all work to improve the health and development of Amador’s young children.

**Butte**

On November 8, 2018 the deadly and catastrophic Camp Fire began raging through Butte County, consuming the communities of Paradise, Magalia, Concow and Butte Creek Canyon. The fire burned more than 153,000 acres, destroyed nearly 19,000 buildings, and stole 85 lives. The devastation of this tragedy, and the fortitude of the people who survived, will be passed down in storytelling for generations to come. First 5 Butte County is proud of the role it played in helping to support and begin to heal the communities it serves.

While the fire was still raging, First 5 staff brought all available grantees together around a kitchen table at a home in Chico to mobilize efforts to reach out to families with young children. Grantees were provided with a standardized assessment tool to track and record the location and needs of all families on any program roster. First 5 Butte staff quickly revised all grantee scopes of work temporarily, so that program staff would be reassured of continuity of funding, and encouraged partners to work off-scope in the interest of reaching out, and providing crisis support services, to any affected family with young children, regardless of program model or enrollment. First 5 Butte County staff then fanned out across the community to provide support wherever possible. Staff assisted partners and community by:

- Updating the 211 database
- Working at the Local Assistance Center
- Providing logistics support for Public Health in emergency shelters
- Partnering with American Red Cross to fund and coordinate 10 Community Resilience Model workshops
- Attending the Long-Term Recovery Group to coordinate disaster case management
- Convening a child care task force
- In the first few months following the disaster, First 5 Butte contributed over $150,000 in program and staff time. The impact of this event has and will alter the funding and programmatic priorities of First 5 Butte, solidifying the focus on trauma responsive and healing centered systems integration.

**Calaveras**

First 5 Calaveras continues to partner with local and state agencies to strengthen the systems that serve young children. Local Strengthening Families efforts based on the Five Protective Factors continued through partnerships with Prevent Child Abuse Calaveras and Behavioral Health Services (MHSA- Prop 63 funding). Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental screenings were provided for children in the child welfare system and staff participated in Child Family Team Meetings. First 5 Calaveras stood strong as the voice for young children in the initial conversations/meetings that were held focused on prevention services collaboration with Child Welfare Services and other key community partners.

- First 5 joined the newly formed Calaveras Care Team and the Prevention Steering Committee.
- 70 no-cost training sessions for 378 adults were provided for parents, educators, and service professionals on topics centered on resilient and healthy families and trauma-informed practices.
- 164 hours of no-cost counseling was provided to 23 at-risk parents with insurance barriers to assist with their child’s emotional/behavioral development.
- First 5 led the efforts to secure the Cal Works Home Visiting Initiative which awarded funds for a Home Visitor to join the home visiting network of Early Head Start and the First 5 funded Raising A Reader Home Visiting Program (which expands access to quality early education and provides developmental assessments for 30 children that had preschool enrollment barriers).
- Talk Read Sing Calaveras shares messaging through home visitors, library leaders, and early learning providers.
- 1,840 quality books were distributed through Little Free
Colusa

In FY 2018–2019, First 5 Colusa Children & Families Commission co-facilitated a series of prevention forums with the Colusa County CAPC program. More than fifty participants, representing county agencies, civic leaders, law enforcement, school district leaders and parents, converged together to address the issues facing children and families in Colusa County. Together, they developed a sustainable and viable action plan to address the issues identified. As part of the action plan, First 5 Colusa was identified as a viable source for implementation of the Strengthening Families Framework. First 5 Colusa provided county-wide training on the framework, as well as provided support to twenty-six individuals that became certified as Parent Café Leaders. Parent Cafés will be launched county-wide in FY 2019–2020.

Contra Costa

Following on the previous year’s development of a trauma curriculum for providers serving young children, First 5 Contra Costa continued to support a “community of practice” for the cohort of 14 Trauma Fellows representing 12 agencies who completed the training module in the previous year. The Trauma Fellows now practice their new skills through staff development in their agencies, and through local and regional presentations.

• First 5 Contra Costa’s Community Engagement program continues to advocate for healthy, safe and equitable communities, particularly in the City of Richmond, where West County Regional Group (WCRG) members in one day assessed 25 Richmond parks on safety, play equipment, maintenance, innovation, and accessibility. The City used the WCRG’s assessment results to solicit Prop 68 funds, and to guide the city council and staff in ongoing park improvement priorities. In the City of Concord, the Central County Regional Group joined a broad coalition of community advocates to promote housing security for families with young children.

• The Quality Matters program continues to elevate the quality of early learning programs in the county and welcomed 48 additional sites during this program year.

• First 5 Contra Costa held its second annual Coffee and Kids Policy Breakfast in May with special guest Kris Perry, California Health and Human Services Agency Deputy Secretary and special advisor to the Governor. Over 100 agency and business leaders convened to hear about the new Governor’s priorities for early childhood and families in his first proposed budget. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier also updated the gathering on advancements at the federal level.

• First 5 Contra Costa completed extensive renovations on the site of the new East County First 5 Center in Pittsburg. The new Center, one of six locations across the county, will provide developmental playgroups, parent education, literacy promotion, and other activities for over 500 families each year.

Del Norte

First 5 Del Norte had an exciting year across multiple program areas in our efforts to promote and enhance the health, development, and wellness of children and families.

• We were able to bring Teaching Pyramid training to Del Norte early childhood care and education providers. Multiple sites, representing over 150 students, participated in this social and emotional learning training. The training-coaching cycle was appreciated by providers and we are continuing to increase capacity for this program.

• First 5 Del Norte transferred ownership of the Wonder Bus, a long-term mobile early learning program, to a community partner last year. The Wonder Bus is much-loved, but not evidence-based. First 5 Del Norte remains a minor funding partner for the program. To replace this valuable early literacy programming, First 5 Del Norte became an affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in late May. In just the last two months of the fiscal year, we enrolled 183 children (over 10% of our 0 to 5 population) in the evidence-based program. Enrollment continues to increase and early feedback from families has been positive.

• In 2019-20, First 5 Del Norte received our first of three years of funding from Mental Health Services Act Innovation fund to develop a parent-support texting program. Working with ParentPowered, we are adapting their existing texting program, Ready4K, to provide connections to local programs and resources; encourage community connections; and boost mental

Libraries, early learning sites, and community events.
• A mini grant supplied two health clinics with books to kick off their Reach Out and Read Program.
• Little Leapers Early Literacy Program engages libraries in providing science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) themed activity kits for check out.
• Weekend interactive workshops for parents and children were provided.
accomplishments: services, resulting in the following (duplicated across programs) individuals Factors framework.

Strengthening Families Protective services which are aligned with the Community Hubs and to provide to operate within the structure of neighborhood, larger institutions and social structures which impact the wellbeing of African American families.

The work and commitments of the BREP shape our underlying approach to community investments, as we seek to lift up and address the challenges unique to African American families, while applying what we learn toward the way we serve all families.

El Dorado
The First 5 El Dorado Children and Families Commission has invested in areas of practice that support parents as their children’s first teacher. These investments include:

- Ready to Read at Your Library, an early literacy program operated by local libraries,
- Together We Grow, a program directed at providing families with structured activities to support their child’s optimal development,
- High 5 for Quality, a program focused on ensuring early care and education providers have the support needed to increase their quality of care, and
- Children’s Health, a program that utilizes health advocates to support access to health and dental care for children and families.

Each of these programs are required to operate within the structure of Community Hubs and to provide services which are aligned with the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework.

During 2018-2019, a total of 6,445 (duplicated across programs) individuals were provided with First 5 funded services, resulting in the following accomplishments:

- Children from birth through age 5 are read to on a daily basis. Seventy-four percent (74%) of parents served who completed a family survey reported that they or another family member reads with their child each day.
- Children are receiving preventive health care. Ninety-five percent (95%) of parents served who completed a family survey reported that their children ages 0 through 5 had received timely well child visits.
- Children are being screened for developmental delays. A total of 654 children received either an ASQ or ASQ:SE developmental screening.
- Providers are focused on quality early care and education service provision. The High 5 for Quality program supported more early care and education providers this year than last, and of those that participated, 16 sites realized an improvement in their Quality Rating and Improvement System rankings.

Fresno
At First 5 Fresno County we believe that children thrive when their families thrive. This past fiscal year we invested in a number of crucial efforts to support young children and their families including:

- Blue Ribbon Equity Panel: In response to the long-standing inequities facing Fresno County African American families, we partnered with the community to create a cross-system, multi-sector Blue Ribbon Equity Panel (BREP) to address larger societal issues that historically have led to African American infant mortality.
- The BREP convened to formulate a plan of action to influence policy and practice changes at multiple layers within families, neighborhoods, larger institutions and social structures which impact the wellbeing of African American families.
- The work and commitments of the BREP shape our underlying approach to community investments, as we seek to lift up and address the challenges unique to African American families, while applying what we learn toward the way we serve all families.

Glenn
The First 5 Glenn County Children and Families Commission invests in a variety of services under the umbrella of its Little Learners Program. These services support children prenatal through age five and their families.

Little Learners: The Little Learners Program provides universal access to...
preventative and supportive services designed to increase the skills of parents, and increase healthy social interaction of families. The program has multiple service components, including parenting instruction, supervised visitation, playgroups, oral health services and education, case management for families with complex needs, developmental assessments using the Deveraux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), referrals to community resources, and trainings for county teachers and professional caregivers.

First 5 Glenn County joined heroic measures in rescuing families from Butte County during the CAMP fire of 2018. Materials and services for displaced families consisted of: vehicles and help in evacuating, housing, tents and setup, phones, gas and transport, meals, formula, bottles, toiletries, clothes, diapers, shoes, blankets, beds, and child activities. Support measures consisted of parent support group; grief, trauma, and loss counseling; child playgroups; grandparents/parenting coffee meetings, increased Adult Education/Parenting During Crisis groups, dental screenings/referrals, medical referrals for injuries suffered in fire and in effort to keep children current on vaccinations and medication replacements. First 5 Glenn also assisted in assessing/recommending schools for children in need of new schools and education. Partnering with other local agencies created a nurturing and supportive environment of which families were able to find comfort and healing. A year later, many have stayed and continue services with First 5 or other Glenn County agencies and some have moved on.

Glenn established the Pilot Diaper Program—Success!

Humboldt

First 5 Humboldt continued to focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resilience promotion work. In 2018, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors agreed to fund the First 5 Humboldt and Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) ACEs Collaborative Partnership through the County General Fund on an ongoing basis. The Partnership consists of:

1. First 5 Humboldt projects focused on strengthening the county’s ability to address and prevent ACEs and promote resilience among children ages 0-5 and their families including the co-coordination of the Humboldt County Counting on Community Symposium.
2. DHHS grantee projects focused on serving pregnant women and youth ages 0-8 and their families to help prevent, increase the awareness of and mitigate the impacts of ACEs in the county.

Project evaluations showed that local young children, families, and service providers did benefit from the efforts funded by the Partnership. First 5 Humboldt Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists provide direct support to families at First 5 Humboldt Playgroups in part as a way to help prevent ACEs and promote resilience. At Playgroup, Specialists answer questions caregivers have about their child’s development and behavior, conduct informal screenings of children’s behavior, provide resources and referrals, and conduct assessments at the request of parents or caregivers. More intensive family support is provided on an as-needed basis via office and/or home visits. The support can include providing assessments, infant massage, addressing sleep issues, and more individualized support.

2018 Playgroup Survey data show that parents who talked with a Specialist at Playgroup had, among other things: learned more about behaviors typical for their child’s age, dealt better with parenting issues, felt more supported as a parent, and felt less stress than parents who hadn’t talked with a Specialist. Results were statistically significant—results range from p=3.59 x 10-11 to p=1.69 x 10-34.

Imperial

First 5 Imperial funded programs to support the well-being and development of children. Programs ranged from lactation education to advocacy support for children under the custody of the juvenile court.

One investment related to strengthening families was the Early Asthma Education Project. A trained nurse provided case management for 86 families that have a child with asthma/asthma-like symptoms.

- Of families participating in asthma case management, 87% of parents expressed feeling confident about their ability to manage their child’s symptoms.
- Services included environmental assessments for all enrolled families, of which 78% were able to implement strategies that could
help reduce, avoid or eliminate at least two triggers identified in the assessment.

- Staff reported that success was primarily due to the individualized asthma plan and one-on-one education provided to the child and their family.

Another accomplishment was the extensive child literacy activities achieved by the Literacy and Mobile Book Services Project; a mobile library that completed 728 storyline events with 3,337 children through multiple visits in over 50 preschool centers.

- During storyline events library staff used a talk, read and sing model to support child literacy, in addition to engaging in arts and crafts, assigning a take-home activity, and realizing a book give away estimated to have provided over 12,000 books to contribute to each child’s home library.

One program addressed the issue of overweight/obesity by targeting children from 10 early care and education sites with cooking classes, gardening, training for providers and parents.

- Taste-testing activities on 11 vegetables and herbs before and after implementing activities showed meaningful gains. For example, there was an overall increase of 35% in the proportion of children stating that they “liked” the taste of all items at the post-intervention, and the proportion that were not willing to try vegetables decreased by 67%.

**Inyo**

Fiscal Year 2018-19 was a year of building the early childhood systems and supports needed to ensure Inyo County’s young children are healthy, safe and ready to succeed.

- The First 5 Inyo Commission adopted a new Strategic Plan in June 2019, guiding investments for the next five years. The plan identified access to maternal mental health and substance use services as one of the challenges facing new parents. In response, First 5 Inyo convened the Inyo County Perinatal Taskforce, to strengthen the perinatal infrastructure through systems-level impacts leading to better collaboration among agencies and services to families. The Taskforce has seen initial success with 19 staff from 10 agencies participating.

- First 5 Inyo supports the NEST (Newborn Evaluation Support and Teaching) program at Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) to provide breastfeeding support, childbirth classes, and a weekly moms group. As part of these activities, NIH was designated a Baby Friendly Hospital in September 2018. Seen as the golden standard for maternity practices worldwide, Baby Friendly designation signifies that NIH has joined a network of healthcare facilities striving to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding.

- Lastly, First 5 Inyo strengthened families through the Inyo County Triple P Network. The Triple P Positive Parenting Program is a multi-tiered system of evidence-based supports for parents and caregivers of children. In Level 1, Positive Parenting Awareness Month was celebrated in January 2019. Media strategies included a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors, workshops and classes, and a Summit to re-engage local leadership and practitioners. In Level 2, staff trained in Seminars, offering workshops reaching an additional 64 parents. In Level 3, First 5 Inyo hosted a Primary Care training for 20 staff in June 2019.

These collective efforts resulted in a stronger, engaged network, improving parenting practices and children’s well-being.

**Kern**

Through its funding strategies and collaborative efforts, First 5 Kern strives to promote and accomplish its vision that “all Kern County children will be born into and thrive in a supportive, safe, loving homes and neighborhoods and will enter school healthy and ready to learn”. In the Fiscal Year 2018-19, the fourth year of a five year funding cycle, First 5 Kern:

- Funded 43 programs across three focus areas, Health and Wellness, Parent Education and Support Services, and Early Childcare and Education. The funded programs provided valuable services to 19,328 children and 10,271 primary caregivers.

- With continued commitment of systems change efforts, First 5 Kern continued to support Trauma-Informed Care trainings through a second cohort, which included 17 agencies and 94 providers from across the county. The trainings included the support of previous participants returning as coaches to share successes and lessons learned of adopting a Trauma-Informed lens within their programs and agencies.

- Began a new partnership with Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to expand the Help Me Grow program. With the help of community partners, Ages and Stages Questionnaire screenings will be made available to more Kern County children through a coordinated county effort allowing families to request screenings through a centralized system. Families will be supported by a telephone access point, text messaging platform and an online database system. The goal of the
countywide partnership is to give more children the opportunity to be screened, identify developmental delays and link families to community resources.

**Kings**

During this past fiscal year, one of the most significant accomplishments of First 5 Kings County was the First 5 Kings County Family Resource Centers. The Kings County Family Resource Centers provided Early Childhood Education, Home Visitation, Developmental Screening, Parent Education and Referral services to 1,641 children 0-5 and 1,532 parents, with a total number of 27,306 services delivered. First 5 Kings County also supported a variety of quality childcare programs, as well as a Spanish-translation of the 211 database, to further inform the community of the services available in their native language. Below are some examples of First 5 Kings County- supported success areas:

- Parent and me programs serving children at risk for developmental delays filled a critical gap, providing developmental screenings to 233 unduplicated children and serving an increasing proportion of children 0-3 years of age.
- School readiness programs implemented at 16 public elementary schools provided kindergarten transition services across 60 classrooms reaching a potential pool of 1,320 enrolled kindergarten children. All schools reached were Title 1 schools serving a high proportion of socio-economically disadvantaged children and families.
- Family resource centers reached 2,040 children and their parents or caregivers offering an array of health, education, childcare, and family support services in community-based settings. Participants served by FRCs were diverse and representative of the communities and programs targeted for services.
- Kings County CARES About Quality (KCCAQ) enrolled 54 active agencies, including 80 center-based or Family Child Care Home (FCCH) sites, and 162 classrooms or ECE sessions. Children served through participating programs represent approximately one-third of the county population, or 4,465 children 0 to 5 years of age.

**Lake**

In 2018-19, First 5 Lake completed a new strategic plan with input from the community. The plan, which can be found at www.firstfivelake.org, highlights some of Lake County’s many unique assets (e.g., an involved tribal community, collaborative spirit, close knit community of families, etc.) as well as its challenges (e.g., natural disasters, social isolation, child abuse and neglect, etc.). The Commission drew on past evaluation findings as well as external data, such as the California County Health Rankings the plan. First 5 Lake will focus on equity to ensure that parents and children, particularly those in crisis or in isolating circumstances, have what they need to be successful.

- In addition to developing the strategic plan and selecting new grantees based on the plan, First 5 Lake was very active in envisioning and facilitating the development of two collaborative projects. Together with the “Smart Start Collective,” a group of early childhood advocates and service providers, the First 5 Lake executive director worked with a volunteer to create a birth-to-five resource website (www.smartstartlakecounty.org) to help families with young children learn about and access needed services in the community.
- The second collaborative project facilitated by First 5 Lake and Building Resilient Lake County is the development of a report and public awareness materials describing the “State of our Children” in Lake County. These materials will be released in 2019-20 and used to educate the public and decision-makers on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention measures and the cost-savings and public benefit involved in focusing more attention on primary prevention. Building Resilient Lake County will make recommendations to the community about prioritizing prevention and the needs of the next generation. These efforts position the county to begin using common definitions and frameworks when addressing family resilience and equity and meeting the outcomes defined in the strategic plan.

**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 Fiscal Year 2018-2019, 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 92 families, many of which are high-risk, were provided with intensive home visiting services.
- A total of 1,595 home visits were conducted by home visitors in which the bulk of the services they provided were centered on supporting a families basic needs.
- Additionally, 64 referrals were made to community resources and 48 children were screened for developmental delays using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).
- Families are stronger as a result of home visiting services.
- Families participating in the
program experienced gains (as measured by the Life Skills Progression tool) related to their relationships, their education and employment, their access to health and medical care, as well as the ability to meet their family’s basic needs.

- Additionally, children experienced growth in the areas of communication, gross motor and fine motor skills, problem solving, social-emotional development, self-regulation, and breastfeeding.

Families are satisfied with the content and quality of home visiting services. The overwhelming majority of parents who completed the participant satisfaction surveys were very satisfied with the content and quality of the services they received. 100% of program participants either agreed or strongly agreed that their home visitor explains things to them about the program, arrives on time to visits, and responds professionally to questions and concerns. 100% of program participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they feel more confident in their role as a parent as a result of what they learned from their home visitor.

**Los Angeles**

First 5 Los Angeles had more than 100 success stories from investments during the 2018-19 Fiscal Year!

First 5’s funding of 211 at Children’s Court helped ensure that a family was able to connect to resources that allowed them to secure a safe and stable living environment. A mother and her 4-month-old son came into the Children’s Court 211 office after just filing a restraining order against her husband due to domestic violence. She needed to get into a shelter as soon as possible to prevent her 4-month-old from being detained and removed from her custody. The Community Resource Advisor (CRA) obtained permission to contact domestic violence shelters on her behalf. They were able to locate placement for the mother and her 4-month-old. Navigating the court process can be overwhelming for families especially when they are at risk of having their children detained. Being able to act quickly to meet the court’s requirements is of the essence so that families can remain together or ultimately reunite.

Another success story comes from the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Initiative Grant. There was a 99% Early Development Instrument (EDI) completion rate for teachers who opted-in to participate in the grant. This represents 81% of kindergarten teachers at EDI schools. The EDI helped teachers to recognize the need for the shift to provide instruction that addresses the needs of the whole child. School’s teams expressed eagerness to be part of a system that supports prevention at multiple levels (within the community, at the early centers, and in elementary). EDI completion was significant due to the climate within LA Unified in the spring semester of 2019. Teachers had just returned from a strike in LA Unified, and among concerns expressed by the union was the amount of time spent on assessments. Schools opted-in to participate in the kindergarten readiness data collection because they wanted to better support the needs of their youngest students and their families.

**Madera**

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, prompted by the changing landscape of First 5 Madera County and related funding, the Commission published its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan reflects First 5 Madera County’s commitment to investing into mission-driven direct services through innovative pilot projects, employing strategic partnerships, and sustainability. The Strategic Plan was developed over several months and reflects feedback from Commissioners, Commission staff, local agencies, and a variety of stakeholders and parent groups. A two-pronged approach to assessing local needs was implemented: 1) data-set reviews, and 2) community focus groups.

- Data sets were used from local strategic partners. First 5 Madera County also facilitated focus groups throughout Madera County to collect parental voices from major geographic areas and subcultures of the county. The parental perspective was used to develop Focus Group Findings. The result is the 2020 Strategic Plan that captures a refreshed vision and direction for First 5 Madera County.

- During the fiscal year, First 5 Madera County also dedicated efforts towards refining the data evaluation processes for the First 5 Family Resource Centers (FRC) towards capturing its impact in the areas of family strengthening opportunities, improving and monitoring parental knowledge growth, and enhancing quality of early education. For example, 72% of parents surveyed suggested that attending FRC activities and/or accessing the services available resulted in learning experiences for both parent and child. Parents also indicated increased feelings of comfort and acceptance in the community.

- Finally, during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, in partnership with Fresno and Merced First 5s and Valley Children’s Hospital, First 5 Madera County initiated the Tri-County Cannabis Convening. Moving forward, First 5 Madera County intends on raising awareness around the harmful effects of cannabis use on pregnant and nursing mothers.
Marin
First 5 Marin convenes community partners each month with public policy discussions in a series we call the “Marin Communications Forum.”
• Hunger Action Month—this forum brought together all the public and private agencies who work to feed families in need, improve childhood nutrition, and better coordinate the food systems throughout our county. Often named as the “wealthiest county in California,” there is a misperception that there is no one in need. In reality, about 35% of families in Marin can’t afford to make ends meet without public or private assistance.
• Children’s Health and Well-Being—this event was a “live-action dashboard” of data and statistics about young children and their families throughout Marin County. Children Now presented their “Scorecard of Children’s Health and Well-Being” and Kidsdata.org featured some of the more detailed data and local statistics that can be found on their website. The forum not only presented a snapshot about children and families in our county, it also taught our community partners how to capture and utilize the data for public information and outreach, governmental relations and community advocacy.
• All About Autism—this forum brought a new set of parents, educators, non-profits and government agency together. The presentations were extremely informative and captivating. This event had a particularly robust question and answer session, and the guests were particularly thankful for the wealth of information, ideas and resources shared.
• Education Equity—this event was the most well-attended to date, with over 450 guests. We had excellent presentations about real-life experiences from local students, and we were also pleased to welcome Tony Thurmond, the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as our keynote speaker. Our guests appreciated a place to openly discuss issues related to race and ethnicity and inequities in Marin. The Forum continues monthly; free to attend.

Mariposa
During this past year, one of the most significant accomplishments of First 5 was the School Readiness Program, funded for $190,471. The School Readiness Program serves two preschools (Catheys Valley and Lake Don Pedro) located in Mariposa County. The two preschools provide an outstanding play based program that prepares the children for kindergarten. The facilities, curriculum and activities are creative, educational and focus on developmentally appropriate activities using Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM curriculum).
Another funded program that was highly successful was the Children’s Dental Health Program. The program was funded for $25,000 for 2018-2019. This program provided dental education by the Dental Hygienist, dental services for children with severe dental problems, and dental screenings. Two local dentists provided reduced cost dental services.
Another funded program that was highly successful was the instructional aide hired to work in the Mariposa Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten classroom. The program was funded for $18,481 for 2018-2019. The instructional aide worked with the reading program/assessments, and she 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. The class had 22 TK students who ranged in age from 4 through 6 years and having an aide made it possible for the students to work on enrichment projects and technology.

Mendocino
During the past fiscal year, First 5 Mendocino continued to support 8 geographically dispersed Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to promote 0-5 resources and services, including providing Triple P groups, bilingual playgroups, and First 5 Mendocino resources.
• First 5 Mendocino offered nearly double the amount of Triple P groups throughout the county, including Transitions a parenting group most utilized by the courts.
Additionally, the County of Mendocino recognized January as Positive Parenting Awareness Month for the second consecutive year.

- In November, First 5 Mendocino held its first annual State of the Child, utilizing First 5’s 20th Anniversary as a kicking off point. This event brought together local businesses, policy makers, and community-based organizations to talk about the effects that family friendly business policies on the community. Guest speaker, Kelly Hardy, from Children Now presented on the 2018 County Score Card data. Two community members were presented with the Child Champion Award: Anne Molgaard the founding Executive Director; and Dr. Jeremy Mann a founding commissioner. Ukiah City Councilwoman Maureen Mulheren closed the event by issuing a call to action, asking her fellow business owners to join in supporting families with family-friendly workplace policies.

- First 5 Mendocino geared up to celebrate Imagination Library’s 10 year anniversary in Mendocino County. This program provides high quality, age-appropriate books to children under the age of 5, free to the family. First 5 Mendocino is grateful to First 5 California for support of this program through a special one-time funding, as the local commission was forced to make funding cuts to this program due to declining revenue. Currently, Imagination Library has saturated the community with books in roughly 73% of the homes with young children. The program continues to grow and flourish with the positive word-of-mouth from parents throughout the county, and the participation and support of local organizations such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, local hospitals, libraries and family resource centers.

**Merced**

First 5 Merced County spent approximately $1.4 million to support services for more than 7,000 children, caregivers, and providers to build and enhance the 5 protective factors that promote optimal development, and enhance the system of effective family support/strengthening programs.

- The funded family-strengthening direct services include parent classes and support (Adverse Childhood Experiences Overcomers, Parents Helping Parents, and Be Strong Families), intensive family screening, home visiting, and mental health services (Sierra Vista Child and Family Services), cultural connection for families (Hmong Culture Camp), and in-school services (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Center).

- First 5 Merced County supported innovative, quality systems-level interventions for family support that result in long-term change to an organization’s culture, professional norms, policies, or procedures, or increase systems efficiencies that impact young children and their families. These funded initiatives include Afya Maternal/Child Church-based Health Network, Nurturing Hmong Families, and Caring for Our Black Children. First 5 Merced County coordinated convenings focused on Help Me Grow (early screening and intervention) and cannabis, as part of its policy and advocacy work.

- Efforts to improve the quality of early care environments include funds for First 5 IMPACT, Early Educator’s Institute, and stipends for a Child Development and Care Certificate program at UC Merced. Broader activities, including the Children’s Summit, the Week of the Young Child event, local program/ event sponsorships, and Hands on Heroes, aim to increase awareness and advocacy for early childhood, while also increasing access to high-quality environments for families.

**Modoc**

First 5 Modoc continues to support a comprehensive system of early intervention services to ensure the optimal health, development, and well-being of children age 0 through 5 and their families. It is important to First 5 Modoc to closely collaborate with local agencies to provide our rural population with sustainable, systemic investments. During Fiscal Year 2018-19, a total of 564 individuals were provided services through grant-funded programs. Fiscal Year 2018-19 highlights included:

- Modoc County Office of Education Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) “Early Mental Health Services” provided 12 families access to home-based psychotherapy using a modified Cognitive Behavioral Therapy evidence-informed model. Families successfully completed a total of 86 family-focused therapy sessions, meeting individual treatment goals and objectives.

- 4 Families were connected and referred to additional mental health resources through local agencies (e.g. Early Head Start, Public Health, Behavioral Health, school districts). Families concluded therapy sessions with an overall average of 77% positive self, close relationships/family, work/social/ friendships, and overall well-being. This program increased
collaborative systems change efforts by increasing mental health access to families prior to school-age entry, the program benefited 21 children and 28 adults.

- Two programs, TEACH, Inc. “Budding Tree—School Readiness Preschool Program” and Surprise Valley Joint Unified School District “SVCDC—Strong Start for Children and Families” offered high-quality early education and care environments to families not eligible for State subsidized programs; 20 children were served. The program facilitated parent meetings stressed family engagement, school readiness, health/hygiene, reading at home (Talk. Read. Sing.), and tobacco-use prevention. Both programs assessed students using the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) tool; 100% of students showed increased aptitude. Results were shared with parents and transitioning teachers to facilitate school readiness.

**Mono**

First 5 Mono programs served the following number and percent of the 0-5 population (numbers for each program are unduplicated, but across programs numbers include duplicates):

- Improved Family Functioning
  - Home Visiting: 148, 21%
- Improved Child Development
  - CDBG Preschools: 12, 2%
- Childcare Quality System: 465, 65%

- Footsteps2brilliance 505, 70%
- Peapod Playgroups: 192, 27%
- Raising A Reader: 237, 33%
- Summer Bridge 73, 10%
- Improved Child Health
- Oral Health: 119, 17%
- Safe Kids: 229, 30%

**Family Area of Residence:**

- Benton, Chalfant, Paradise: 4
- Mammoth Lakes, Crowley Lake, Sunny Slopes: 102
- June Lake, Lee Vining, Mono City: 10
- Bridgeport, Walker, Coleville, Walker, Topaz: 9

**Key Findings:**

- Home Visiting: Participating families have improved parental knowledge, understanding and engagement in promoting their children's development and physical and mental health; most enrolled children received developmental screenings; 54% mothers participating in First 5 Mono Home Visiting have increased breastfeeding rates compared to California mothers.
- Oral Health: Children at kindergarten entry have a high percentage of untreated carries, 30%.
- Peapod Playgroups: Participating families are receiving child-development and parenting education.

Due to the data, findings, and conclusions herein, First 5 Mono County will continue to fund its currently funded programs while implementing measures to improve quality. First 5 Mono will also continue to work with community partners to leverage supports around investment areas and the well-being of children birth to five and their families. The Commission will consider implementing changes to funding allocations with this data during the 2018-19 Strategic Planning process.

**Monterey**

First 5 Monterey County invested $6.14 million in Fiscal Year 2018-19, providing services to more than 36,000 young children, parents, and providers.

- First 5 Monterey County deepened work in mental health, by adding an Infant Family and Early Childhood Mental Health training solely in Spanish to the existing English cohorts. The Spanish-language cohort supports providers whose first language is Spanish and who are providing services in Spanish. Approximately, 170 providers participated in the trainings. Evaluations show participants connect to valuable information about early relationships, social emotional development and early mental health.
- First 5 Monterey County partnered with the Monterey County Department of Social Services to expand home visiting services to CalWORKs families. First 5 Monterey County was seen as a natural partner for the project. Over 100 CalWORKs families will be receiving visits each year.
- In Fiscal Year 2017-18, surveys and in-person meetings identified early childhood development and mental health as priorities for the use of cannabis revenue. During the Fiscal Year 2018-19 county budget process, First 5 Monterey County worked with stakeholders to support funding. One of those partners was Bright Beginnings, an early childhood development collective impact initiative of the Monterey County Children’s Council. First 5 Monterey County serves as the fiscal agent and one of the lead partners. As a result of the collaborative advocacy efforts, The Monterey County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the use of $340,000 from cannabis funds to support the work of Bright Beginnings, including the local maternal mental health task force.
- First 5 Monterey County celebrated 20 years of championing childhood by partnering with organizations to create MY Town, a free, hands-on children’s museum for the whole county hosted at the National Steinbeck Center. Close to 6,000 children and adults visited the exhibit which emphasized the importance of playing with children. It was designed to be a traveling exhibit and several
communities are interested in continuing the learning through play.

**Napa**

In Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Napa invested in systems-level change by forming the First 5 Napa Network, a network of leaders committed to moving the needle on the most intractable problems facing Napa County’s children 0-5 and families.

- The inaugural First 5 Napa Network cohort—comprised of 17 cross-sector leaders—was convened over a 6 month period to build leadership skills, increase collaboration and connectivity, and utilize human-centered design and systems thinking strategies to identify the challenges that face Napa County children 0-5 and families. The design challenge highlighted here was “creating ways for parents and caregivers of young children to better access, engage in and benefit from services available to them.” Through empathic interviews, First 5 Napa Network members found that many parents feel alone in their experiences and do not receive respectful or appropriate care when accessing services in Napa County. The design team then hosted a session with 6 LGBT family members that revealed the following themes about what Napa County LGBT families need: to feel visible and supported by the community; safety; and connection with other LGBT families and allies.

- Within two months, these LGBT parents led civic action that resulted in the Rainbow Flag flying for the first time at 4 city halls and 2 Napa County offices. 5 flag policies were adopted. To build connections, LGBT parents hosted a Rainbow Play Date for Pride Month. 120 people (including 41 children 0-5 and 61 parents) attended. Rainbow Play Dates now continue monthly. Parents felt more connected to LGBT families and more supported by their community after attending the Play Dates. The momentum of these efforts led to the creation of the Rainbow Action Network to continue system level efforts to support the LGBTQ community.

**Nevada**

Evaluation findings reported in Fiscal Year 2018-19 pertained to Fiscal Year 2017-18. Highlights from that year include: Four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) served 926 parents and 1,013 children 0–5 years. The FRCs delivered many services that helped families increase their Five Protective Factors including: 441 in structured play groups for parents and children, 1,044 referral contacts were made to community resources, and parent information was shared with 106 parents. Foothill Truckee Healthy Babies Home Visiting Program provided intensive support as an accredited, evidence-based Healthy Families America program to 273 parents of 139 children, delivering a total of 2,151 home visits in Fiscal Year 2017-18. Home visitors:

- Provided 767 referrals for additional local resources
- Screened all eligible mothers with the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, identified 28% of these mothers who screened positive for depression and successfully connected 100% of these mothers to services for their depression
- Screened 97% of target children with the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and ASQ - Social-Emotional health (ASQ-SE) developmental screenings, identified 11% of children who had suspected developmental delays and connected 100% of these children to further assessment and services for their delays. Moving Beyond Depression Program provided evidenced-based delivery of in-home therapy to mothers in home visiting programs who were diagnosed with depression. Therapists delivered 200 therapy sessions to 21 clients.

- 86% of clients showed a reduction in their Edinburgh Postpartum Depression Scores over the course of the program
- 100% of clients had coordinated care provided by their therapist and home visitor. The Step Up to Kindergarten Summer Program served 96 5-year-olds with the enrolled children showing growth in an average of 2.3 out of 10 measured school readiness skills over the course of the 3-week program. The number of children showing mastery of more than half of the items (6 or more) increased by 26% from entry to end of program.
Orange

Strategic Plan—First 5 Orange County updated its strategic plan, holding meetings with Commission members and stakeholders and conducting targeted community outreach and public study sessions to develop measurable objectives in three areas that align with statewide early childhood goals: Resilient Families, Quality Early Learning, and Comprehensive Health and Development. Adopted in April 2019, the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan acknowledges a shift of priorities from the creation of new services to better integration and coordination of services and agencies that support young children and families. It also includes the new branding of First 5 Orange County which now aligns with the network of First 5 Commissions throughout the state.

• Prenatal to Three—First 5 Orange County received Pritzker Children’s Initiative funding to work on shaping early childhood systems that will lead to increased investments in core services for infants and toddlers. A Pritzker fellow began work in August 2018, convening partners to strategize how to increase access to high quality services for children from birth to age 3 and their families, with the ultimate goal of improving kindergarten readiness. As a participating county in the National Collaborative of Infants and Toddlers, First 5 Orange County is contributing to the national effort to strengthen early childhood systems and drive policies toward investment in core services for infants and toddlers.

• Home Visiting – The newly created California Work Opportunity & Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) Home Visiting Initiative set aside funding to expand access to home visitation services throughout the state. First 5 Orange County’s Bridges Maternal Child Health Network provided the platform for implementation of CalWORKs-funded expansion of home visiting services, leveraging several Bridges program assets including comprehensive screenings for women and babies, the established and evaluated local home visitation programs, and subject-matter expertise for the targeted local families in need.

Placer

First 5 Placer is committed to investing in the county’s youngest children. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, over $2.9 million were spent focused on child abuse and neglect; oral health; maternal and child health; and early literacy reaching nearly 8,000 children, parents, family members, and providers through its funded programs. Nearly 40% of children and parents were Latino; 36% spoke a primary language other than English; and 58% of children were enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Two key accomplishments in 2018-2019 by First 5 Placer include efforts to 1) increase children’s access to oral health and 2) increase maternal and child health.

Oral Health: More First 5 Placer children had been to the dentist or dental hygienist in the past year, compared to previous years. (68% in 2018-2019 compared to 48% in 2016/17 and 59% in 2017/18). The Placer County Oral Health program provided the following services to children and families receiving WIC:

• 474 children received an oral health assessment and tooth brushing demonstration
• 342 children received a fluoride varnish to prevent cavities
• 77 children who were identified as not having a dental home or needing further dental services received follow-up information and support
• The Placer County Oral Health Alliance convened 11 times and continues to expand its partner network.

Maternal and Child Health: More women engaged in services through First 5 Placer received prenatal care in the first trimester in 2018-2019, compared to previous years (79% in 2018-2019 compared to 66% in 2016/17 and 63% in 2017/18). With support of First 5 Placer:

• 52 women received support from promotores to access prenatal and postnatal care (Latino Leadership Council)
• 61 mothers received counseling for perinatal or postpartum depression (Insights Counseling)
• 163 children and caregivers received weekly home visits using Parents as Teachers (KidsFirst)
• 97 mothers received substance abuse treatment and child development support (Granite Wellness)

Plumas

The First 5 Plumas County Children and Families Commission’s primary strategy in realizing its vision and fulfilling its mission is through the support of home visiting services. Currently, the Commission funds
four direct service grants that provide home visiting services to families (including foster parents) who have children ages 0–5. All programs utilize the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors framework to support and measure success. During Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Plumas County investments in home visiting resulted in the following accomplishments:

- Families are engaged in home visiting services.
- A total of 98 families were provided with home visiting services.
- A total of 717 service contacts were made by home visitors in which 4,391 services were provided.
- 64 children were screened using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), while 5 were screened using the Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) version of this tool.

Families are stronger as a result of home visiting services. All of the home visiting programs identify outcomes achievement related to each of the five Protective Factors. In each of the protective factors, there was an increase in parental perception of skills, supports, and knowledge after having received home visiting services.

- 93% of parents agreed that the program has helped them improve their parenting skills.
- 92% of parents agreed that the program has helped them reduce the stress in their life.

Families accessing services report a high level of satisfaction. The overwhelming majority of parents who completed the questions related to client satisfaction at the end of the Protective Factors survey were very satisfied with the home visiting program.

- 96% of parents agreed that their overall satisfaction with services was very good, while 100% indicated that their ideas and opinions are welcomed and included in the program.

Riverside

First 5 Riverside continued to focus on strategies and planning framework to align with the First 5 California system. Much of the work supported systems and capacity building through the development of strategic partnerships with local and state organizations and private/public agencies. A focus on sustainability of First 5 has led to increased leveraging of outside grant opportunities including CalWORKs Home Visiting Program, Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) and match funding with Nurse Family Partnership and LENA Start. Additionally, First 5 Riverside has endeavored to sustain strategic and regional partnerships such as Help Me Grow—Inland Empire and DTI to build strong and aligned systems to support children and families. Much work has been dedicated through QSRC to increase access to quality early learning settings and foster professional development for ECE providers.

HealthySteps, an evidence-based pediatric primary care model, was implemented at 5 Federally Qualified Health Centers and 3 pediatric clinic sites changing the structure of pediatric care through an integrated seamless system of care comprised of universal services, short-term supports, and comprehensive services. HealthySteps Specialists ensure families have access to expertise and personalized support to better navigate the health care system.

First 5 Riverside increased its focus on building resilient communities to strengthen protective factors with an expansion of home visitation using a variety of models. Increasing families’ access to services and resources to support family resilience, build provider capacity to support families in caring for their children, and educate parents to have the skills and tools to help their children achieve their fullest potential, are the main tenants of this initiative. First 5 Riverside consistently explores mechanisms for further expansion through strategic partnerships and funding opportunities.

Sacramento

First 5 Sacramento funded an evaluation of developmental playgroups to gather formative data about the programmatic elements in use across First 5 Sacramento’s nine partner school districts.

- Nearly half of 9 sites received scores that indicated their practices were exemplary.
- Curriculum: Playgroup sites that scored highest on curriculum offered playgroup curricula that were engaging, thematic, culturally responsive through language, and provided take-home supplemental activities for families.
- Classroom Environment: The most effective classroom environments utilized shared resources to benefit both classroom environment and coordination/accessibility of resources and referrals to participating families. The location of playgroups on preschool or elementary school sites provided a pipeline toward school readiness. Next-best classroom environments created safe, warm spaces with curriculum-driven stations, regardless of whether the location was mobile or in a shared space setting.
- Schedule: Overall, schedule satisfaction correlated with classroom location. Sites that were less satisfied with their schedule desired to expand sites with an ideal location that offered a successful classroom environment while reducing sites with less ideal locations that offered more challenging classroom environments. While playgroup communities face multiple barriers, the two most common barriers were: 1) lack of awareness of program offering/program value, and 2) transportation.
- Staffing/Infrastructure: Staffing provides the frontline assurance of playgroup quality and connection,
while infrastructure provides the baseline strategy for overall family support. District sites with enthusiastic, intentional staff that practice engaged parent support, employ Multi-Disciplinary Teams, and administer the Ages and Stages Questionnaire tool to all registered families, reflect preventive, as opposed to reactive, approaches to participation and engagement, and overall family support.

San Benito
First 5 San Benito provided services, supports, and resources to children, families, and providers that addressed the First 5 California four result areas. Outcome highlights related to these results are summarized below.

- According to pre-post survey results, parents participating in Family Wellness Court parenting classes demonstrated significant improvement in family functioning, particularly in family members’ ability to express their needs and feelings to one another, listen and communicate clearly and positively, make decisions together, and handle changes well as a family.
- Parents as Teachers home visiting participants said that the program greatly improved their knowledge of child development and how to meet children’s social and emotional needs.
- Participants in Raising a Reader reported a significant increase over time in their child’s reading engagement, and 99% of participants in Story Time said this program gave them ideas about how to make reading fun at home.
- To address Improved Child Development, First 5 San Benito enrolled 33 Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers in the Quality Counts program and provided professional development and coaching, and 12 ECE providers attended California Preschool Instruction Network classes in the county. Additionally, the Pre-Kindergarten Observation Form (P-KOF) was administered to children in Quality Counts programs help ECE providers better understand and support their students’ readiness for kindergarten.
- Child health was addressed through the inspection of 30 car seats for safe and appropriate installation and the distribution of 25 new car seats.
- Finally, to contribute to Improved Systems of Care, First 5 San Benito organized and facilitated a multi-sector collaborative of local leaders to guide the development of a Family Impact Center to integrate service systems in the county and it helped form the Tri-County Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network to advocate for policies and systems that benefit young children and their families.

San Bernardino
One of the most significant investments by First 5 San Bernardino was the continued building and implementation of a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS).

- For Fiscal Year 2018-2019 reporting, there were 234 early care and education sites participating which resulted in 10,087 children served. Since launching Quality Start San Bernardino (QSSB) in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, QSSB participants have made progress in increasing the quality of their programs.
- Fiscal Year 2018-2019 was the program’s first year with sites receiving a re-rating. Out of the 60 sites that were re-rated, 42 had an increase in their total rating points and 24 had an increase in their overall tier rating.

A QSSB participant success story worth noting is that of a Family Child Care (FCC) provider. This provider signed up to participate in 2017. Upon enrollment, the provider had recently obtained a valid Family Child Care license and attended Early Childhood Education classes through Child Care Resource Center (CCRC). The assigned QSSB Coach explained the rating process and by June 2017, the provider received a tier rating of 2-Rising Quality. The provider was determined to work with her coach to increase the quality of her center for the benefit of the children in her care. During the first two years of participation in QSSB the provider completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Child Development, completed 21+ annual hours of Professional development, and set up requirements for physician’s reports and/or doctor’s exams for children ages 5 and under. The provider became a certified Early Head Start Provider and set up the center environment in compliance with Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS). She also attended ASQ and DRDP training and began to implement the use of these tools successfully. In 2019, the site was rated for a second time and increased from a tier rating of 2-Rising Quality to a tier rating of 4-Emerging Quality.

San Diego
This year, a total of 49,359 San Diegans received supportive services via First 5 San Diego initiatives. These include health and dental services, quality preschool, targeted home visiting, parent education workshops and much more. Thousands of additional young children and their parents benefited from communitywide services such as the Kit for New Parents, the NEW First 5 San Diego mobile app,
the First 5 Warmline, community health screenings and ongoing community outreach and parent education campaigns.

- This year, Oral Health providers screened 22,818 children and pregnant women and treated 16,481 for oral health needs. Several First 5 San Diego initiatives offer developmental screenings, assessments and treatment services to address the needs of young children. It is First 5 San Diego’s goal to expand screenings across multiple settings, such as pediatrician offices and preschools, to ensure that all children in San Diego County have regular developmental checkups before entering Kindergarten.
- First 5 San Diego providers screened 12,731 children, identified 1,497 children with behavioral concerns and provided treatment for 3,191 children, which includes those who were referred from outside of our network. Drawing on recommendations from early education research and emerging best practices, First 5 San Diego funds two early learning initiatives: Quality Preschool Initiative and Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool. In total, 12,138 children in San Diego County received high-quality early education and targeted services through these initiatives. We are excited to announce that we adopted a 5-year Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-25! As we look to our emerging future, our declining revenue calls for us to consider a greater focus on our investments. This provides us with a unique opportunity to function as a convener, as an expert leader and thought partner to continue improving the overall system of care for children from birth to 5 years old throughout San Diego.

San Francisco

First 5 San Francisco advances systems of support for early childhood education, family well-being, and early intervention to ensure that all young children thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving families and communities. Investments in the Quality Connections Quality Rating and Improvement System now reach a total of 8,452 children in 429 participating early education programs and family support centers. More than 2,600 providers received Quality Connections professional development, including more than 14,000 hours of in-depth coaching instruction. As a result, percentages of programs meeting quality benchmarks continue to rise in the areas of instructional support (63% meeting quality cut-off scores) and environments (94% meeting quality cut-off scores).

San Francisco’s network of 26 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are in their 10th year of implementation. In Fiscal Year 2018-19 they supported just under 14,000 parents and children through an array of services intended not only to prevent child abuse and neglect, but to also provide parents with the tools and resources they need to give their children the best start toward school and life success. Across services, pre- and post-surveys indicate that after three to four months of participation, FRC parents are:

- More knowledgeable in child development
- More confident in parenting
- Increasing use of positive parenting practices
- Perceiving child’s behavior as more manageable
- More frequently interacting with their children
- More frequently interacting with others in their communities.

San Francisco’s Help Me Grow (HMG) Initiative continued to expand early identification and intervention efforts in Fiscal Year 2018-19 with approximately 6,000 children receiving a developmental screen. The HMG team also provided intensive supports within the classroom setting to over 300 parents and preschool children with low to moderate developmental risk, to ensure a more positive early learning experience in preparation for kindergarten.

San Joaquin

First 5 San Joaquin continues to focus on leveraging additional resources and partnerships in order to bring services to the community. Two programs are highlighted here:
- IMPACT served 51 Family Child Care Homes and 62 Centers in 2018-19. The most successful strategies included a marketing campaign to raise awareness about Raising Quality! (RQ!) and encourage enrollment in preschool, and printed guides to help parents find quality care and parent-friendly toolkits about Infant/Toddler/Preschooler development and resources.
- The newest component of IMPACT is the Peer Mentor Program that equips mentor providers to assist their peers in creating developmental screening systems within childcare settings. Other successes included the Provider Appreciation event held in March 2019 to honor over 100 early care and education providers, with Camille Maben as motivational keynote speaker. And in July 2019 family child care provider José Chavez gave compelling testimony at the First 5 California meeting at which IMPACT funding was subsequently approved for the next three years.
- First 5 San Joaquin also implemented the CalWORKs (CW) Home Visitation Program locally known as FamilyWORKs. By June 2019, 118 families were served in FamilyWORKs. The acceptance of state funding tripled the local home visitation budget and supported training to over 700 CW employees on local resources for children under the age of five. FamilyWORKs includes an early childhood consultant service through the San Joaquin County Child Abuse Prevention Council for behavioral health case consultation. Partnerships with the Family Resource & Referral Center Help Me Grow Call Center and SJ TEETH oral health care coordination services leverage community-based services designed for very young children to strengthen systems for families participating in the CW programs.
San Luis Obispo

Our early-literacy arm extended its reach even further, with more than 30 Raising A Reader sites serving upwards of 500 children across the county.

- Community collaboration brought the family-engagement program to vulnerable populations at ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) and 40 Prado, two local centers that provide shelter and support services for individuals in crisis, many of whom are young parents and children.
- Raising A Reader is also brightening days and boosting minds at the Sierra Vista Hospital Pediatric Unit, where young patients and their parents receive book bags for precious story and bonding time together!
- As San Luis Obispo County prepared for the launch of the Help Me Grow system, we engaged local pediatricians in conversations on Developmental Screenings. First 5 San Luis Obispo hosted the “Pediatric Town Hall: Strengthening Our Developmental Screening & Referral Practices” in November 2018. It offered Continuing Medical Education (CMEs), which contributed to the amazing turnout of 23 local physicians from across the county. The event featured a number of speakers, including Dr. Edward Curry, AAP-Chapter 2 Immediate Past President, as well as a provider panel and resource fair.
  - In early 2019, a group of local stakeholders began laying the groundwork for a town hall focused on addressing childcare challenges in San Luis Obispo County.
  - May 2019’s “Where’s the Care?” convening received tremendous community support, with over 140 attendees. The event hosted speakers from all over the state, including Camille Maben (First 5 California Executive Director), Rene Mendez (City of Gonzales City Manager), and Sheryl Shushman (Patagonia Director of Global Family Services), representing the private sector and government side of addressing childcare needs. There was equal time to explore the challenges and begin problem solving through breakout sessions and brain storming. The event created public awareness, government attention and business engagement that still continues.

San Mateo

During Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 San Mateo County maintained its multi-faceted investments in programs supporting all aspects of a child’s early years, including Early Learning; Child Health & Development; Family Engagement; and Policy, Advocacy, and Communications. Supported by $6.1 million in community investments, our funded partners served over 10,000 children, parents, and providers, and distributed 2,802 Kits for New Parents. First 5 San Mateo County has also engaged diverse stakeholders in many areas critical to the health and well-being of young children. Examples include:

- Build Up for San Mateo County’s Children: First 5 San Mateo County is leading a cross-sector, public-private partnership to expand awareness of the child care gap, mobilize advocates, increase the number of child care spaces, and generate funding. Build Up has secured three years of operational funding, hired full-time staff, and received donations of over $300,000 to seed the Build Up Capital Fund. Thus far the partnership has saved 610 spaces from closure, supported the creation of 550 new spaces through repurposing existing structures, and ensured that more than 1,000 new spaces are included in upcoming development projects.
- Help Me Grow: In bringing Help Me Grow to San Mateo County, F5SMC has committed to enhance sustainability though expanded funding partnerships. In addition to our own contributions, this year Help Me Grow was supported by nearly $500,000 from other funders, including private foundations and public agencies. These resources went towards the full continuum of services for children with or at risk for special needs and their families and communities, such as outreach, the HMG call center and website, screening and assessments, referrals and service linkage, care coordination, and health provider engagement.

Santa Barbara

In Fiscal Year 2018-2019 First 5 Santa Barbara County invested $2,864,685 in programs and services for 2,446 children and 2,604 families. Investment strategies included Family Resource Centers, Quality Counts, Early Care...
and Education spaces and Systems Improvement. First 5 Santa Barbara County achieved several noteworthy results that improved the quality of child care setting for children which include the development of twilight preschool classrooms across six school district campuses. This First 5 Santa Barbara County funding partnership with school district funding increased access to quality preschool for 96 children and is an exemplary model of innovation and the power of leveraged funding. A total of 139 sites participating in Quality Counts and of those sites 64 centers and 24 Family Child Homes also maintaining nationally accredited. The development of a strong cadre of Quality Counts center based and family child care coaches that are certified or highly trained in Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL), Trauma Informed Care, Dual Language Learners, Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS), Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation. First 5 Santa Barbara County provided first time funding to St. Vincent’s Family Strengthening Program (FSP), a drug and alcohol-free, transitional housing program (up to 27 months), designed to assist homeless single mothers with one or two children birth to 5 years old. FSP offered a supportive, communal environment where young women and their children were able to access the life-tools and services they need to become self-sufficient and thrive. FSP is funded in part by First 5 Santa Barbara County, which provided the following services to 28 mothers and 29 children, with 24,455 transitional housing days:

- Ongoing case management using the Family Development Matrix tool
- Weekly evidence-based parenting classes
- Early childhood education and assessments
- Weekly counseling with Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) and behavioral health support

- 92% of mothers in stable housing post FSP
- 58% of mothers obtain higher paying jobs
- 57% of mothers received free legal assistance.

Santa Clara

As part of our commitment to sustainable systems of quality early education, First 5 Santa Clara County finds creative pathways to increase teachers’ professional development, educational goal attainment, retention and leadership development in the field. In working towards assisting educators with achieving their educational goals First 5 offered 15 full scholarships to earn a master’s degree from Pacific Oaks College in Human Development with a concentration in Leadership in Education & Human Services. Participants focused their thesis on improvements to the ECE field, such as the benefit of intergenerational programs for children and elders, impacts of quality teamwork on educators, barriers and facilitating factors to Latino parent engagement, and the impact of inclusive childcare sites. The participants also shared what they learned with the Quality Matters communities of practice. In focus groups throughout the program, participants reported that the master’s program was a major life undertaking as they balanced the programs’ demands with those of their full-time jobs and families, but it was a transformative experience for them. They learned more about the early learning field, as well as a deeper understanding of social inequities, privilege and oppression, and inclusion practices. They also gained the building blocks of leadership, including presentation skills, listening skills, ability to voice their opinions, and to make decisions. Indeed, the master’s cohort participants said they felt a sense of responsibility to improve the quality of early childhood education in their communities, and some had already begun this by hosting Family Childcare Network meetings, discussing QRIS ratings with other teachers, mentoring co-teachers, and advocating for funding for a pilot co-op program. Ultimately, all 15 educators supported by FIRST 5 were awarded their master’s degree.

Santa Cruz

First 5 Santa Cruz County is helping preschool children get critical early vision screenings through its VisionFirst Program. Following the completion of First 5’s successful pilot program in 2015, VisionFirst has now been integrated into First 5’s Santa Cruz Reading Corps program, which has increased the program’s reach into a total of 69 classrooms. VisionFirst provides children as young as 6 months old with a simple and efficient vision screening using the Spot Vision Camera that quickly detects common vision problems. Parents of children found to have possible vision issues are assisted in getting a full vision exam for their child with a local optometrist. Of the 1,115 children screened in 2018-19, 171 (15%) had possible vision problems identified, and to date 127 of those children have received a full vision exam. Of these children, 114 (90%) have been prescribed eyeglasses or are being monitored. Due to this success, some local partners purchased their own Spot Vision cameras to provide on-going screenings.

First 5 Santa Cruz County is connecting newborns to medical care through the Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program. The goals of First 5’s Baby Gateway Program are to visit mothers who have given birth in local hospitals and provide: health insurance enrollment assistance, First 5’s Kit for New Parents, and information on using primary care appropriately. In 2018-19, this program reached 90% of all mothers while in the hospital. Baby Gateway also assisted 98% of all mothers who had Medi-Cal births to complete a Medi-Cal application for their newborns, and 99% of these mothers identified a preferred primary care provider or clinic for their child before discharge from the hospital. This program may also be having an effect on the use of the Emergency Department (ED) for very young infants, and particularly those who are covered by Medi-Cal. Since the launch of this program, the number of infants (under age 1) on Medi-Cal who visited the ED at one hospital has dropped 49%.
Shasta
First 5 Shasta’s 2018-19 highlights include:
• Established a new 5-year strategic plan with the following goals:
  Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are reduced and prevented in the Shasta County
  0-5 population; All children
  0-3 in Shasta County have healthy beginnings and optimal development; All children in Shasta
  County will be prepared for and enter school ready to learn.
• Launched Help Me Grow Shasta (HMG) with community event,
  in collaboration with the Shasta County Office of Education and
  the United Way. HMG leverages local resources to increase
  public awareness of the need for developmental screening, offers
  screenings, and provides referrals and care-coordination for early
  intervention services.
• Provided $21,000 for Wildfire Recovery Grants to help childcare
  providers rebuild and children/
  families recover from trauma after the devastating wildfires of 2018.
• Continued work with community partners around ACEs education,
  prevention and intervention.
• Provided NICU and families of
  newborns with books to read
  to their infants, which provides
  exposure to language and
  opportunities for attachment in a
  stressful environment.
• The Bridges to School Success
  program provided evidence-
  based mental health services and
  behavior supports to 137 children
  at risk of preschool/childcare
  expulsion and 261 parents/
  caregivers.
• Supported the Healthy Babies
  Program, which provides mental
  health services for 87 pregnant
  women and mothers of children
  age 0-2 experiencing depression or
  anxiety brought on or exacerbated
  by pregnancy or during the
  postpartum period.
• First 5 Institute delivered training
  and educational activities for 624
  children, 425 parents/caregivers
  via activities including professional
  development, library story times,
  and professional training.
• Summer Safety projects focused
  on outdoor safety and drowning
  prevention served 1,492 children
  and more than 2,000 family
  members.
• Coordinated 22 Week of the Young
  Child Events.
• Distributed more than 18,000
  children’s books.

Sierra
The vision of First 5 Sierra is to
ensure a continuum of appropriate
and integrated health, education and
recreational support services from
prenatal to old age for a balanced and
sustainable Sierra County community.
First 5 Sierra’s strongest and most
successful achievement continues to be
its preschool tuition subsidy program.
This program supports working families,
most of whom would not be able to
send their children to preschool
without tuition assistance. In 2018-19
First 5 Sierra continued to achieve an
amazing 90% rate of children attending
preschool prior to entering kindergarten.
Investing in a program where all local
children can attend preschool ensures
that all Sierra County children will start
kindergarten with the most optimal
preparation and with the least disparity in
readiness possible.
First 5 Sierra continues to seek
innovative ways to support the resilience
of our families. First 5 piloted a Back
to Preschool Night which introduced
parents to service providers from
the schools, Community-Based
Organizations and county Health
and Human Services, and included a
fascinating presentation on positive
parenting from an expert behavior
specialist. The event was well attended
and received overwhelmingly positive
feedback from parents, with high
interest in future events. In our remote,
rural community there are few to no
opportunities or spaces for parents
of babies and very young children to
connect, socialize and support each
other—there are no community centers,
no recreation programs and only two
very small coffee shops in the entire
county. First 5 Sierra sponsored a family-
friendly summer Music in the Park
series to provide parents with a venue
for social connections and program
outreach. The events were well received
in the community, resulting in parents
meeting other parents, distribution of
our favorite Potter the Otter materials, as
well as increased program registration
and visibility for the needs of young
children and their families.

Siskiyou
In Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5
Siskiyou provided unique breadth,
scale, and quality of programs that
enabled successful reach to community
members, including the following:
• Seventeen communities served
  8 Family Resource Centers (FRCs)
  throughout Siskiyou County.
• Over 10,000 hours of drop-in help
  are available at FRCs.
• Playgroups are conducted once
  per week for 48 weeks, across
  288 sessions, reaching over 700
  children.
• First 5 family literacy efforts
  included book distributions from
  C/FRCs, Dolly Parton’s Imagination
  Library, Red Scarf Society, Reach
  Out and Read, Fairchild Medical
  Center, and Read Across Siskiyou
  Starts at Pregnancy. Over 22,000
  books were distributed to children
  ages birth to 5.
• Evidence based parenting
  education classes and workshops
  reached caregivers across the
  5000 square miles, and out of 128
  caregivers surveyed, 43% reported
  experiencing abuse by a person
  inside their family, while 34%
  reported experiencing abuse by a
  person outside of their family.
• First 5 launched its 2018-19
  kindergarten readiness assessment
  in 25 classrooms across the county.
  Teachers used the Kindergarten
  Observation Form to assess the
  readiness skills of 420 children,
  and 227 of their parents completed
  a Parent Information Form,
  providing rich detail about family
demographics, access to early
education, basic health, and
social services, as well as family
protective factors.
• First 5 ensured quality of services
  by training all grantees on the
Strengthening Families framework, and completing the Strengthening Families provider self-assessments. Rich menu of high quality PD Trainings were provided. Agency-wide, First 5 created a strategic evaluation framework which identified priority indicators for each goal area and related programs, as well as evaluation tools and reporting procedures. An Annual Strategic Plan was also created in Spring 2019 which summarized strategies through which First 5 seeks to impact and measure the indicators outlined in its strategic framework.

**Solano**


- The launch of an Annual Grants program to provide a regular opportunity for the Commission to fill community gaps, pilot new or innovative ideas, and address time sensitive community needs. Through the first year of funding, seven grantees provided services to close to 700 children and families. Several agencies were able to sustain their project beyond the initial funding, seeding important work in our community.
- With blended funding from the First 5 Solano and Mental Health Services Act, the evidence-based Triple P Positive Parenting Program was implemented as a parenting education strategy. A total of 38 practitioners, representing eight local agency providers participated in extensive Triple P training across four levels of intervention and received accreditation. Providers began offering parenting education services to parents in Fall 2018 with over 1,000 parents receiving services in the first year.
- In early 2018, the Commission made a decision to establish a First 5 Center in the City of Vallejo due to the high-risk factors in that city. During Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Solano identified a location within a census tract with 58% child poverty, and close to neighborhoods with even higher rates of poverty. Construction began with an estimated timeline for opening the Center in December 2019.
- The First 5 Center will be a one-stop location to provide a full range of dual-generation services to support healthy behavior, social and emotional development, and school readiness of children, as well as provide parents the tools they need to develop positive parent-child relationships and connect to other families. All services will be family-centered and trauma-informed to build resilience and strengthen families.

**Sonoma**

In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the First 5 Sonoma County Commission’s top priorities included increasing equitable access to quality early care and evolving the Commission’s organizational structure to promote the sustainability of its mission and stewardship of public funds.

It is no longer the case that one parent works and one stays home. Childcare is essential to support parents’ ability to work and further their skills through education. Affording childcare is difficult in Sonoma County and is a barrier for employers to attract and retain workers. Locally, a family earning the median household income spends 20% on childcare, and the cost is over 60% for a parent earning minimum wage.

In the 2017 wildfires 15 licensed childcare programs were lost, displacing 444 children and leaving many parents unable to work. First 5 Sonoma County launched the Employer-Supported Child Care initiative, partnering with the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, Sonoma County Office of Education, employers, childcare operators, the Child Care Planning Council, and the Community Child Care Council to leverage private sector resources to make child care more affordable.

The Commission partnered with elected officials and County of Sonoma and City of Santa Rosa planning and economic development departments to set up a soft pipeline of housing development projects over the next five years to co-locate childcare facilities within affordable housing.

**Stanislaus**

2018 was a pivotal year for First 5 Stanislaus. The organization completed a name change from the Stanislaus County Children & Families Commission to First 5 Stanislaus. We adopted a new logo and new website to reflect our energy and progressive nature. We also created a new digital report to the community to replace its previous print newspaper version. This report featured video testimonials that highlighted the impact of First 5 work in the lives of community members. Probably the most significant accomplishment in 2018-2019 was the completion of a major community-based, strategic direction and planning process involving multiple stakeholders. The result of the work included a new mission statement, values, priorities and strategies to move forward.

**Improved Family Functioning:**

- The parents of 9,328 children received family support services through countywide Family Resource Centers or other programs.
- 1,660 received more intensive services focused on improving child abuse risk factors.
- The parents of 1,469 children attended parenting classes to increase parenting skills and knowledge.
- Of the 1,427 children 0-5 whose caregivers were screened for depression, 353 children 0-5 had a caregiver referred for mental health services as a result.

**Improved Child Development:**

- The families of 782 children 0-5 increased the time spent reading with their children at home after receiving literacy services.
- 1,048 children 0-5 were screened for educational developmental issues and 73 were reported as being referred for further assessments or services.
The project also received proclamations from the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce. Health, Adventist Health, Children’s Police Department, Sutter County Public Health, and the Yuba City Council and the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, along with the policymakers taking a photo with the Blue Dot.

Sutter County Children & Families Commission continues to work with partners to strengthen resources to link mothers to the care required when experiencing mental health disorders and develop a comprehensive resource guide that will support healthcare providers, Help Me Grow staff, WIC and the community-at-large.

**Tehama**

First 5 Tehama continued to be a visionary leader in the county for building sustainable systems to support families with young children. At the countywide level, First 5 Tehama supported the Pregnancy to Preschool Partnership (P2P), a collaboration of publicly-funded agencies to streamline referral and data sharing processes, and ensure that every child that comes to the attention of partner agencies has access to a high quality early learning opportunity. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, 216 families were given referrals from 21 agencies through the P2P network. First 5 Tehama also funded the School Readiness Initiative, a program that serves families from pregnancy to age 5, without income eligibility or medical necessity. Upon referral, resource visits were conducted with 304 families to understand needs, conduct developmental screenings, and refer to home visitation, playgroups, parent cafes and any other early learning and parent supports needed. Evidence-based home visitation (Parents as Teachers) was provided to 358 families to help them learn more about child development, positive parent-child interactions and to help children meet health and developmental milestones. Parents praised the home visiting program, with 88% of parents reporting an increase in knowledge of their child(ren)s development. At the end of program, 99% of children had medical and dental health coverage, and 86% of children were up-to-date on medical visits, 63% on dental visits, and 88% on immunizations. Parents felt that parent cafes were extremely valuable for social networking and building protective factors; 98% were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience.

In Fiscal Year 2018-19, one hundred playgroups provided developmentally appropriate activities for 915 children without prior early learning experience. In post surveys, nearly all parents reported increases in knowledge of child development (96%), social-emotional competence of children (93%), and access to community resources (96%).

**Trinity**

The First 5 Trinity County Children and Families Commission invests in a variety of services aimed at supporting children prenatal through age five and their families. Primary investments include:

- **School Readiness Playgroups:** First 5 Trinity partners with the Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) to provide pre-K programs at various locations throughout the county. The pre-K school readiness program offers structured playgroups aimed at preparing kids for kindergarten. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the program served 62 children ages 0 through 5, and 41 primary caregivers.
- **Parent Nursery School Program:** The Parent Nursery School program partners with parents to provide engaging enrichment activities. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the program served 17 children ages 3 through 5, and 30 primary caregivers.
- **Welcome Baby Program:** The Welcome Baby Program offers new parents a lifeline to support, information and community resources. New parents are visited in their home by a family advocate that provides information about what to expect as a new parent, coaching about creating a safe home environment, and information about resources. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the program served 12 infants, and 26 primary caregivers.
- **Children’s Garden:** The Children’s Garden Project aims to teach young children the fundamentals of gardening as well as to provide basic guidance on healthy

- 119 children participated in the Kindergarten Readiness Program at school sites across the county that helped prepare them for Kindergarten.
- Improved Health:
  - 130 infants were born term after their mothers participated in a healthy birth program.
  - 92% of the mothers initiated breastfeeding.
- Improved Systems of Care:
  - Families of 5,839 children have increased knowledge and use of community resources.

In partnership with the Sutter County Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program and with the assistance from the Yolo County Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative, Sutter County Children & Families Commission implemented the universal symbol for Maternal Mental Health into a live Traveling Blue Dot in celebration of Maternal Mental Health Month (May 2019). The live Blue Dot travelled to multiple agencies throughout Sutter County during the month of May to actively engage both traditional and nontraditional colleagues in a social media campaign. Photos of agencies were taken with the Blue Dot and were featured on the Commission’s Facebook page. The purpose of the photos taken was to promote awareness about maternal mental health and the need for developing a system of care. The Blue Dot Campaign successfully engaged agencies to initiate conversations about their critical role in addressing maternal mental health. The social media photos made a statement in the community that they care about mothers and baby’s health. The campaign started necessary conversations, established relationships and began to decrease stigmas around perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

Some of the stakeholders included urgent care, family resource centers, the Sutter County Sherriff and Yuba City Police Department, Sutter County Public Health, Adventist Health, Children’s Museum, Yuba-Sutter- Colusa United Way, Sutter County Library and the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce. The project also received proclamations
nutrition. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the program served 93 children ages 0 through 5, and 94 primary caregivers.

- **Trinity Smiles**: Trinity Smiles is a program that provides mobile and dental services at various school sites, with a focus on providing care to underserved children in the county. Services include oral evaluations, extractions, cleanings, topical fluoride application and fillings. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the program served 58 children ages 0 through 5, and 79 other family members.

In addition to the primary investments described above, First 5 Trinity supports smaller community projects.

**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. This was the first year of implementing the new Strategic Plan.

In 2018-2019, funded programs served 30,345 parents and children. Each of First 5 Tulare County programs are unique. This year First 5 Tulare would like to highlight two programs: Save the Children Early Steps to School Success and Altura Centers for Health Breastfeeding Friendly Clinics.

First 5 Tulare County’s partnership with Save the Children Federation Inc. Early Steps to School Success has been crucial to reaching hard-to-reach populations. The program partners with six of the counties rural school districts to ensure children and their parents have access to quality literacy education via home visitation to expectant families, families with infants and toddlers, and families with 3 to 5 year olds. The families of expectant mothers focuses on prenatal health care and baby’s developmental progress. Families with infants and toddlers are provided with services to build strong, loving relationships with their children and create supportive environments. Parent education is offered to cover topics such as communication, child safety, and children’s health and development. Books are brought to each visit to help families build their home libraries. Growing up in a house full of books has been strongly linked to academic achievement. Families that participated in the program demonstrated an increase in books in their home and on average read together 10 times per month. 100% of the children 0-3 that were identified as having a concerns via the Ages and Stages Questionnaire received referrals for treatment.

First 5 Tulare has expanded their partnership with Altura Center for Health Breastfeeding Friendly clinics. Through this first year of implementation they served 236 women that were seen by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

**Tuolumne**

First 5 Tuolumne provides leadership and support for programs to achieve the vision that all children are healthy and ready to learn. First 5 Tuolumne County invested $726,982 in Fiscal Year 2018-19, providing services to over 2,822 young children, parents, and providers. Of those receiving services, most were served by Health programs (80 percent) such as the Smile Keepers dental program, Public Health Outreach, and developmental screenings. Our main focus areas are:

- **Improved Family Functioning**: Primary Caregivers obtained the supports and resources they need to be their child’s first and best teacher. 254 parents, caregivers, and providers participated in programs for improving family functioning such as in-home support, group parenting classes, as well as training to improve their ability to provide for their families such as GED and ELL classes.
- **Improved Child Health**: Our Smile Keepers Oral Health program provided oral health screening, fluoride varnish, and education to 1,028 children and 569 parents. This was the first year First 5 Tuolumne offered the Ages and Stages Questionnaire for Social-Emotional Development (ASQ-SE) at all our county kindergarten registrations.
- **Improved Child Development**: Tuolumne County invested $259,259 to improve the quality of our early care and education sites. This was done by investing in professional development stipends for providers who participate in continuing education and/or coaching as well as investing in training to provide the ASQ-SE to parents. This was the first year First 5 Tuolumne has invested in the Imagination Library. Since 90% of a child’s brain develops before the age of 5, we know it is vital to invest in families and encourage them to talk, read, and sing to their children every day. We are confident the Imagination Library will help.

**Ventura**

In Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Ventura County implemented the third funding year of its five-year strategic plan that was adopted in June 2015. For funding years one through three, investments largely remained the same as the Commission utilized its Sustainability Fund to maintain funding levels. With the depletion of the Sustainability Fund in June 2019, First 5 Ventura County prepared to shift its strategic investments for years four and five towards advocacy, capacity building and system change efforts, that promote parent engagement, build best practices and quality standards, engage partners in cross system governance and increase the alignment of resources for improved outcomes for young children. Significant modifications to implementation models for First 5 Ventura County’s investments in quality preschool, Help Me Grow, and Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL) initiative, a nationally recognized, community-based service delivery model were finalized and contractor selections occurred so that services were ready to begin on July 1, 2019.

During Fiscal Year 2018-19, The NFLs brought together early learning, health and family support resources for families in their neighborhoods and piloted a standardized approach for delivering Parent and Child Together (PACT) classes. Programs funded under Countywide Specialized Strategies delivered regional-based family
strengthening, early intervention, and health-focused programming, such as oral health services and Triple P. Help Me Grow streamlined the process of accessing support for families of young children with developmental and behavioral concerns. Quality early learning opportunities continued through the funding of preschool spaces and quality improvement activities. First 5 Ventura championed the Take 5 and Read To Kids campaign to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy and launched a new parent engagement strategy built upon a national model, in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Policy’s Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC).

**Yolo**

As the first year of a new Strategic Plan, Fiscal Year 2018-19 was a year of significant movement in First 5 Yolo’s direction to focus on prevention and deeper investments in systems transformation efforts. Funded program highlights include:

- Helping families avoid the need for entry into CWS and supporting positive parenting
- Increasing access to early mental health screens and supports
- Engaging families in early learning
- Piloting a systems transformation effort, The CHILD Project.

Starting in Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Yolo acted as co-founder and lead agency for city cannabis-related revenue invested in a pilot project for higher-risk families, prenatal-3 yrs. This pilot set the foundation for an innovative and expansive project in support of pregnant women and mothers of infants.

All programs are increasingly coordinated and targeted to systems transformation. The Commission anticipates substantial strides in this regard in Fiscal Year 2019-20 with the launch of a large initiative, The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R), co-funded with California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention and built on the foundation of the earlier pilot project. R2R is a systems improvement designed to prevent conditions that contribute to child maltreatment, prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences, and provide a system for improved health, safety, and early experiences. The Project identifies high-risk mothers and infants and provides intensive, evidence-based home visiting to substantially mitigate the risk for child maltreatment and future trauma.

In the support of these efforts, First 5 Yolo invested time and attention in its local “Thrive by Five” strategy, advocating for the dedication of new revenues to early childhood prevention and intervention efforts. This has catalyzed leading edge policies in cities and at the County, resulting in the inclusion of early childhood in a County cannabis tax expected to help fund First 5 activities in Fiscal Year 2019-20, and dedicated funding from cites.

**Yuba**

In Fiscal Year 2018-19, First 5 Yuba awarded nearly $60,000 in mini-grant funds to fourteen different community-based organizations, public entities, and private agencies that addressed all First 5 California result areas. Mini-grants supporting Improved Child Health, included continuing education for medical professionals related to breastfeeding. A gas card program supported families traveling out of the area for pediatric specialty care, and local kids’ yoga classes totaling over 103 children 0-5 and their families.

In relation to Improved Child Development; both center and home-based day cares received support in curriculum development and sustainable facility improvements. Notable was the establishment of a school readiness preschool program at a remote charter school in the rural areas of Yuba County. Modeling a nearby existing First 5 funded school readiness program, the charter school currently serves 12 children 0-5 and their families. Overall, seven agencies were funded, reaching 114 children.

Mini-grants linked to Improved Family Functioning included an emergency homeless shelter supporting 11 children 0-5 and their families during the winter months. A child’s bereavement program engaged 37 children through therapeutic art expression on local school campuses. Lastly, an Air Force Base managed family resource center provided opportunities for military families to participate in a variety of social groups and activities to connect families on base and to their community. In less than a year attendance at play groups, field trips, and engagement in social programs tripled. While mini-grants are respectively smaller awards in relationship to our major funded partners, the impact and reach of these programs and services is monumental. By investing in small agencies, providers, and community-based organizations, mini-grants help to build local capacity by providing a variety of services to a large geographical area in non-traditional settings.
### Appendix A: Number of Services and Expenditures by Result Area and Service Type, FY 2018-19

#### IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result Area and Service Type</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Primary Caregivers</th>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Total Primary Caregivers and Providers</th>
<th>Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Percent of Services in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Total Expenditures for Services</th>
<th>Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Family Support</td>
<td>196,418</td>
<td>313,282</td>
<td>4,096</td>
<td>317,378</td>
<td>513,796</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>$42,544,136</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Intensive Family Support</td>
<td>23,119</td>
<td>26,472</td>
<td>1,242</td>
<td>27,714</td>
<td>50,833</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$37,023,994</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Improved Family Functioning**

- Children: 219,537
- Primary Caregivers: 339,754
- Providers: 5,338
- Total Primary Caregivers and Providers: 345,092
- Total Number of Services: 564,629
- Percent of Services in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Number of Services: 7%
- Total Expenditures for Services: $79,568,130
- Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Expenditures: 25%

#### IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result Area and Service Type</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Primary Caregivers</th>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Total Primary Caregivers and Providers</th>
<th>Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Percent of Services in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Total Expenditures for Services</th>
<th>Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Early Learning Supports</td>
<td>186,913</td>
<td>34,748</td>
<td>29,461</td>
<td>64,209</td>
<td>251,122</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$77,032,351</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learning Programs</td>
<td>45,207</td>
<td>57,925</td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td>60,255</td>
<td>105,462</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$39,658,966</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Improved Child Development**

- Children: 232,120
- Primary Caregivers: 92,673
- Providers: 31,791
- Total Primary Caregivers and Providers: 124,464
- Total Number of Services: 356,584
- Percent of Services in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Number of Services: 32%
- Total Expenditures for Services: $116,691,317
- Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Expenditures: 36%

#### IMPROVED CHILD HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result Area and Service Type</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Primary Caregivers</th>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Total Primary Caregivers and Providers</th>
<th>Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Percent of Services in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Total Expenditures for Services</th>
<th>Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Health Education and Promotion</td>
<td>31,880</td>
<td>59,793</td>
<td>4,515</td>
<td>64,308</td>
<td>96,188</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$8,354,458</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal and Infant/ Toddler Pediatric Support</td>
<td>3,675</td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>6,465</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$2,297,787</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting</td>
<td>40,947</td>
<td>57,515</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>57,748</td>
<td>98,695</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$60,775,533</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Health Education and Treatment</td>
<td>116,800</td>
<td>34,747</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>35,364</td>
<td>152,164</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$13,759,888</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention</td>
<td>134,109</td>
<td>45,932</td>
<td>13,025</td>
<td>58,957</td>
<td>193,066</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$40,922,043</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Improved Child Health**

- Children: 327,411
- Primary Caregivers: 200,661
- Providers: 18,506
- Total Primary Caregivers and Providers: 219,167
- Total Number of Services: 546,578
- Percent of Services in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Number of Services: 61%
- Total Expenditures for Services: $126,109,709
- Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Expenditures: 39%

**Total**

- Children: 779,068
- Primary Caregivers: 633,088
- Providers: 55,635
- Total Primary Caregivers and Providers: 688,723
- Total Number of Services: 1,467,791
- Percent of Services in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Number of Services: 100%
- Total Expenditures for Services: $322,369,156
- Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area: 100%

#### IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result Area and Service Type</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Primary Caregivers</th>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Total Primary Caregivers and Providers</th>
<th>Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Percent of Services in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Number of Services</th>
<th>Total Expenditures for Services</th>
<th>Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area</th>
<th>Percent of Total Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Public Advocacy</td>
<td>322,674</td>
<td>87,631</td>
<td>11,025</td>
<td>98,695</td>
<td>193,066</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$40,922,043</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and Systems Improvement Efforts</td>
<td>50,077,096</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50,077,096</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Improved Systems of Care**

- Children: 779,068
- Primary Caregivers: 633,088
- Providers: 55,635
- Total Primary Caregivers and Providers: 688,723
- Total Number of Services: 1,467,791
- Percent of Services in Result Area: 100%
- Percent of Total Number of Services: 100%
- Total Expenditures for Services: $405,214,083

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1 Colusa and Kings counties are not included.

2 Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Appendix B: First 5 California Result Areas and Services

Result Area: Improved Family Functioning
Providing parents, families, and communities with relevant, timely, and culturally appropriate information, education, services, and support.

General Family Support
Programs providing shorter-term, non-intensive instruction on general parenting topics, and/or support for basic family needs and related case management (e.g., meals, groceries, clothing, emergency funding or household goods acquisition assistance, and temporary or permanent housing acquisition assistance). Supports may include referrals to family services such as Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and other community resources, adult and family literacy, and fatherhood programs. In general, these programs are designed to provide less intense and shorter term support services and classes for families by paraprofessional staff. Program models or initiatives may include Abriendo Puertas, Avance, family resource core support, and the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P).

Targeted Intensive Family Support Services
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 functioning (e.g., counseling, family therapy, parent-child interaction approaches, and long-term classes or groups). This also is the category for reporting comprehensive and/or intensive services to special populations (i.e., homeless, teen parents, foster children, special needs). Program models or initiatives may include Incredible Years, Nurturing Parenting Program, and Triple P.

Result Area: Improved Child Development
Increasing the quality of and access to early learning and education for young children.

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 rating and improvement system investments as part of First 5 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive and Quality Counts California. This service category covers Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings efforts, most commonly by licensed care providers, and may include interagency collaboration, facility grants and supply grants to providers, support services to diverse populations, and database management and development. Non-ECE settings work is included under General Family Support. Program models or initiatives include Quality Counts California.

Early Learning Programs
Early learning programs for children 0 to 5 years old may include preschool programs, kindergarten transition services, and early learning programs for all ages. Early learning programs for primary caregivers and their children together may include playgroups primarily focusing on 0 to 3 year-olds. Programs may include child-related early literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs. Programs may include extra supports in early learning settings for homeless children, Federal Migrant or Tribal Child Care programs, and children receiving Alternative Payment vouchers for childcare. Program models or initiatives include facility grants, playgroups, preschool/childcare reimbursement, and summer programs.

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.

General Health Education and Promotion
Programs promoting children’s healthy development, including nutrition, fitness, and access to health/dental/vision insurance and health services. Programs also may focus on increased awareness of information about child safety seats, fire, safe sleep, and drug/alcohol/tobacco education. Program models or initiatives include nutrition/breastfeeding, safe sleep, safety education, smoking or tobacco cessation.
Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting
Home visiting is a primary service delivery strategy for inter-generational family-centered supports. Home visiting services are provided by qualified professionals with parents, prenatally and/or with children birth to age three. These voluntary programs are tailored 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. Home visits focus on linking pregnant women with prenatal care, promoting strong parent-child attachment, 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, Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and local models.

Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support
Out-of-home programs that may 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 local models.

Oral Health Education and Treatment
Programs providing an array of services that can include dental screening, assessment, cleaning and preventive care, treatment, fluoride varnish, and parent education on the importance of oral health care. This may include provider training and care coordination of services.

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. May include strategies targeting language and communication skills, social and emotional development, developmental delays, related parent education, and Mental Health Consultations in ECE settings. Program models or initiatives include care coordination and mild-to-moderate supports.

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.

Policy and Public Advocacy
Policy and Public Advocacy includes community awareness, public outreach and education on issues related to children 0 to 5 and their families. This also may include work focused on policy change, work with local and statewide stakeholders, policy development, related efforts, and Town Halls.

Initiatives include resilient families and communities, child health, early learning, and revenue.

Program and Systems Improvement Efforts
Efforts to improve service quality, connections between programs, infrastructure support, and professional development. This also may include 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 of age. Improvements could be geared toward creating a well-trained workforce with shared professional standards and competencies, creating strong and effective linkages across particular system components, or leveraging funding to sustain the system of care. This also may include database management and other cross-agency systems evaluation support. Initiatives include early identification and intervention, health systems, family strengthening, Talk. Read. Sing.®, and Trauma Informed Care/Adverse Childhood Experiences.
References

1 Educare https://www.educareschools.org/


5 Educare California at Silicon Valley. http://educaresv.org/

6 Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach. https://www.educareschools.org/schools/los-angeles-long-beach/
Our Vision

California’s children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.
2020-07-004

Request for Applications (RFA)

Community Engagement Event Sponsorships
AGENDA ITEM: Request for Applications (RFA) Community Engagement Event Sponsorships

A. Background/History:
First 5 Merced approved a new Strategic Plan at the June 2020 Commission meeting. The new strategic plan created new funding streams and modified some existing ones. Each year, the Commission approves the funding guidelines and criteria for the Community Engagement Event Sponsorships this allows staff the ability to implement the program. For FY 20/21, the guidelines and criteria were updated to reflect the new Strategic Plan to reflect the mission, vision and guiding principles set forth in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

Community Engagement Event Sponsorships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intent:</th>
<th>A quick-responding, small scale funding mechanism to provide financial sponsorship to organizations for community engagement events that highlight the Children’s Bill of Rights for Merced County and include efforts that connect families and children 0-5 years old to available services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. award:</td>
<td>$1,000.00 per organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recipients:</td>
<td>50 (approximately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle(s):</td>
<td>Requests for the Community Engagement Event Sponsorships Program will be accepted and reviewed continuously in order to be responsive to a variety of community events and timelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval:</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Summary of Request, Description of Project and/or Primary Goals of Agenda Item:
Staff is requesting the Commission review, discuss and approve the release of the Request for Applications (RFA) for Community Engagement Event Sponsorships funding up to $50,000 in FY 2020-2021.

C. Timeframe:
If approved the RFA will be published July 17, 2020. Approved events will be completed by June 30, 2020.

D. Costs:
Community Engagement Event Sponsorships are eligible for up to $1,000 each with a maximum of $50,000 in FY 20/21.

E. Staff Recommendation:
Commission staff recommending the Commission approve the release of the Community Engagement Event Sponsorship Request for Applications for FY 20/21.

F. Attachments:
- First 5 Merced Community Engagement Event Sponsorship Request for Applications FY 20/21
REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Community Engagement Event Sponsorships

(July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)
Community Engagement Sponsorship Program

The Children’s Bill of Rights’ Community Engagement Sponsorships Program provides financial support to organizations implementing community engagement events and activities that: Promote the Children’s Bill of Rights, and connect families with children 0 through 5 years with available services that make the rights more of a reality for Merced County children.

Funding under this program falls within First 5’s mission of “To provide for the optimal physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of young children in Merced County”, and aims to increase community level awareness and acknowledgement of the need to prioritize care benefiting our youngest kids (0-5).

Under this funding program, First 5 Merced County will support activities across a broad geography throughout Merced County, and partner together with a diverse group of organizations, groups, businesses, and other entities to engage community members and begin discussions around the Bill of Rights and children’s needs, and connect families with needed services.

Funding Guidelines

Funding up to $1,000 per event can be awarded until allocated funds are exhausted. The First 5 Merced Commission has allocated 50 events/activities will be sponsored throughout the county between the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A wide range of types of community events/activities will be considered. Examples include (but are not limited to) community health / resource fairs, town hall meetings, community / neighborhood celebrations, parent / family activities, employee events, community planning / needs assessment activities, etc.

Funding may be awarded in amounts less than what is requested. First 5 funds can only be used to support children 0-5 and their families. Therefore, if a proposed event/activity will also serve individuals outside of First 5 Merced County’s age-range, other funding sources must be available to supplement First 5’s funding.

Eligibility for funding is limited to those events and/or activities that:

- Goals that align to a meaningful degree with the mission, vision and guiding principles of First 5 Merced County;
- Directly target the general community (or an identified sub-segment of the Community) as the primary event attendees;
• Align with the purpose and elements of, as well as work to publicize, one or more of the rights addressed within the Children’s Bill of Rights for Merced County; and,

• Engage the participation of a wide range of organizations, groups, communities, businesses, and other entities in activities that enhance the well-being of children 0-5 years throughout the county.

Note: Community Engagement events/activities that are already supported in part by First 5 funds through any other First 5 funding mechanism are not eligible for Community Engagement Event Sponsorship funding.

There is no deadline for applying, but June 9, 2020 is the last day to apply with the required 21 days advance. Community Engagement Sponsorship requests are accepted on a continuous basis and are considered in the order received throughout the year until allocated funds are exhausted. On at least a monthly basis, First 5 Merced County staff will review submitted Letters of Request.

Letters of Request that are received which include all required information, and are determined to fulfill the intent and scope of the Community Engagement Event Sponsorship Program will be approved at the staff level by the First 5 Merced County Executive Director.

Selected recipients will plan and implement their event in coordination with First 5 Merced County staff who will provide technical assistance and support to promote the event’s success.

Letters of Request

A letter of request must be submitted to First 5 Merced County in order to be considered for funding. Letters of Request must be received at least 21 days prior to the event. Provide the following information in the letter:

• Requesting organization and collaborating partners (if applicable)
• Name and goal(s) of the event
• Which Children’s Bill of Right(s) will be covered during the event
• How the organization will disseminate and publicize the Children’s Bill of Right(s) during the event/dialogue
• How community members will be engaged in dialogue about the Children’s Bill of Rights
• How families will be connected to services to support them
• Event history (if applicable)
• Event date/time/location
• Description of intended audience / participants
• Estimated attendance size
• Primary event activities
• Total event budget and description of how First 5 funds will be used.
• Other funding sources and amounts (cash and in-kind equivalent) required for events targeting children beyond the ages of 0-5.
• Amount of First 5 Merced County funds requested

Letters of Request shall be reviewed based on criteria including, but not limited to:
1. Clarity of the description of the event;
2. Degree of alignment of event goal(s) with the First 5 Merced County vision, mission and guiding principles;
3. Potential of the event to effectively publicize and promote the Children’s Bill of Rights (or portions of it) and connect Merced County families with children 0-5 years old with available services;
4. Ability of the event to fulfill this funding program’s intent to (collectively) reach geographic areas throughout the county, and engage a diverse group of entities to implement events/dialogues;
5. Targeted population for the event (i.e., general community vs. service providers/professionals);
6. Organizational capacity / history of successfully conducting the event;
7. Availability and amount of non-First 5 funding to support the event’s total budget (including in-kind and cash resources).

Submit Letters of Request to:

For hardcopy, please submit letters of request to:

First 5 Merced County
Attn: Community Engagement Event Sponsorships
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341

For hardcopy, please submit letters of request to:

Please submit electronic letters of request as an email attachment to Marie Pickney at Marie.Pickney@countyofmerced.com.

Awards & Terms

A Community Engagement award letter will be presented to successful applicants detailing the amount and terms of the award. General liability insurance coverage is required for any event for which First 5 funding is provided.

Any marketing materials (flyers, posters signs etc.) for First 5 events/activities shall identify First 5 Merced County as a sponsoring entity in the form of an attribution statement and/or official logo (both provided upon funding approval).
Organizations are required to submit copies of all marketing materials to First 5 at least 10 days prior to distribution to the public. Notifications of media events shall be shared with First 5 prior to recording.

Submission of photos for project activities and/or events, are required 10 days after event. Following the sponsored event, recipients of funding will be required to complete a brief survey of the sponsored event documenting the estimated attendance, its benefits for those attending, and related information.

Failure to complete required documentation prior to closeout could result in subsequent funding opportunities.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail (standard or electronic). Appeals for unsuccessful requests will only be entertained based on a violation of law, rule, regulation, or terms of the Funding Guidelines and Criteria approved by the Commission for this funding mechanism. Mere disagreement with the decision is not grounds for appeal.

Questions? If you have questions regarding Community Engagement Sponsorships, contact Marie Pickney, Program Manager, at First 5 Merced County via e-mail at Marie.Pickney@countyofmerced.com or phone (209) 385-7337
2020-07-005

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Mini-Grants
AGENDA ITEM: Request for Proposals (RFP) Mini-Grants FY 20/21

A. Background/History:
First 5 Merced approved a new Strategic Plan at the June 2020 Commission meeting. The new strategic plan created new funding streams and modified some existing ones. Each year, the Commission approves the funding guidelines and criteria for the Mini-Grants this allows staff the ability to implement the program. For FY 20/21, the guidelines and criteria were updated to reflect the new Strategic Plan and the scoring rubric for general mini-grants revised to reflect the mission, vision and guiding principles set forth in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

**General Mini-Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intent:</th>
<th>Small scale funding mechanism for one-time support of limited duration service efforts, events, activities, enhancing the well-being of children 0-5 years.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. award:</td>
<td>$10,000.00 per organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recipients:</td>
<td>10 (approximately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle(s):</td>
<td>One, if funds remain proposals will be considered on an as submitted basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval:</td>
<td>Commission action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Summary of Request, Description of Project and/or Primary Goals of Agenda Item:
Commission staff is requesting the Commission review, discuss and approve the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Mini-Grants funding up to $100,000 in FY 2020-2021.

C. Timeframe:
If approved the RFP will be published July 17, 2020. Approved projects will be completed by June 30, 2020.

D. Costs:
Mini-grants are eligible for up to $10,000 each with a maximum of $100,000 in FY 20/21.

E. Staff Recommendation:
Commission staff recommending the Commission approve the release of the Mini-Grant Request for Proposals for FY 20/21.

F. Attachments:
   - First 5 Merced Mini-Grant Request for Proposals FY 20/21
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Mini-Grants

(July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

July 2020
I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The purpose of First 5 Merced County’s Mini-Grants program is to provide (Proposition 10) funding for one-time grants and encourage community participation and development of projects that address First 5 Merced County’s vision and mission.

Vision Statement
All children in Merced County will thrive in supportive, loving and nurturing environments and enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Mission Statement
To provide for the optimal physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of young children in Merced County.

Guiding Principles
- Practicing wise stewardship and maintaining accountability.
- Being transparent about funding decisions and expectations.
- Respecting the diversity, strength, uniqueness, and potential of all children, families and communities.
- Promoting sustainable change by investing in long-term policy, institutional, funding, and systemic changes that extend First 5 reach and impact.
- Soliciting and listening to the ideas of stakeholders and others and encouraging an open dialogue.
- Establishing partnerships and collaborations with similar mission-driven organizations to facilitate programs and services.
- Investing in systems-level changes to promote cultural equity and sustainability, while allowing for program innovation.
- Improving evidence-based programs and practices based on solid evaluation.

Awards of up to $10,000.00 are available through an application process to support local, community-driven projects that benefit children ages 0-5 years and their families in Merced County.

II. MINI-GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Applicant Eligibility Criteria
Applications will be accepted from:
- Non-profit agencies or organizations
- Private/for-profit businesses or corporations
- Community groups
• Governmental units
• Qualified individuals

Applicants that do not meet the requirements for contracting with First 5 Merced County may be required to work with a fiscal agent.

Family childcare providers, preschools and IMPACT participants are NOT eligible. Please contact First 5 Merced County for opportunities available to family childcare providers.

B. Eligible Activities
First 5 Merced County is funded by California Proposition 10 passed in 1998. Proposition 10 legislation mandates that funding is used to serve pregnant mothers, children 0 through 5, their parents, or caregivers. Proposed projects should be short-term service efforts, and/or activities with goals to improve the well-being of children 0-5 years and their families.

Funding requests that are eligible for consideration include, but are not limited to:

• Development of training programs
• Outreach to increase access to resources available for young children and their families
• Development of cross-system policies and procedures to improve service delivery
• Purchase of educational materials and supplies
• Enhance service delivery of current programs

Examples of funding requests that are NOT eligible include, but are not limited to:

• Requests supporting family child care providers/preschools
• Requests supporting providers or centers participating in the First 5 IMPACT initiative
• Activities supported financially by First 5 funding through any other First 5 funding mechanism
• Purchasing equipment or upgrading preschool playground
• Giving away free groceries to needy families
• Fundraising
• Starting a new preschool/child care facility
• Ongoing expenses, including ongoing salaried staffing costs or operational expenses
• Capital project or improvements (defined as any improvements to one’s property such as construction, additions, alterations and/or modifications that may increase the value of that property.)
Eligible applicants are limited to one Mini-Grant per fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). While eligible applicants can apply for additional Mini-Grants in future years of the First 5 Merced County Strategic Plan 2020-2025, repeat projects will not be considered.

Program activities must take place during the 2020-21 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021).

C. Availability of Funds
The First 5 General Mini-Grants Program will provide one-time funding for up to $10,000.00 depending upon the scope of the proposed project. The Commission plans to award approximately $100,000 in mini-grants for fiscal year 2020-21. Qualified applicants may only receive one mini-grant per fiscal year.

Funds may not be used to supplant state or local money or to fund existing levels of service.

Funds may not be used for efforts that have been supported by the General Mini-Grant program during the First 5 Merced County Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Funds awarded through this funding mechanism must be expended by June 30, 2021.

D. Application Requirements
To apply for a General Mini-Grant, review and complete all of the documents listed below. The application may be typed or neatly handwritten in either English or Spanish. An electronic version of the application can be accessed on the First 5 Merced County website: www.first5mercedcounty.org.

A complete application packet must include 1 original of the following:

☐ Application Cover Sheet
☐ Project Narrative/Requirements
☐ Budget Form
☐ Signed copy of Agreements and Certifications
☐ Applicant’s Policy on Tobacco Free Environment
☐ Documentation of Tax Exempt Status (if applicable)
☐ Copy of Business License (if applicable)

E. Submission
Applications are due: Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

A complete application packet must arrive by mail or be hand delivered before 4:00 PM on the deadline. First 5 staff will receive packets. Packets, regardless of
Submit an original of the complete packet to:

First 5 Merced County
ATTN: General Mini-Grants Program
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341

If all funds are not expended during the initial review, additional Mini-Grant applications will be accepted on a continuous basis and are considered in the order received throughout the year until allocated funds are exhausted. On at least a monthly basis, First 5 Merced County staff will review Mini-Grant Applications and present them to the First 5 Merced Commission.

F. Application Review and Selection

All application packets submitted timely will first be subject to technical review to ensure that the proposal meets the requirements from Section D of this document. Proposals will then be scored by a panel of Staff, First 5 Merced Commissioners and Community Stakeholders. Once scoring is complete proposals scoring over 70 will be forwarded to the First 5 Merced County Commission for final consideration.

A total of 100 points may be awarded, according to the following criteria:

1. **Organizational Capacity** – Applicant is qualified to implement project and achieve stated objectives. (15 points)

2. **Project Plan** – Project Plan is clear with a realistic timeline; project activities are well-defined and technically feasible, and/or within eligibility criteria described in the application. (15 points)

3. **Benefiting Children and Their Families** - Applicant describes the overall need of the target population and the project serves children 0-5 and their families. (15 points)

4. **Outcomes/Impact** - Objectives are clearly stated, specific, realistic, measurable, and consistent with First 5 Merced County’s vision, mission and guiding principals. At least one measurable outcome must be identified and the data source identified (i.e. pre-test/post-test). (40 points)

5. **Financial Viability** - Applicant demonstrates other sources of funding or in-kind support for the project, provides a sound budget, and clearly states how Commission funding is supporting, not completely funding, the proposed project/event. To receive maximum points a 1:1 match needs to be documented on the budget. (10 points)
If the Review Committee scores the proposal at 70 or above, the applicant will be requested to attend a Commission meeting if further clarification or questions about the proposal.

The Commission may waive any immaterial deviation or defect in an application. Any waiver of an immaterial deviation or defect by the Commission shall in no way modify this General Mini-Grants Program Guidelines and Application document, or relieve the successful applicant from full compliance with the grant terms in the Agreement if a grant is awarded.

Applications may be recommended for full or partial funding.

G. Notification
Applicants will be notified of the decision to award funds (or not) for submitted applications within ten (10) days of Commission action. The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to waive informalities and irregularities.

H. Appeals Process
Applicants that are not accepted for funding may appeal the Commission’s decision in writing. The Executive Director must receive written appeals within 15 days from the date of the Commission’s vote. Appeals will only be accepted based on a violation of law, rule, regulation, or terms of this document. Mere disagreement with the decision of the Commission is not grounds for appeal. The Commission is the sole and final authority regarding the approval or disapproval of applications and the conditions under which they are funded. The Commission will review accepted appeals at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

All appeals must be made in writing, dated, signed by the applicant or an individual authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the protesting Applicant, and contain a statement of the reason(s) for protest; citing the law(s), rule(s), and regulation(s) on which the protest is based. Such appeals may be sent either by U.S. mail, postage paid, or hand delivered to:

First 5 Merced County
ATTN: Executive Director
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341

III. EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

A. Award of Contract
Upon approval of funding by the Commission, the successful applicant organization or entity will be required to enter into a performance based contractual agreement
with First 5 Merced County. Program activities must occur in fiscal year 2019-20 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021).

B. Marketing and Development

Any marketing materials (flyers, posters, signs, etc.) for First 5 funded events/activities shall include attribution to First 5 Merced County in the form of an attribution statement and/or official logo (both provided upon funding approval). Organizations are required to submit copies of all marketing materials to First 5 at least 10 days prior to distribution to the public. Notification of media events shall be shared with First 5 prior to recording. Submissions of photos for project activities and/or events are required 10 days after the event.

Recipients of funding under this project will be required to complete a survey and participate in any program-level evaluation activities as required by the Commission. Failure to complete required documentation prior to closeout could result in exclusion of subsequent funding opportunities.

A. Compensation

Organizations will submit one invoice for all project expenses and be paid on a reimbursement basis. In special circumstances, and with advance approval, multiple invoices may be accepted. Organizations may request an advanced payment up to 50% of the approved grant amount. Receipts for all project expenses outlined in the budget must be provided.

A copy of a financial audit or CPA review of the funded project may be requested within the contractual agreement, to be determined on an individual project basis.

Please review Section 3. Grant Amount and Section 4. Terms of Payment of the Draft Mini-Grant Agreement for additional information regarding compensation.

B. Funding Restrictions

Funds will be disbursed to successful applicants in the manner specified in their contractual agreement. Approved funds must be used in fiscal year 2019-20 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021).

C. Notice Regarding Merced County Contract Requirements

First 5 Merced County utilizes the administrative structure, policies and procedures of the County of Merced to distribute Proposition 10 funds. A Draft Mini-Grants Program Agreement is included in the Attachments section to provide applicants with an understanding of likely contract conditions. Please review the draft agreement.
(Attachment E) before submitting an application to become familiar with these requirements.

IV. QUESTIONS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance is available upon request through the following dates:

    Tuesday September 15, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.

All questions and requests for technical assistance concerning the Mini-Grant Program are to be directed to the official contact person:

Marie Pickney, Program Manager
First 5 Merced County
Email – marie.pickney@countyofmerced.com

V. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Application Coversheet
Attachment B – Project Narrative/Requirements
Attachment C – Budget Form
Attachment D – Agreements and Certification
Attachment E – Sample Policy on Tobacco Free Environment
# ATTACHMENT A: APPLICATION COVER SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant/Agency Name:</th>
<th>Name of Project:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS APPLICATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Person &amp; Title:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>City:</th>
<th>Zip Code:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phone Number:</th>
<th>Cell Number:</th>
<th>Fax Number:</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR ORGANIZATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized Person &amp; Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Type of Applicant Agency (Check one):**

- [ ] 501 (c) (3) organization (include copy of tax exempt status documentation)
- [ ] Governmental Unit
- [ ] Business License holder (include copy of Business License)

**Federal ID No.**

**Has your agency received General Mini-Grant funding from First 5 Merced County within the past 24 months?**

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes

**Is your agency currently receiving First 5 funding for any projects/services?**

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes, Please list currently funded project(s) name and amount awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Annual Budget for the</th>
<th>Total Request for Mini-Grant $ (Maximum $10,000.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

I certify that the information contained in this proposal is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that this grant application is submitted with the full knowledge and endorsement of the governing board of this organization, which is empowered to enforce compliance with all contract conditions.

**Signature(s):** _______________________________________  **Date** ________________

**Name:** _______________________________________  **Title:** ________________________
ATTACHMENT B: PROJECT NARRATIVE

On a separate sheet of paper, please describe your proposed project by responding to the following items. Use no more than two single-spaced pages for your project narrative, with the sections sequentially numbered and titled as indicated below.

1. **Organization Capacity**
   Briefly describe the purpose and primary activities of your organization, and your history in providing similar services to those you intend to implement with this funding.

2. **Project Plan**
   Please describe the proposed project or event your group aims to support with these funds. Include the following in your response:
   - What are the project activities?
   - What needs will you address? How will you address them?
   - Who is your specific and/or primary target audience?
   - Provide a timeline detailing when this project/event will take place. Include any key dates (e.g. start or ending dates) as appropriate.

3. **Benefiting Children 0-5**
   Explain how your project or event will directly benefit children 0-5 years and their families.

4. **Identification of Outcomes**
   Objectives are clearly stated, specific, realistic, measurable, and consistent with First 5 Merced County’s vision, mission and guiding principals. At least one measurable outcome must be identified and the data source identified (i.e. pre-test/post-test).

5. **Funding Plan/Financial Viability**
   Describe the total cost of the project/event and identify any other sources of funding to be used in meeting the budget needs. This section should correspond to Attachment C “Budget Form”.
## ATTACHMENT C: BUDGET FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Item Budget</th>
<th>Budget Justification (Detailed Narrative)</th>
<th>Funds Requested from the Commission</th>
<th>Funds from Other Sources (Include in-kind, if appropriate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please list the items for which you are requesting funds. (E.g., Supplies, equipment, other. See Sample Budget for examples.)</td>
<td>Please provide sufficient detail explaining how the proposed funds will be utilized for each line item. Use separate sheets if necessary.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Grant Requested From Commission** $  
**Total Funds from Other Sources** $  
**Total Project Cost** $
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS | FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY

ATTACHMENT D: AGREEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Applicant/Agency Name: 

Project/Program Title: 

Address: 

Street/P.O. Box

City State Zip Code

A. I have reviewed the Expectations for Successful Applicants presented in this document, including contract requirements for successful grantees. I understand that selection of an applicant for funding does not constitute a contract, and the contract to be developed will not be binding on either the Commission or the applicant until executed by each.

B. I understand that in developing contract terms and negotiating a County Contract Agreement, certain evaluation trainings and/or informational meetings will be mandatory for successful applicants.

C. Contract negotiation may include, but is not limited to, agreement to collect and report additional information and data that will be necessary for the evaluation of, and ongoing reporting on, the proposed project.

D. I certify that all Proposition 10 funds will be used only to supplement existing levels of service and not to fund existing levels of service. No moneys shall be used to supplant state or local general fund money for any purpose, pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 30131.4.

Revenue and Taxation Code section 30131.4 identifies the specific manner in which moneys raised by the Children and Families Act of 1998 shall be appropriated and expended. Section 30131.4 not only requires that expenditures must be for the purposes expressed in the Act, but such moneys “shall be used only to supplement existing levels of services and not to fund existing levels of services. No moneys in the California Children and Families Trust Fund shall be used to supplant state or local General Fund money for any purpose.” All moneys raised pursuant to the Act shall be appropriated and expended only to supplement (add to or augment) existing levels of services. In contrast, the Act specifically prohibits appropriation and expenditures of such moneys to supplant (replace) state or local General fund money. Further, moneys are prohibited to be used to fund any existing levels of service.

Typed Name and Title of Individual Authorized to sign Contracts

Authorized Signature Date
ATTACHMENT E: SAMPLE POLICY ON TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY

POLICY ON TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

(SAMPLE)

1. Development of a Comprehensive Smoke-Free Environment Policy

All contractors receiving funding and/or services from the Merced County Children and Families Commission must provide a written copy of an established comprehensive tobacco-free policy prior to the disbursement of granted funds.

This policy shall prohibit the use of tobacco products at any time inside agency vehicles and buildings, or outside within 15 feet of facilities or 25 feet of children’s play areas and shall prohibit smoking as required by law.

Note: Family day care homes and licensed day care centers. California law prohibits smoking of tobacco in a private residence during the hours of operation as a licensed family day care home and in those areas of the licensed family day care home where children are present. The law also prohibits smoking of tobacco on the premises of a licensed day care center. Health and Safety Code section 1596.795.

The policy shall have clear procedures for implementation, protocols for monitoring compliance, reporting of violations and instituting sanctions.

The following activities should be included in the implementation of the policy:

a. Information about the policy and enforcement procedures shall be communicated by administration clearly to staff, parents, and/or clients within the larger community.

b. Signs stating “NO SMOKING” shall be prominently displayed at all entrances of building property. Additional “NO SMOKING” signs shall be posted in restrooms and other areas as appropriate, such as windows through which secondhand smoke can enter and playground areas.

c. Information about smoking cessation and support programs shall be made available and promoted for staff, parents, and/or clients at intake and on a continuing basis when appropriate.

d. Information about secondhand smoke and children shall be made available and promoted for staff, parents, and/or clients.

e. Families with small children will be encouraged, and in some cases will be required, not to allow smoking in their homes, and whenever and wherever children are present, including outdoors.

Motion by: Fox
Second by: Melville
Ayes: Brown, Fox, Goodger, Melville, Mochel, Nevatt, Pagan and Quigley
Adopted: September 26, 2002
Amended: December 2, 2002

ATTEST: Jerald O’Banion
Supervisor Jerald O’Banion
First 5 Merced County Chair
2020-07-006

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Innovation Grants
A. Background/History:
First 5 Merced approved a new Strategic Plan at the June 2020 Commission meeting. The new strategic plan created new funding streams and modified some existing ones. Each year, the Commission approves the funding guidelines and criteria, this allows staff the ability to implement the initiative. For FY 20/21, the guidelines and criteria were created to reflect the new Strategic Plan and the scoring rubric for Innovation-Grants revised to reflect the mission, vision and guiding principles set forth in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

General Innovation-Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intent:</th>
<th>Larger Small scale funding mechanism for one-time support of limited duration service efforts, activities, enhancing the well-being of children 0-5 years.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. award:</td>
<td>$100,000.00 per grant award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recipients:</td>
<td>3 (approximately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle(s):</td>
<td>One, if funds remain applications will be considered on a as submitted basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval:</td>
<td>Commission action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Summary of Request, Description of Project and/or Primary Goals of Agenda Item:
Commission staff is requesting the Commission review, discuss and approve the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Innovation-Grants funding up to $300,000 in FY 2020-2021.

C. Timeframe:
If approved the RFP will be published July 17, 2020. Approved projects will be completed by June 30, 2020.

D. Costs:
Mini-grants are eligible for up to $100,000 each with a maximum of $300,000 in FY 20/21.

E. Staff Recommendation:
Commission staff recommending the Commission approve the release of the Innovation-Grant Request for Proposals for FY 20/21.

F. Attachments:

- First 5 Merced Innovation-Grant Request for Proposals FY 20/21
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Innovation-Grants
(July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022)

FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY
www.first5mercedcounty.org

July 2020
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2. Section 2: Service Populations and Interventions 8

3. Section 3: Information to Applicants 9

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Attachments

Attachment 1 – Proposal Cover Sheet and Certification Form
Attachment 2 – General Terms and Conditions for First 5 Contractors
Attachment 3 – Budget and Budget Justification Form
## TIMELINE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Release of Request for Proposal (RFP)</td>
<td>July 13, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Submitting Questions for Clarification</td>
<td>September 16, 2020, at 4:00 pm PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Date (Deadline) for Proposals</td>
<td>September 30, 2020 at 4:00 pm PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Proposals Begins</td>
<td>October 5, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Period with Responsive Applicants Begins</td>
<td>October 16, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of Intent of Award</td>
<td>November 9, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Recommendations Presented for Commission Action</td>
<td>November 11, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract term Commences for Selected Applicants</td>
<td>December 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: All dates are subject to change.*
First 5 Merced County Request for Proposals (RFP)

All Proposals including one (1) signed original must be received by:

October 30, 2020 3:00 p.m. PST

If delivering proposals in person, they will be considered late at 3:01 p.m. by the clock at the First 5 Merced County office located at the Department of Public Health, 260 E. 15th Street. Late proposals will not be evaluated during the initial review. If all funding is not awarded applications will be reviewed on a as submitted basis.

Mail or hand deliver proposals to:

First 5 Merced County
Attn: Innovation Grant
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341
ABOUT FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY

On November 12, 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, adding a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes or comparable product sold in California. These resources were then utilized to provide increased support for early childhood development of children from conception through age five. The importance of early childhood development is widely recognized as a key to future success in school and success in life. Early childhood development also impacts children’s physical, emotional and cognitive development.

With these funding resources, First 5 Merced County provides financial support for critical programs that impact child health and development, family strengthening, and the professional development of early education providers, all for the benefit of children prenatal to five years. Working in partnership with agencies and organizations throughout Merced County, First 5 Merced County fosters the active participation of parents, caregivers, educators and community members in the lives of young children, prenatal to five years old.

First 5 Merced County Vision
All children in Merced County will thrive in supportive, loving and nurturing environments and enter school healthy and ready to learn.

First 5 Merced County Mission
To provide for the optimal physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of young children in Merced County.

First 5 Merced County Guiding Principles
- Practicing wise stewardship and maintaining accountability.
- Being transparent about funding decisions and expectations.
- Respecting the diversity, strength, uniqueness, and potential of all children, families and communities.
- Promoting sustainable change by investing in long-term policy, institutional, funding, and systemic changes that extend First 5 reach and impact.
- Soliciting and listening to the ideas of stakeholders and others and encouraging an open dialogue.
- Establishing partnerships and collaborations with similar mission-driven organizations to facilitate programs and services.
- Investing in systems-level changes to promote cultural equity and sustainability, while allowing for program innovation.
- Improving evidence-based programs and practices based on solid evaluation.
SECTION 1
INTENT OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

A. Introduction and Intent
This Request for Proposals (RFP) is designed to solicit proposals for funding from qualified applicants for innovative projects that support and strengthening families, improve child health and increase the availability and quality if early learning efforts that meet First 5 Merced County’s standards and contribute to achieving intended outcomes. A comprehensive list of objectives and strategies can be found in the First 5 Merced Strategic Plan located on our website.

1. Innovation Grants
Innovation grants are intended to fund activities that result in long-term change to an organization’s culture, professional norms, policies, procedures, or increase efficiencies that have impact on children 0-5 and/or their families. Activities may include training or staff development programs, establishing new professional or community norms, technology enhancements, or start-up costs associated with the new initiative.

Proposals in this category require thoughtful consideration of current policies, procedures, relationships, resources, norms, culture or power structure and how implementation of the proposal will change the system of interest and related to First 5 Merced County’s objectives. Proposals must target unique and identifiable change and clearly demonstrate long-term impacts the grant will have on the target population(s), which includes, children 0-5 and their families/caregivers.

Proposals must identify alignment with the First 5 Commission’s objective within the First 5 Merced County Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025

B. Contract Term
This RFP solicits proposals for services to begin as early as December 1, 2020 and to extend through as late as June 30, 2022. Proposed interventions may be contracted for up to 19 months or less dependent on factors that may include, but are not limited to, proposed intervention, contractor performance and effectiveness, or availability of funds. First 5 Merced County reserves the right to consider and recommend funding for a lesser duration when consistent with the intent of this RFP.

C. Availability of First 5 Funds
Originally, the Commission allocated $300,000 for Innovation Grants contracts for the 20/21 fiscal year.

Additional funding will be allocated in subsequent years to support longer term contracts.

First 5 Merced County expects to fund up to a maximum of $100,000 for the duration of any contract period. Applicants can propose any combination of funding over the 19
months timeframe, as long as it does not exceed $100,000 total. For example, an applicant can propose $50,000 in the first 6-months and $50,000 in the subsequent year. The maximum total funding request the First 5 Commission will consider is $100,000.

Organizations may submit more than one proposal for distinct sets of proposed interventions. Specific amounts for proposals will depend upon the nature and scale of the proposed interventions and the degree to which a proposal contributes to the First 5 Merced County Commission’s goals relative to total available funds. Applicants must clearly align proposals with First 5 Merced County’s Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

First 5 Merced County reserves the right to fund less than this amount per year depending on the nature and quality of proposals received, or to exceed this amount in a particular year so long as the sum total of contracted services remain below the total three year maximum that is projected to be available. First 5 Merced County also reserves the right to fund proposals outside of the stated range if it achieves the intent of this RFP.

D. Notice to Applicants
Prior to proceeding further, the reader is strongly encouraged to review the Contracting Requirements section on page 21 of this RFP which provides:

- Essential information on eligibility;
- Contract requirements and process;
- Important mandates regarding not supplanting;
- Use of Proposition 10 (First 5) funds solely for the benefit of children 0 - 5 years and their families/caregivers.
SECTION 2
SERVICE POPULATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

A. Target Populations
When developing proposals in response to this RFP, applicants may propose interventions for any target population of their choosing. However, applicants are required to align proposals with First 5 Merced County’s Strategic Plan, which was developed over time with community input. Proposals will be required to address adherence to the Priority Area and Objectives. Applicants shall also be aware that each proposal will be reviewed and scored relative to the Proposal review criteria (see Evaluation Criteria section, on page 16).

Proposals must include a clear description of the intended target population(s) for the First 5 Commission to make the most discerning funding decisions. Proposals also must target unique and identifiable system-level change and clearly demonstrate long-term and sustainable impacts the grant will have on the target population(s), which includes, either directly or indirectly, children 0-5 and their families/caregivers.

B. Types of Eligible Proposals
Acceptable proposals types may include but are not limited to: Community education/mobilization activities, coalition building, policy/advocacy interventions, organizational/staff capacity building efforts. Outcomes must include any or all of the following: change to an organization’s culture, professional norms, policies, procedures, or increase systems efficiencies that have impact, on children 0-5 and/or their families. Activities may include training or staff development programs, establishing new professional or community norms, technology enhancements, or start-up costs associated with the new initiative.

Applicants are encouraged to be creative and utilize the full range of latitude offered by this RFP.
SECTION 3
INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS

A. Request for Proposals Closing Date and Submission Information
Proposals must be received by First 5 Merced County on or before 4:00 PM on September 30, 2020. Proposals shall be presented under sealed cover and mailed or delivered to:

First 5 Merced County
Attn: Innovation Grants
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, California 95341

No oral, email, or faxed proposals will be considered. Proposals received after the deadline will be.
Late proposals will not be evaluated during the initial review. If all funding is not awarded, applications will be reviewed on a as submitted basis, regardless of postmark date and will remain unopened until after the initial RFP process is complete. If delivering proposals in person, they will be considered late at 3:01 PM by the clock at the Department of Public Health offices. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that proposals are received before the submission deadline.

Without law or policy to the contrary, if the Applicant took reasonable steps to submit the proposal in due time, and failure of the proposal to be on hand at the time of closing was not the result of negligence or other fault of the Applicant, but was the result of negligence by First 5 Merced County, First 5 reserves the right to accept such proposal.

B. Applicant Eligibility
First 5 Merced County will consider programs and/or services proposed by any organization or entity that is registered as a non-profit entity, an educational or government unit, or a for-profit business or licensee. Entities without a business license or a business tax identification number must locate a fiscal agent prior to receiving First 5 funding.

C. Submission of Multiple Proposals
A legal organization or entity may submit one (1) or more proposals for consideration in response to this RFP. In most cases, multiple proposals will be submitted from larger entities which have multiple departments or sub-units. However, more than one proposal can be submitted from a department or sub-unit if the proposals are clearly distinct, and propose unique interventions for different intended service populations.

D. Announcement of Proposals
All proposals received by the published date and time for submission will be publicly announced at First 5 Merced County. The name of each Applicant will be publicly read
and recorded. Attendance by applicants is not required. No award decision, pricing, or exchange of views will be discussed at the proposal announcement.

E. **Interpretation, Corrections, and Addenda to RFP**
The Applicant must carefully examine the specifications, terms and conditions provided in the Request for Proposal. If the Applicant has any questions regarding the RFP, such questions may be raised with First 5 Merced County until 4:00 PM on September 16, 2020. Questions are to be addressed to: Scott Waite, Executive Director, First 5 Merced County scott.waite@countyofmerced.com or (209) 385-7337.

Any changes in the RFP that may be required subsequent to its release will be made only by written addendum, issued by First 5 Merced County and incorporated into the RFP. Any addenda made to the RFP will be made publicly available through the means by which the RFP was originally disseminated.

F. **Discussion with Responsive Applicants Regarding Proposals**
Discussions may be conducted with applicants who submit proposals determined to be responsive and have the potential of being selected for an award. Such discussions may be for clarification or modification to the scope of proposed services to best meet the intent of this RFP. Modifications could include, reducing/expanding/modifying the proposal, subcontracting arrangements or the proposed budget and planned expenditures.

Such discussions may be permitted after submission of proposals and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers from applicants that best meet the intent of the RFP and First 5 Merced County’s efforts to achieve its Desired Outcomes and Objectives.

G. **Award and Contracting**
All applicants submitting a proposal for consideration agree that their organization will be willing to enter into a final contract if awarded. The First 5 Merced County Commission will have authority to approve awards to qualifying applicants and approve/reject the final contract. Refer to the Contracting Requirements section, page 21 to be fully apprised of the contract requirements.

H. **False or Misleading Statements**
Proposals that contain false or misleading statements, or that provide references that do not support an attribute or condition claimed by the Applicant, may be rejected.

I. **Rules for Proposal Withdrawal or Revision**
A proposal which is submitted prior to the deadline may be withdrawn or revised any time prior to, but not after, the deadline for receipt of proposals, so long as the request is made by the Applicant’s duly authorized representative.
J. **Subcontracting**
Any Applicant using a Subcontractor(s) must clearly describe and explain the use of the Subcontractor(s) within their proposal, as described in the RFP proposal instructions. If selected, the Applicant will be fully responsible for all work performed under this proposal as the primary contractor. Any subcontracting or other legal arrangements made by the Applicant are the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

K. **Confidentiality**
The contents of all proposals shall be held in the strictest confidence until the contract is awarded. The contents of all working papers, trade secrets, proprietary data, and discussions relating to the Applicant’s proposal shall be held confidential indefinitely unless the public interest is best served by an item’s disclosure because of its direct pertinence to a decision agreement or an evaluation of the proposal. First 5 Merced County cannot and does not give any assurances or guarantees that such information could not be ordered released under the California Public Records Act by a court of law, or otherwise releasable thereunder, if requested by any third party.

The Applicant should clearly mark any of the information within their proposal that is proprietary. Designating the entire proposal as “proprietary” is not acceptable and will not be honored. Submission of a proposal by an Applicant shall constitute an agreement to the provision for public announcement. The County shall not be obligated to release information contained in any Applicant’s RFP submittal that has been annotated as proprietary without the written consent of the Applicant.

L. **General Information**
First 5 Merced County reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any or all proposals or any part thereof, or to waive any informalities in the proposal and minor irregularities, technical defects or clerical errors, to make an award on the basis of suitability, quality of services proposed, their conformity with the RFP, and not confined to price alone.

M. **Property of First 5 Merced County**
All proposals and accompanying documentation submitted become the property of First 5 Merced County and will not be returned.

N. **Cost of Proposal Development**
Costs for developing proposals for this RFP are solely the responsibility of the Applicant whether or not any award results from this solicitation. Further, the cost of developing and preparing responses to the proposal will not be allowed as direct or indirect charges under any resulting contract.

O. **Public Disclosure**
All public records are available for disclosure except the contents of the proposals received in response to an RFP, which are not open for public review until a contract has
been signed. If an unsuccessful Applicant files an official request to view the awarded proposal, First 5 Merced County must comply with the appropriate public disclosure procedures. However, information specifically designated in the proposal as proprietary will not be made available.

P. Qualifications of Applicant
First 5 Merced County may make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the ability of the Applicant to provide the services requested herein, and the Applicant shall furnish all information and data for this purpose as requested.

Q. Applicant Disqualification
An Applicant may be disqualified and the proposal rejected, in addition to any other cause for rejection as set forth elsewhere in this RFP, or for any, but not limited to, one of the following reasons: Collusion, lack of responsibility and cooperation as shown by past work or services, non-compliance with current/past contract requirements, being in arrears on existing contracts or having defaulted on previous contracts, and/or incomplete information or missing documents as required in the proposal.

R. Gratuities
Neither the Applicant nor any person, firm, or corporation employed by the Applicant shall give, directly or indirectly, to any employee or agent of First 5 Merced County, any gift, money, or anything of value, or any promise, obligation, or contract for future reward or compensation, neither during the proposal process nor during the performance of any contract period resulting from this proposal.

S. Extension of Contract
In the event the successful Applicant offers to supply their service for the same price as awarded from the result of this proposal for any succeeding period, or in the event the successful Applicant is willing to negotiate any justifiable price increase at the time of any succeeding contract renewal period, if applicable, and it would be economical and in the best interest of First 5 Merced County, and provided the services have been to the satisfaction of First 5, First 5 reserves the right to extend any contract resulting from this proposal on a term-by-term basis to the successful Applicant awarded the contract.

T. Cancellation Due to Lack of Funding
First 5 Merced County reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time should funding to support it be unavailable as determined by the Commission of First 5 Merced County.
SECTION 4
PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

This section describes the required proposal format and content. Failure to follow the prescribed format may result in rejection of the proposal.

A. Proposal Format
Narrative text sections of the proposal should be typewritten, single spaced with one-inch margins on all sides of the paper using 12-point font. Text should appear single-sided only. Pages should be numbered consecutively from beginning to end. Do not staple proposals instead binder clip each proposal together.

B. Number of Copies
Applicants must provide one (1) original proposal with signatures in blue ink by an individual legally authorized to bind the agency/organization.

C. Outline of Proposal Content
The content and sequence of the proposal will be as follows:

1. Proposal Cover Sheet and Certification Form
2. Executive Summary
3. Table of Contents
4. Exceptions (to RFP and to sample contract)
5. Proposal Narrative
6. Proposed Budget and Budget Justification

D. Proposal Instructions
1. Proposal Cover Sheet and Certification Form: Complete the Proposal Cover Sheet and Certification Form provided in the Attachments section. Original signatures must be in blue ink by an individual legally authorized to bind the agency/organization.
2. Executive Summary (not to exceed one page in length): Provide an Executive Summary of the proposal in narrative format that briefly summarizes the proposed Innovation Grant, the specific outcome(s) pursued, the service population targeted, the proposed budget amount, and proposed subcontractors (if applicable).
3. Table of Contents: Provide a Table of Contents listing the proposal contents as required in the RFP, along with corresponding page numbers.
4. Exceptions: Provide a listing of Exceptions to the requirements and conditions taken by the Applicant. The Applicant’s exceptions should give an explanation as to why the Applicant is taking exception to the specific requirements. If no exceptions are taken, Applicant is to state, “No Exceptions Taken” in this section,
and First 5 Merced County assumes that the Applicant’s proposal meets all RFP requirements as specified.

5. **Proposal Narrative**: Provide a Narrative **NOT exceeding ten (10) pages** in length that addresses the items listed below. Proposals **less** than ten pages in length that concisely provide the requested information and enable reviewers to have a clear understanding of the proposed effort are welcomed.

E. **Content Requirements**
This section describes the proposal content requirements. Applicants must also include the Proposed Budget and Budget Justification form provided in the Attachments section.

**Part A: Organizational Description and Capacity** *(suggested length – 1 page)*
Administrative: Describe the Applicant’s organization. If the proposed intervention(s) are to be implemented by a department or other sub-unit of a larger entity, describe the department or sub-unit. Include the organizational/departmental mission, the years in operation in Merced County, annual operating budget, number of (FTE) employees, a statement regarding the entity’s good standing and qualifications to enter into contracts and provide services in the county, and any other information describing the Applicant’s capability to manage, administer, and fulfill contractual commitments. Provide this information for proposed subcontractor(s), if applicable.

Programmatic: Describe the Applicant’s programmatic experience, major accomplishments, and/or other related activities and organizational assets that are **specifically relevant to the services the Applicant proposes** to implement. Include experience working with children 0-5 and/or the specific service population(s) proposed to serve. **Describe any previous funding from First 5 Merced County by program name and date. Provide this information for proposed subcontractor(s), if applicable.**

**Part B: Proposed Goals and Service Population(s) to be Addressed** *(suggested length – 1 page)*
Provide a concise description of the specific goal(s) of the proposal and the expected outcomes from implementation and execution of the overall proposal. Include how this intervention will assist in accomplishing First 5’s Strategic Plan and objectives. This section will answer the question, “What will the proposal achieve, change, or improve, and among who?”

In describing the intended change, describe the degree of “need” for the change, among who, why the change is important for this population and the specific goals to be achieved. (e.g., what is the baseline level of functioning/performance/effectiveness compared to the goals of your program). If possible please refer to the First 5 Merced County Needs Assessment completed April 2020, it is available on our website. If no baseline data is available, describe the methods to measure the success of the proposal. Include realistic expectations about how the proposed services will result in change. Please describe any anticipated barriers or dynamics that may impact your efforts.
Consider providing relevant demographic, trending, testing, socioeconomic, and other statistical data or descriptive characteristics that convey the depth of understanding of the need for change among the population and what needs your proposal aims to address, if applicable.

Note: This section may vary depending on the specifics pursued and the nature of the particular intervention(s) proposed. Populations impacted may include children, parents / families, organizations / providers / businesses, the community at-large, inter-organizational service systems, policymakers / key opinion leaders, etc.

**Part C: Rationale for Proposed Interventions** (suggested length – 1-2 pages)
Describe the innovation: Provide a description of the specific work required to achieve the overarching goal and ensure the goal relates to First 5 Merced County’s Strategic Plan and objectives. If the project requires planning or organizing time, state the reason and estimated time required to plan, along with major activities that will take place during planning or organizing.

This brief response will answer the question: “What are the primary tasks, activities, or other efforts the Applicant will implement?”

Rationale: Describe the rationale supporting the selection of the proposed change. Include any information that substantiates why this innovation is likely to have the desired impact with the targeted population.

Utilize the appropriate evidence base from scientific and research literature, studies or reports; program evaluation data or outcomes, or any other information that establishes that the selected innovation is likely to be successful.

This response will answer the question “How likely will the interventions produce the proposed results?”

**Part D: Program Description** (suggested length - 3 pages)
Provide a concise narrative description of your program plan. Include sufficient detail to clearly convey to the Review Committee “what, where, when, how, and with whom.”

The response to this section will be dependent upon the type of initiatives included in the proposal, the systems impacted, the level(s) of intervention, the selected service population, and overarching goals.

Generally-speaking, responses to the following types of questions may be helpful in guiding the writing of this section:
✓ What planning or organizing steps are required or have been accomplished in order to create proposed innovation?

✓ How will you identify, outreach to, or otherwise engage others in proposed innovation?

✓ What policy or systems will be changed? What are the intended and unintended consequences?

✓ How will individuals (and/or other service population types) learn about the intended innovation?

✓ How will this work account for the cultural and linguistic diversity of any population impacted by the innovation? Is the intended innovation related to racial, cultural or linguistic change? If so how?

✓ With whom will you partner and/or subcontract (if applicable) to implement this innovation? For what particular services or activities will you partner or subcontract?

✓ What are the anticipated challenges and barriers to this innovation? What unique or responsive steps will be taken to successfully address anticipated challenges or barriers?

✓ For multi-year proposals, what are the planned changes, modifications, or sequences of primary activities that are expected over the course of the entirety of the contract term?

Part F: Evaluation Approach (suggested length – 1/2-page)
Describe how you propose to evaluate the outcomes of the proposed innovation. Include the incremental outcomes that can be identified along with the overarching, specific, expected outcome(s) that will indicate success. (i.e., what measurable indicators are expected?) Identify methods used to collect data on these indicators, as well as what staff, budgetary, or other resources are planned for evaluation.

Note: All successful applicants will be required to participate in First 5 Merced County’s evaluation activities including use of an on line data management system for data entry and program reporting. Additional evaluation requirements may be proposed by First 5 Merced Staff, Commissioners, or Sub-Contractors. While kept to a minimum, contractors can expect to participate in periodic, mandatory evaluation training.
Part G: Staffing Plan (suggested length – 1/2 page)
Describe the staffing configuration for the proposed work (partial positions, augmentations of FTEs), along with the experience, certifications and/or special qualifications or training required, if applicable. Describe the primary functions of each position. If staff is already identified for the proposed positions, describe the specific qualifications and any particular strengths the identified individual(s) bring to the position(s).

Part H: External and In-kind Funds (suggested length – 1/2 page)
Describe whether any external, non-First 5 funding will be available to support the proposed innovation, if selected for funding. Proposals that have support from additional sources, rather than solely First 5 funding, will be more favorably considered. Describe the amounts and sources and state whether the funds will reduce the needed First 5 funding, or if the external funds will expand the services. Include instances in which First 5 funds, if received, will be used to match or leverage funds from other funding sources. Additionally, describe any in-kind resources that will be available to support the project during its term, along with the estimated equivalent value of such resources.

A complete Proposal Narrative should include all of the following components, as described above:

- Organizational Description and Capacity
- Proposed Goals and Service Population(s)
- Rationale for Proposed Intervention
- Program Description
- Evaluation Approach
- Staffing Plan
- External and In-kind Funds
SECTION 5
BASIS OF AWARDS, SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Basis of Award
Funding recommendations will be made to the applicants whose proposals demonstrate they will be the most qualified, responsive and advantageous to First 5 Merced County, and consistent with the intent of this RFP. First 5 Merced County shall not be obligated to accept the lowest cost proposals, but will make awards in the best interests of First 5 Merced County after all factors have been evaluated.

First 5 Merced County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or any part thereof, to waive any informalities in the proposals and minor irregularities, technical defects or clerical errors, to make an award on the basis of suitability, quality of services to be supplied, their conformity with the specifications and for the purposes for which they are required. False, incomplete, or non-responsive statements in connection with the proposal may be deemed sufficient cause for rejection. First 5 Merced County shall be the sole judge in making such determination.

First 5 Merced County reserves the right to cancel or discontinue with the RFP process and reject any or all proposals in the event it determines that there is no longer a requirement for the furnishing of services, funding is no longer available for this RFP, or it is otherwise in First 5 Merced County's best interest to cancel the RFP process.

B. Selection Process for RFP
All application packets submitted timely will first be subject to technical review to ensure that the proposal meets the requirements. A Review Committee consisting of selected personnel will be established to evaluate the proposals. The Committee may include representatives from the First 5 Merced County Commission, as well as First 5 Merced County staff, and reviewers from within and outside of Merced County. It is the intent of the committee to select responsive applicants whose proposals meet desirable, minimum qualifications to initiate discussions with applicants, and potentially enter into contract negotiations, and execute contract agreements.

C. Evaluation Criteria
The Review Committee will consider only those proposals which have been considered responsive to the RFP. Any proposal which fails to meet the RFP requirements will be considered non-responsive and may be rejected.

The committee may contact applicants to clarify any proposal responses provided, as well as contact and evaluate any references provided by the Applicant and/or subcontractor(s)(if applicable); solicit information from any available source concerning any aspect of a proposal; and seek and review any other information deemed pertinent to the evaluation process.
The selection of funding recipients under this RFP will be guided first and foremost by the merits of each proposal in directly contributing to the achieving the First 5 Merced County’s goals related to the Strategic Plan. As such, relevant scoring criteria are included.

Proposals shall be ranked on a total score of 100, and shall be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Organizational Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Proposed Goals and Service Population(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Merit of Proposed Services and Program Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Alignment of Proposed Initiative with First 5 Merced County Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Funding partnerships other than First 5 Merced County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Proposed Budget/Budget Justification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Evaluation Approach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100 Total Points Possible

The review committee may recommend adjustments to individual proposed program budgets and services as part of its recommendation to the full Commission based on discussions with applicants and subsequent contract negotiations. In such cases, the Applicant may elect to accept an adjusted award and revised scope of the program, or withdraw its application from consideration.

D. Notification and Debriefing
Each Applicant will be notified in writing of the outcome of their proposal following completion of the review, discussion, and negotiation process. Any Applicant with questions regarding the outcome of their proposal may contact the Executive Director following the notification to discuss those questions. A debriefing may be held prior to Commission action on funding recommendations upon the receipt of a written request for a debriefing (within 3 business days of written notification) by an unsuccessful Applicant for the purpose of receiving information concerning the evaluation of the Applicant’s proposal.

E. Protest Procedures
The protest process is made available in the event that an unsuccessful Applicant cannot reach agreement with First 5 Merced County after undergoing the debriefing process described herein above.
Should an unsuccessful Applicant request a debriefing, and believes its proposal to be the most responsive to the RFP and that First 5 has incorrectly selected another Applicant for award, the appealing Applicant may submit a protest of the selection. All protests must be made in writing, dated, signed by the Applicant or an individual authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the protesting Applicant, and contain a statement of the reason(s) for protest; citing the law(s), rule(s) and regulation(s) or procedure(s) on which the protest is based. The protesting Applicant must provide facts and evidence to support the protest. Protests are not allowed based solely on a mere disagreement with the proposal review outcome. Protests must be received no later than seven (7) working days following First 5 Merced County’s written notification to the Applicant regarding the outcome of their proposal.

Protests may be sent either by U.S. mail, postage paid, or hand delivered to:

First 5 Merced County  
ATTN: Executive Director  
260 E. 15th Street  
Merced, CA 95341

Upon receipt of the formal protest, the Executive Director will attempt to resolve the protest. If the protest has not been resolved, the Applicant will have an opportunity to address the Commission to state the concern. A protest shall be disallowed when, in the judgment of the Executive Director or other Commission designee, it has been submitted: 1) as a delay tactic; 2) for the purpose of posturing the protester advantageously for future procurement; 3) in a form that deviates from the prescribed; 4) without adequate factual basis or merit; or, 5) in an untimely manner.

The Commission will review accepted protests at the next available regularly scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission is the sole and final authority regarding the approval or disapproval of proposals and the conditions under which they are funded. All decisions of the Commission shall be final.
SECTION 6
CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

A. **Expectations for Successful Applicants**
Upon approval of funding by the First 5 Merced County Commission, the successful Applicant organization or entity will be required to enter into a performance based contract agreement with the County of Merced, on behalf of First 5 Merced County. The proposal submitted in response to this RFP is not a legal agreement, but is instead a reference point for entering into a final contract with the County, specifically identifying the “Scope of Work” as well as the County’s and First 5 Merced County’s contract terms and conditions.

B. **Contract Agreement – Terms and Conditions, Statutes and Rules**
The general contract terms and conditions for recipients of First 5 Merced County funding are specifically incorporated into this RFP by reference, attached herein in the Attachments section, and should be reviewed carefully by all applicants. The contract will not be binding on either the Commission or the Applicant until executed by each.

C. **Non-Supplanting / Services Benefiting Children 0-5 years and their Families**
As described in the attached contract terms and conditions document, applicants shall be informed that Proposition 10 funds can only be expended for the purposes of supplementing existing levels of services and not to fund (supplant) existing levels of service. Additionally Proposition 10 funds are to be used solely for the benefit of, and/or services to, children 0-5 years of age and their families.

D. **Pre-Contract Expectations**
Successful applicants may be expected to attend informational meetings, orientations, and/or trainings prior to the execution of the contract in order to prepare for implementation of contracted services.
SECTION 7
CONTACT INFORMATION

First 5 Merced County is eager to facilitate your participation in this RFP process and has designated the staff person below as the contact for all prospective applicants. For such assistance, please contact:

Scott Waite, Executive Director
First 5 Merced County
260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341
Phone: (209) 385-7337
E-mail: scott.waite@countyofmerced.com
ATTACHMENT 1
PROPOSAL COVER SHEET & CERTIFICATION FORM

Applicant Agency Name: _______________________________________________________

Proposed Program Title: _______________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________
   Street / P.O. Box
   ______________________________________________________
   City       State       Zip Code

Contact Person: ______________________________________________________________
   Name
   Title
   ______________________________________________________
   Telephone       Fax       E-mail

Type of Applicant Agency (Check one):

☐ 501 (c) (3) organization (include copy of tax exempt status documentation)
☐ Governmental Unit
☐ Business License holder (include copy of Business License)
☐ Permit/License holder (include copy of Permit/License)

Federal/Tax ID No. ________________________________

Proposed Program Goal(s):
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Description of service population to be served:
________________________________________________________________________

Proposed number of clients (or other service population type) the program will serve:
________________________________________________________________________
Annual Agency Budget: ________________________________

Total Budget Request: ________________________________

Year 1 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) = __________________

Year 2 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) = __________________

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that the information provided within this application is true and correct. By signing below, I agree and attest to the following:

A. I have reviewed the Contracting Requirements Section of the Request for Proposals, including contract requirements for insurance and other applicable rules. I understand that selection of an applicant for funding does not constitute a contract, and the contract to be developed will not be binding on either the Commission or the applicant until executed by each.

B. I understand that in developing contract terms and negotiating a County Contract Agreement, certain informational meetings, orientations, and trainings may be required for successful applicants prior to contract execution.

C. I certify that all Proposition 10 funds will be used only to supplement existing levels of service and not to fund existing levels of service. No moneys shall be used to supplant state or local general fund money for any purpose, pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 30131.4.

(Revenue and Taxation Code section 30131.4 identifies the specific manner in which moneys raised by the Children and Families Act of 1998 shall be appropriated and expended. Section 30131.4 not only requires that expenditures must be for the purposes expressed in the Act, but such moneys “shall be used only to supplement existing levels of services and not to fund existing levels of services. No moneys in the California Children and Families Trust Fund shall be used to supplant state or local General Fund money for any purpose.” All moneys raised pursuant to the Act shall be appropriated and expended only to supplement (add to or augment) existing levels of services. In contrast, the Act specifically prohibits appropriation and expenditures of such moneys to supplant (replace) state or local General fund money. Further, moneys are prohibited to be used to fund any existing levels of service.)

D. I certify that all Proposition 10 funds received will be used solely for the benefit of, and/or services to, children 0-5 years of age and their families.

__________________________________________
Typed Name and Title of Individual
Authorized to sign Contract

__________________________________________
Authorized Signature

__________
Date
ATTACHMENT 2
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR FIRST 5 CONTRACTORS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN MERCED COUNTY,
ON BEHALF OF FIRST 5 MERCED COUNTY

AND

__________________________

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this___________, by and between the County of Merced, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as “COUNTY”) on behalf of First 5 Merced County, established pursuant to County Ordinance 1747 in compliance with the Children and Families First Act of 1998 (hereinafter referred to as COMMISSION) and ________________________, _________________ (hereinafter referred to as CONTRACTOR).

WHEREAS, COMMISSION has received funds under the Children and Families First Act of 1998 (Proposition 10) to enhance and improve early childhood development for children age 0 through 5 and their families, within Merced County, and

WHEREAS, COMMISSION has adopted a Strategic Plan to implement services and programs to achieve the intent of the Act, and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan provides for procurement processes for the COMMISSION to select projects for funding to achieve desired services and programs, and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR is specially trained, experienced, and competent to perform such services, and

WHEREAS, COMMISSION utilizes relevant administrative structure, policies and procedures of the County to distribute those funds, and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR submitted a proposal (Agency, Program Name) which COMMISSION has determined is in support of the furtherance of the intentions of the Strategic Plan and the Act and warrants funding.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. GENERAL

CONTRACTOR shall provide such services in a good and professional manner in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein, and any specifically referenced attachments hereto. The following exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference, attached hereto, and made a part hereof, except when in conflict with this agreement or modified herein:
CONTRACTOR warrants it has the expertise, appropriate licenses, support staff and facilities necessary to provide the services described in this Agreement.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Services to be provided under this agreement by CONTRACTOR shall include all necessary services to fulfill the SCOPE OF WORK, Exhibit A, as set forth herein, and made part of this agreement. CONTRACTOR shall perform all such services as an independent CONTRACTOR; not as an agent or employee of the COUNTY.

CONTRACTOR shall conduct the approved project as stated in Exhibits A, B, and C.

3. TERM

The term of this agreement shall commence on the __________, and end the __________________, unless sooner terminated in accordance with Sections TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE, TERMINATION FOR CAUSE, and/or CONDITION SUBSEQUENT / NON-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING as specified elsewhere in this agreement.

4. COMPENSATION

In consideration of CONTRACTOR performing such work as set forth under Section 2: SCOPE OF WORK, COMMISSION shall, through the County Auditor-Controller, pay CONTRACTOR for actual project expenses in accordance with the categories and amounts established in the line item budget attached as Exhibit B budget.

In no event shall the total payments exceed __________ for the entirety of the contract term.

Additionally, unless otherwise modified as allowed under the terms of this Agreement, in no event shall the payments for any fiscal year within the contract term (if applicable) exceed the amounts as shown in Exhibit B, Budget, and below:

- Fiscal year 2020/2021: _________________
- Fiscal year 2021/2022: _________________

No other expenses shall be paid to CONTRACTOR without formal approval by the COMMISSION and amendment of this agreement.

CONTRACTOR may request revisions in the line item budget for the project as included in Exhibit B, Budget during the term of this agreement in accordance with COMMISSION’S budget revision procedures.
Indirect costs cannot exceed ten percent (10%) of personnel costs less fringe benefits.

If any funds have not been completely expended as approved, or otherwise modified and subsequently approved, at the end of any fiscal year within the term as described in Exhibit B, Budget, or at the end of the term of this agreement, CONTRACTOR shall return such funds to the COMMISSION.

CONTRACTOR warrants that no employee, volunteer, agent or independent subcontractor of CONTRACTOR who has been convicted of a felony or against whom a civil judgment has been entered based upon misappropriation of funds or similar action shall have authority or discretion in any way relating to funding provided to CONTRACTOR by COMMISSION such to be able to control disbursements/withdrawals of said funds.

CONTRACTOR warrants that all employees and volunteers, and employees and volunteers of agents or subcontractors of CONTRACTOR, who will have direct contact with service recipients in the course of providing services outlined in the Scope of Work, shall have fingerprint clearance through an entity determined by COMMISSION, prior to direct contact with service recipients. Documentation demonstrating this clearance shall be kept on file for examination by COMMISSION at its discretion.

5. TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payment for project expenses and satisfactory performance of such services set forth in Section 2: SCOPE OF WORK of this agreement shall be made in the following manner:

CONTRACTOR shall submit invoices, using Exhibit D, Invoice Form, on a quarterly basis, unless otherwise directed on an alternative schedule, for reimbursement of actual project expenses incurred during the previous period.

Invoices required quarterly are to be submitted by the following dates each fiscal year:

- October 31 for program expenses from July 1 – September 30
- January 31 for program expenses from October 1 – December 31
- April 30 for program expenses from January 1 – March 31
- July 31 for program expenses from April 1 – June 30

Invoices are to be accompanied by all required supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate that expenses incurred are consistent with the approved budget and budget narrative in this agreement.

CONTRACTOR may receive an advanced payment of funds provided for under the Compensation section of this Agreement when deemed to be in the interests of furthering the aims of the COMMISSION’s strategic plan and subsequent to COMMISSION’S approval.
In order to be considered complete for processing for payment, invoices shall be prepared in accordance with Exhibit D, Invoice Form.

The COMMISSION may request any additional information or supporting data as deemed necessary for COMMISSION to properly evaluate or process CONTRACTOR’S invoice.

Upon approval by COMMISSION, the sum due hereunder shall be paid to CONTRACTOR through the disbursement process of the COUNTY in a timely manner. Payments will be held if CONTRACTOR is delinquent with any required reports or other submission requirements under this agreement.

Failure to comply with invoice submission and all related submittal requirements may result in the assessment of a late fee that reduces the amount of payment due to CONTRACTOR, per the COMMISSION’S procedures for late submission penalties.

Address for the purpose of remitting payment is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State, Zip code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First and Last Name, Title</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If no expenses are incurred by CONTRACTOR in any reporting period, CONTRACTOR shall submit a letter to COMMISSION by the invoice submission deadlines, stating such.

6. **NON-SUPPLANTATION**

CONTRACTOR shall abide by the intent of the California Children and Families Act of 1998, and Section 30131.4 of the Revenue and Taxation Code which states: “All moneys raised pursuant to taxes imposed by Section 30131.2 shall be appropriated and expended only for the purposes expressed in the California Children and Families Act, and shall be used only to supplement existing levels of service and not to fund existing levels of service.”

CONTRACTOR warrants that no funds provided by COMMISSION shall be used to supplant existing funds from any source for any purpose.

7. **SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AGE 0-5 YEARS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

CONTRACTOR shall abide by the intent of the California Children and Families Act of 1998, and Section 130100 of the Health and Safety Code, which states the program is created for the “purposes of promoting, supporting, and improving the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age. Funds provided under this agreement shall be used solely for the benefit of, and/or services to, children 0-5 and their families.
8. EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Services provided by CONTRACTOR shall be evaluated. CONTRACTOR shall submit evaluation data and related reports, and otherwise participate in the First 5 evaluation, using approved evaluation methods.

Required evaluation data shall be submitted on a regular basis as determined by the First 5 evaluation requirements.

Services provided by CONTRACTOR shall be monitored through quarterly, or as COMMISSION requires, program progress reporting and site visits.

Program progress reporting will be required on a regular basis to ensure compliance with contractual obligations.

At least once per year, the COMMISSION shall conduct a site visit as part of this monitoring process. Unless exercised sooner in accordance with Section 21: RECORDS AND INSPECTION, the COMMISSION may include the examination and auditing of records relating to program services during site visits.

Any deficiencies noted in the provision of services may be addressed by COMMISSION through a corrective action plan in order to remedy any identified deficiency(-ies).

Payments will be held if CONTRACTOR is delinquent with any required reports or submission requirements under this agreement or otherwise fails to address any deficiencies noted in the provision of services.

9. TOBACCO & NUTRITION

During the term of this agreement, CONTRACTOR agrees to:

Maintain a tobacco free environment on CONTRACTOR’S property including inside agency buildings and vehicles, and outside of building entrances within 15 feet of facilities or 25 feet of children’s play areas, and as otherwise required by law.

Provide referral information to staff and/or clients on smoking cessation and support programs, and the dangers of second hand smoke, as applicable.

If CONTRACTOR is a family day care provider, CONTRACTOR acknowledges that smoking in a private residence during the hours of operation as a licensed family day care home is prohibited by California law.

If CONTRACTOR is a licensed childcare center, CONTRACTOR acknowledges that smoking on the premises is prohibited by California law.

Provide healthy food and snack options when meals or foods are provided during the course of implementing the Scope of Work, per the approved budget, Exhibit B.
10. **AUDITS & REPORTS**

Annually, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for the procurement and performance of an independent fiscal and compliance audit. Any audit undertaken must be performed in accordance with the following standards: Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, Governmental Auditing Standards, and OMB Circular A-133.

CONTRACTOR shall submit to COMMISSION within one hundred twenty (120) days of CONTRACTOR’S fiscal year-end the completed audit for the prior year.

An audit of a public agency, when performed pursuant to state law, will meet the requirements of this section.

COMMISSION reserves the right to require a program specific audit at COMMISSION’S discretion.

COMMISSION may request additional reports as deemed necessary or as required by the California State Children and Families Commission.

11. **TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**

This Agreement, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein above or hereinafter set forth, may be terminated by COMMISSION at any time without cause or legal excuse by providing the other party with thirty (30) calendar days written notice of such termination.

Upon effective date of termination, COMMISSION shall have no further liability to CONTRACTOR except for payment for actual services incurred during the performance hereunder. Such liability is limited to the time specified in said notice and for services not previously reimbursed by COMMISSION. Such liability is further limited to the extent such costs are actual, necessary, reasonable, and verifiable costs and have been incurred by CONTRACTOR prior to, and in connection with, discontinuing the work hereunder.

12. **TERMINATION FOR CAUSE**

The COMMISSION may terminate this Agreement for and be relieved of making any payments to CONTRACTOR, and all duties to contractor should the CONTRACTOR fail to perform any material duty or obligation of the Agreement. Notice shall be given as otherwise provided herein. In the event of such termination the COMMISSION may proceed with the work in any manner deemed proper by the COMMISSION. All costs to the COMMISSION shall be deducted from any sum otherwise due the contractor and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the CONTRACTOR upon demand. Such remedy is in addition to such other remedies as may be available to the COMMISSION provided by law.

13. **CONDITION SUBSEQUENT / NON-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING**
The compensation paid to CONTRACTOR pursuant to this Agreement is based on COMMISSION’S continued appropriation of funding for the purpose of this Agreement, as well as the receipt of local, COMMISSION, state and/or federal funding for this purpose. The parties acknowledge that the nature of government finance is unpredictable and that the rights and obligations set forth in this Agreement are therefore contingent upon the receipt and/or appropriation and/or continued retention of the necessary funds. In the event that funding is terminated and/or previously approved funds are de-appropriated or otherwise recaptured by the original funding entity, in whole or in part, for any reason, at any time, this Agreement and all obligations of the COMMISSION arising from this Agreement shall be immediately discharged. COMMISSION agrees to inform CONTRACTOR no later than ten (10) calendar days after the COMMISSION determines, in its sole judgment, that funding will be terminated and the final date for which funding will be available. Under these circumstances, all billing or other claims for compensation or reimbursement by CONTRACTOR arising out of performance of this Agreement must be submitted to COMMISSION prior to the final date for which funding is available. In the alternative, COMMISSION and CONTRACTOR may agree, in such circumstance, to a suspension or modification of either party’s rights and obligations under this Agreement. Such a modification, if the parties agree thereto, may permit a restoration of previous contract terms in the event funding is reinstated. Also in the alternative, the COMMISSION may, if funding is provided to the COMMISSION in the form of promises to pay at a later date, whether referred to as “government warrants,” “IOUs,” or by any other name, the COMMISSION may, in its sole discretion, provide similar promises to pay to the CONTRACTOR, which the CONTRACTOR hereby agrees to accept as sufficient payment until cash funding becomes available.

14. ASSESSMENT FOR LEVERAGING FUNDING

CONTRACTOR agrees to partner with COMMISSION in participating in necessary activities to assess opportunities for, and leverage external funding from, non-First 5 funding sources, as may be available for services described in CONTRACTOR’S Scope of Work.

15. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

In the event the CONTRACTOR offers to supply their service for the same price as awarded from the result of this proposal for any succeeding period, or in the event the CONTRACTOR is willing to negotiate any justifiable price increase at the time of any succeeding Contract renewal period, if applicable, and it would be economical and in the best interest of COMMISSION, and provided the services have been to the satisfaction of COMMISSION, COMMISSION reserves the right to extend any Contract resulting from this proposal on a term-by-term basis to the CONTRACTOR awarded the Contract.

16. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT
Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this agreement, the parties hereafter, by mutual consent, may agree to modifications hereof or additions hereto, in writing, which are not forbidden by law and which are signed by both parties. For any proposed revisions, CONTRACTOR shall submit a revised Scope of Work, Budget and/or Budget Narrative, for review and action by COMMISSION and/or COMMISSION Executive Director, per COMMISSION’S contract revision processes. In the event of any proposed modifications to CONTRACTOR’S budget, a budget revision must be approved prior to the expenditure of any funds in excess of prior-approved amounts.

17. **DURABLE EQUIPMENT**

Any equipment, materials, supplies, or property of any kind purchased for or financed from funds provided under this Agreement, excepting any funds received for indirect expenses pursuant to the budget document attached as Exhibit B, having a useful life of three (3) years or greater or a value in excess of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00), shall be defined as an inventory item. All inventory items not fully consumed in the work described herein shall be the property of the COMMISSION at the termination of this Agreement unless the COMMISSION, at its sole discretion, makes an alternative disposition.

18. **CHANGES IN CONDITION**

CONTRACTOR agrees to provide written notice within 14 calendar days to the COMMISSION if significant changes or events occur during the term of this agreement which could potentially impact CONTRACTOR’S progress toward, or completion of, the Scope of Work, including, but not limited to changes in CONTRACTOR’S management personnel, loss of funding, or revocation of the CONTRACTOR’S tax-exempt status, business license or permit.

19. **ATTRIBUTION**

CONTRACTOR will ensure that all publications, including but not limited to media activities, posters, conferences, brochures, etc., that are used in the approved project shall include a statement that the project is funded by “FIRST 5 Merced County” with the official COMMISSION logo. (Official logo shall be provided CONTRACTOR for such use.) The cost for any materials not meeting the above provisions may not be reimbursed under this Agreement at the sole discretion of COMMISSION.

CONTRACTOR shall be required on occasion to disseminate COMMISSION materials on various issues to further the objectives of COMMISSION’S Strategic Plan. Such materials will be provided to CONTRACTOR with reasonable notice and instructions for dissemination.

20. **PROGRAM INCOME**
In the event that any funds provided under this agreement result in program income for CONTRACTOR (i.e., funds received from third party payor sources of any nature), COMMISSION may off-set future disbursements to CONTRACTOR in an amount up to the program income amount, at the COMMISSION’S sole discretion. CONTRACTOR shall notify and receive COMMISSION approval, prior to incurring any expenses of COMMISSION funds that may result in the earning of program income that COMMISSION may deduct from future disbursements.

21. **INSURANCE**

CONTRACTOR shall purchase and maintain the following type of insurance for minimum limits indicated during the term of this agreement and provide Certificates of Insurance evidencing such coverage to the COMMISSION Attn: Certificates of Insurance, 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, California 95341. Certificates of Insurance shall be submitted to the COMMISSION within the first 90 calendar days of the contract term.

1. **Commercial General Liability**: $1,000,000 per occurrence and $2,000,000 annual aggregate covering bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. The County and its officers, employees and agents shall be endorsed to above policies as additional insured, using ISO form CG2026 or an alternate form that is at least as broad as form CG2026, as to any liability arising from the performance of this Agreement.

2. **Automobile Liability**: $1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage, or alternatively split limits of $500,000 per person and $1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury with $250,000 per accident for property damage.

3. **Workers Compensation**: Statutory coverage, if and as required according to the California Labor Code, including Employers’ Liability limits of $1,000,000 per accident. The policy shall be endorsed to waive the insurer's subrogation rights against the County.

(Note to Buyer – Waiver of auto & workers comp insurance “Use this clause only when appropriate to SCOPE OF WORK. If in doubt, coordinate with Risk Management”).

4. If the successful bidder elects to deliver products to the County using a common carrier that is not related to the bidders business entity. The bidder may request waiver of the automobile and workers compensation insurance requirements.

(Note to preparer of this agreement: Professional Liability, as indicated below should, only be inserted when contracting for clinical, medical, health, accounting, legal, insurance, advertising, architectural/engineering, or computer programming services.)

5. **Professional Liability**: $1,000,000 limit per occurrence and $5,000,000 annual aggregate limit covering Contractors wrongful acts, errors and
omissions. Any aggregate limit for professional liability must be separate and in addition to any CGL aggregate limit.

Insurance Conditions

Insurance is to be placed with admitted insurers rated by A.M. Best Co. As A:VII or higher. Lower rated, or approved but not admitted insurers, may be accepted if prior approval is given by the COUNTY Risk Manager.

Each of the above required policies shall be endorsed to provide the COUNTY and the COMMISSION with 30 days prior written notice of cancellation. Neither the County nor the COMMISSION is liable for the payment of premiums or assessments on the policy. No cancellation provisions in the insurance policy shall be construed in derogation of the continuing duty of CONTRACTOR to furnish insurance during the term of this agreement.

22. INDEMNIFICATION

CONTRACTOR has the contracted duty (hereinafter "the duty") to indemnify, defend and hold harmless COMMISSION, its governing board, officers, employees, agents and assigns from and against any and all claims, demands, liability, judgments, awards, interest, attorney’s fees, costs, experts’ fees and expenses of whatsoever kind or nature, at any time arising out of or in any way connected with the performance of this Agreement, whether in tort, contract or otherwise. This duty shall include, but not be limited to, claims for bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, and contractual damages or otherwise alleged to be caused to any person or entity including, but not limited to employees, agents and officers of CONTRACTOR.

CONTRACTOR’S liability for indemnity under this Agreement shall apply, regardless of fault, to any acts or omissions, willful misconduct or negligent conduct of any kind, on the part of the CONTRACTOR, its agents, subcontractors and employees. The duty shall extend to any allegation or claim of liability except in circumstances found by a jury or judge to be the sole and legal result of the willful misconduct of COMMISSION. This duty shall arise at the first claim or allegation of liability against COMMISSION. CONTRACTOR will on request and at its expense, defend any action suit or proceeding arising hereunder. This clause for indemnification shall be interpreted to the broadest extent permitted.

23. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

It is mutually understood and agreed that CONTRACTOR is an independent CONTRACTOR in the performance of the work duties and obligations devolving upon CONTRACTOR under this agreement. COUNTY and/or COMMISSION shall neither have, nor exercise any control or direction over the methods by which CONTRACTOR shall perform his professional work and functions. The sole interest and responsibility of the COUNTY and the COMMISSION is to assure that the services covered by this agreement shall be performed and rendered in a competent, efficient and satisfactory manner.
It is mutually understood and agreed that no employer-employee relationship is created and CONTRACTOR shall hold COUNTY and COMMISSION harmless and be solely responsible for withholding, reporting and payment of any federal, state or local taxes, contributions or premiums imposed or required by workers compensation, unemployment insurance, social security, income tax, other statutes or codes applying to CONTRACTOR, or its sub-CONTRACTORS and employees, if any.

It is mutually agreed and understood that CONTRACTOR, its sub-CONTRACTORS and employees, if any, shall have no claim under this agreement or otherwise against the COUNTY or the COMMISSION for vacation pay, sick leave, retirement or social security benefits, occupational or non-occupational injury, disability or illness, or loss of life or income, by whatever cause.

24. **RECORDS AND INSPECTIONS**

CONTRACTOR shall maintain full and accurate records with respect to all matters covered under this agreement. To the extent permitted by law, the COUNTY and/or the COMMISSION shall have free access at all proper times or until the expiration of seven (7) years after the furnishing of services to such records, and the right to examine and audit the same and to make transcripts therefrom, and to inspect all data, documents, premises, procedures, and activities pertaining to this agreement.

25. **QUALITY OF SERVICE**

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, ordinances, codes and regulations in performing its services. CONTRACTOR shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors or deficiencies in its reports, and other related items or services.

26. **PERSONAL SATISFACTION AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT**

The obligations of the COUNTY and/or the COMMISSION as provided in this agreement are expressly conditioned upon the CONTRACTORS compliance with the provisions of the contract to the personal satisfaction of the COMMISSION and the COMMISSION shall determine compliance in good faith and as a reasonable person would under the circumstances.

27. **COMPLETENESS OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement and any additional or supplementary document or documents incorporated herein by specific reference contain all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties hereto, and no other agreements, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of the agreement or any part thereof shall have any validity or bind any of the parties hereto.
28. **COUNTY NOT OBLIGATED TO THIRD PARTIES**

Neither the COUNTY nor the COMMISSION shall be obligated or liable hereunder to any party other than CONTRACTOR.

29. **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

The CONTRACTOR, the COUNTY and the COMMISSION agree to comply with all State laws and regulations that pertain to construction, health and safety, labor, fair employment practice, equal opportunity, lobbying, and all other matters applicable to the CONTRACTOR, COUNTY and the COMMISSION, their sub-grantees, CONTRACTORS, or subcontractor and their work.

30. **COUNTY’S AND COMMISSION’S RIGHTS NOT WAIVED BY PAYMENTS**

In no event shall the making, by the COMMISSION, of any payment to CONTRACTOR constitute, or be construed as, a waiver by the COMMISSION or the County of any breach of covenant, or any default which may then exist, on the part of the CONTRACTOR, and the making of any such payment by the COMMISSION while any such breach or default shall not be construed as acceptance of substandard or careless work or as relieving CONTRACTOR from its full responsibility under the agreement.

31. **SUBCONTRACTS**

CONTRACTOR assumes full responsibility for all services and activities covered by this Agreement, whether or not directly provided by CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR shall be considered the sole point of contact regarding contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from this Agreement.

If CONTRACTOR should propose to subcontract with one or more third parties to carry out a portion of those services covered by this Agreement, any such subcontract in excess of $5,000 shall be in writing, containing a proposed Scope of Work and Budget, and be subject to the review and action by COMMISSION prior to approval and execution.

COMMISSION shall have the right to reject any such proposed subcontract. Any such subcontract, together with all other activities by or caused by CONTRACTOR, shall not require compensation greater than the approved total program budget as set forth in Attachment B to this Agreement.

CONTRACTOR shall be responsible to COMMISSION for the proper performance of any subcontract.

Subcontractors shall be subject to the same terms, conditions, data collection, and other reporting requirements, that CONTRACTOR is subject to under this Agreement.
32. **PERSONNEL**

CONTRACTOR represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this agreement. All of the services required hereunder will be performed by CONTRACTOR or under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in the work shall be qualified to perform such services. CONTRACTOR’S personnel are expressly agreed to be the employees of the CONTRACTOR and not the employees of the COUNTY.

33. **NOTICES**

All notices, requests, demands or other communications under this agreement shall be in writing. Notice shall be sufficiently given for all purposes as follows:

1) Personal delivery. When personally delivered to the recipient. Notice is effective upon delivery.

2) First class mail. When mailed first class to the last address of the recipient known to the party giving notice. Notice is effective three mail delivery days after deposit in a United States Postal Service office or mailbox.

3) Certified mail. When mailed certified mail, return receipt requested. Notice is effective upon receipt, if delivery is confirmed by a return receipt.

4) Overnight delivery. When delivered by an overnight delivery service, charges prepaid or charged to the senders account. Notice is effective on delivery, if delivery is confirmed by the delivery service.

5) Facsimile transmission. When sent by fax to the last fax number of the recipient known to the party giving notice. Notice is effective upon receipt, provided that: a) a duplicate copy of the notice is promptly given by first class mail or certified mail or by overnight delivery, or b) the receiving party delivers a written confirmation of receipt. Any notice given by fax shall be deemed received on the next business day if received after 5:00 p.m. (recipient’s time) or on a non-business day.

Addresses for purposes of giving notice are as follows:

**COMMISSION**
First 5 Merced County  
260 E. 15th Street  
Merced, CA 95341  
Attn: Executive Director

**CONTRACTOR**
Agency name  
Address  
City, State, Zip code  
First and Last Name, Title

b) Any correctly addressed notice that is refused, unclaimed or undeliverable because of an act or omission by the party to be notified shall be deemed effective as of the first date that the notice was refused, unclaimed or deemed undeliverable by the postal authorities, messengers or overnight delivery services.
c) Any party may change its address or fax number by giving the other party notice of the change in any manner permitted by this agreement.

34. **APPLICABLE LAW**

All parties agree that this agreement and all documents issued or executed pursuant hereto and the rights and obligations of the parties to this agreement are subject to and governed by the laws of the State of California in all respects as to interpretation, construction, operation, effect and performance.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this agreement, any dispute concerning any question of fact or law arising under this agreement, which is not disposed of by agreement between the parties shall be decided by a Court of competent jurisdiction of the State of California.

35. **WAIVER**

Both parties reserve the right to waive any breach of this agreement and no waiver of any breach, failure of any term or any right to remedy contained in or granted by this agreement will be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the party waiving the breach, failure, right or remedy. This waiver shall not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach or failure of the same term, provision or condition or a waiver of any other term or condition in this agreement. This waiver does not establish or evidence any course of dealing between the parties.

36. **BREACH OF CONTRACT**

Upon breach of the agreement by CONTRACTOR, the COUNTY and the COMMISSION shall have all remedies, both in equity and/or at law, necessary to recover and satisfy CONTRACTOR’S obligation which it failed to provide as prescribed under the agreement.

37. **REMEDY FOR BREACH AND RIGHT TO CURE**

If CONTRACTOR fails to perform any agreement or obligation contained in this agreement, the COMMISSION may itself perform, or cause the performance of, such agreement and obligation. In that event, CONTRACTOR will on demand, fully reimburse the COMMISSION for all such expenditures. Alternatively, the COMMISSION at its option, may deduct from any funds owed to CONTRACTOR the amount necessary to cover any expenditures under this provision. This is in addition to any other remedies available to the COMMISSION by law or as otherwise stated in this agreement.

38. **SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST**
All the terms, covenant, and conditions of the agreement shall be binding and in full force and effect and inure to the benefit of the successors in interest and assigns of the parties hereto. This paragraph shall not be deemed as a waiver of any of the conditions against assignment set forth herein.

39. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

CONTRACTOR warrants and covenants that no official or employee of the COUNTY, or the COMMISSION nor any business entity in which an official of the COUNTY or the COMMISSION has an interest has been employed or retained to solicit or aid in the procuring of the agreement, nor that any such person will be employed in the performance of such agreement without immediate divulgence of such fact to the COMMISSION.

40. **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

CONTRACTOR shall comply with U.S. Executive Order 11246 entitled, Equal Employment Opportunity as amended by U.S. Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in U.S. Department of Labor Regulations (41 CFR Chapter 60).

41. **UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

Pursuant to §51.5 of the California Civil Code, CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate or in any way limit access to the business services to be performed under this agreement on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability or medical condition.

42. **SECULAR ACTIVITIES**

CONTRACTOR, in the performance of the services pursuant to this agreement, shall refrain from any religious teaching, instruction, indoctrination, proselytizing, exposure or discussion. All services provided shall be secular and CONTRACTOR shall have the obligation to ensure compliance with this provision by employees or anyone under CONTRACTOR’s control. The failure of CONTRACTOR to comply with this provision shall be deemed a material breach of this agreement.

43. **DRUG-FREE WORK PLACE**

CONTRACTOR shall comply with the provisions for a drug-free workplace as set forth by the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 or as last revised.

44. **CAPTIONS**

The captions of each paragraph in the agreement are inserted as a matter of convenience and reference only, and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope
or intent of the agreement or in any way affect it.

45. **ASSIGNMENT**

CONTRACTOR shall not subcontract or consign this agreement, or any part thereof, or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily, to any person without obtaining written consent by COUNTY and COMMISSION.

46. **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXES**

CONTRACTOR shall pay all taxes lawfully imposed upon it with respect to this agreement or any product delivered with respect to this agreement. COUNTY and COMMISSION make no representation whatsoever as to the exemption from liability to any tax imposed by any government entity on CONTRACTOR.

47. **SEVERABILITY**

If a court or an arbitrator of competent jurisdiction holds any provision of this agreement to be illegal, unenforceable or invalid, in whole or in part, for any reason, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions, or portions of them, will not be affected.

48. **COPIES OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement is executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed a duplicate original.

**COMMISSION**

Date:___________   Signature: _________________________________

__________________________________________
Scott Waite,
Executive Director, First 5 Merced County

**CONTRACTOR**

Date:___________   Signature: _________________________________

__________________________________________
First and Last name, Title
Agency Name

**APPROVED AS TO LEGALITY AND FORM**
Date: ___________       Signature: ________________________________

Forrest Hansen,
Counsel for First 5 Merced County
Complete this Budget Justification together with the Proposed Budget. The Budget Justification MUST have the same (matching) figures from the Program Total column from the Proposed Budget. That is, insert on this justification form the line item totals requested for all years of requested funding for your project.

For each line item, provide sufficient detail to clearly explain how the proposed funds will be utilized for each line item, and the basis upon which the line item totals are derived. Explain any year-to-year changes, if applicable. Use the Budget Definitions List provided at the end of this document for explanations of line item content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM</th>
<th>FY 20/21</th>
<th>FY 21/22</th>
<th>Other Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>PERSONNEL</td>
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<td>OPERATING EXPENSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM</td>
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<td>FY 21/22</td>
<td>Other Funding</td>
<td>Program Total</td>
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<td>Travel and Training Justification:</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Expenses Justification:</td>
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<td>TOTAL Program Expenses:</td>
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<td>Other Expenses Justification:</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**INDIRECT COSTS**

| Indirect Costs Justification: | (enter here) | | | |
| TOTAL Indirect Costs: | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |

**SUBCONTRACTORS**

<p>| Subcontractor Costs Justification: | (enter here) | | | |
| TOTAL Subcontractor Expenses: | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM</th>
<th>FY 20/21</th>
<th>FY 21/22</th>
<th>Other Funding</th>
<th>Program Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXTERNAL/IN-KIND FUNDS (Optional).</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>External/In-Kind Funds Justification: (enter here)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL External/In-Kind Funds:</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:</td>
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### Budget Definitions List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries/Wages (include detailed description of all personnel in budget justification)</td>
<td>This line item must identify each position/classification, salary range, and percent of time (i.e., FTE) to be funded under this grant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>Express the benefits as a percentage of the aggregate salaries. Benefits cannot exceed those already established by the applicant prior to the award of the grant. Employer contributions or expenses for social security, life and health insurance plans, unemployment insurance, liability insurance and/or pension plans are allowable items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent / Space</td>
<td>The costs of office rental/lease must be identified according to the total square feet, the cost per square foot, and the percentage of time being used for the proposed activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>Costs associated with power, heat, air conditioning, water, garbage and sewer services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>Costs associated with office supplies, postage, copying, printing, etc., that are general to the operation of the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Training</td>
<td>Travel or training related to the administration of the project must be identified, as related to staff specific activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Costs</td>
<td>Costs for obtaining a financial audit can be included in the budget; an independent financial audit of the project/organization must be obtained on an annual basis. Proposed audit costs requested of First 5 must be generally proportionate to the size of the proposed program compared to the overall agency budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Costs for telephone/fax line services, pages, cellular phones, internet access, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses (describe)</td>
<td>Costs that are not general operating or program costs, but are related to program operations. Include itemized list and costs in explanation. Examples include purchase of equipment and insurance. Note: Equipment purchases used solely for program activities are allowable if essential to the implementation and operation of the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses (describe)</td>
<td>Costs that are essential to the provision of program services. Include itemized list and costs in explanation. Examples include purchase of program and outreach materials and incentives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>Identify the percent and amount of the indirect costs, as a percent of salaries/wages (total personnel, less fringe benefits). The maximum allowable indirect rate is 10 percent of salaries/wages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Contractors</td>
<td>Subcontract services are those services provided on a contractual basis by individuals or organizations that are not employees of the applicant. List each specific subcontractor and the proposed subcontract amounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External/In-kind Funds</td>
<td>Identify any external or in-kind funds that will be used toward this program. Include amount and description of source. (Optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020-07-007

IMPACT 2020 Sub-Contract with Merced County Office of Education (MCOE)
AGENDA ITEM: IMPACT 2020 – Sub-Contract with Merced County Office of Education

A. Background/History:
The IMPACT grant between First 5 Merced and First 5 California ended June 30, 2020. First 5 California has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for three additional years. First 5 Merced has applied and received $1,284,333 over the next 3 fiscal years.

The intention of IMPACT 2020 is to support a network of local quality improvement systems to better coordinate, assess and improve the quality of early learning settings. The IMPACT grant is designed to support quality in variety of settings, including Family Child Care Homes, Family, Friend and Neighbor Care, Private Centers and alternative settings such as Libraries.

The Merced County Office of Education, Early Education Department (MCOE EE Department) provides coaching, technical assistance, professional development, assessment and support to sites in Merced County participating in IMPACT. Support will include strategies to increase program quality and improve family engagement. These sites could include licensed Family Child Care Homes, Family Friend and Neighbor Care, Private Centers, State Preschool Sites, Alternative sites and Libraries.

B. Summary of Request, Description of Project and/or Primary Goals of Agenda Item:
Staff requests the Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign agreements between First 5 Merced County and Merced County of Education.

C. Timeframe:
If approved this contract would go into effect July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

D. Costs:
The approval of this Contract would cost the Commission up to $1,387,482.00 ($1,118,598 from First 5 CA and $268,884 from Local Prop 10) over the 3 years of the grant:
- FY 20/21 – $462,494.00
- FY 21/22 – $462,494.00
- FY 22/23 – $462,494.00

E. Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends that the Commission review, discuss and approve the Executive Director to sign an agreement between First 5 Merced County and the Merced County Office of Education in the amount of $1,309,192.00.
F. Attachments:

- IMPACT 2020 Grant Award Notification
Grant Award Notification

GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS
First 5 Merced County
260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA 95341

Attention
Scott Waite

Website
https://www.co.merced.ca.us/598/First-5

Telephone
209-385-7337

Name of Grant Program
First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) 2020

GRANT DETAILS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Award Amount</th>
<th>Grant Award Start Date</th>
<th>Grant Award End Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,284,333.00</td>
<td>July 1, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2023</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

First 5 California is pleased to inform you that your agency has been funded for the First 5 IMPACT 2020 grant. Grantees agree to comply with the terms and conditions in the Quality Counts California (QCC) Local Consortia and Partnership Grants Request for Application (RFA), including IMPACT 2020 Funding Details outlined on page 80, which is made a part of this Grant Award Notification (Agreement). The QCC Local Consortia and Partnership Grants RFA is located here for your reference: http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/partners/qris.html#quality.

This Agreement is not valid until the grantee has submitted a QCC Local Consortia and Partnership Grants Application approved via e-mail by First 5 California. Any invoices submitted without final approval of the grantee's QCC Local Consortia and Partnership Grants application will not be accepted. Additionally, this Agreement is made contingent upon the availability of funds. If the First 5 California State Commission takes action to reduce or defer the funding upon which this Agreement is based, then this Agreement will be amended accordingly.

Please return the signed Agreement to the IMPACT 2020 Team via e-mail at IMPACT@first5.ca.gov. The authorized agent may sign electronically, or sign with an original signature, and scan and e-mail the Agreement to First 5 California.

First 5 California Contact
Kristin Torres
Title
Child Development Consultant
E-mail Address
ktorres@ccfc.ca.gov
Telephone
916-263-2054

Signature of the Executive Director of First 5 California or Designee

CERTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS

On behalf of the grantee named above, I accept this grant award. I have read the applicable terms and conditions identified in the QCC Local Consortia and Partnership Grants RFA and agree to comply with all requirements as a condition of funding.

Printed Name of Authorized Agent
Scott Waite
Title
Executive Director
E-mail Address
Scott.waite@countyofmerced.com
Telephone
209-385-7337

Signature

Date
07/02/2020

CCFC Fiscal Services Use Only

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fund Title</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Statute</th>
<th>Projected Expenditures</th>
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<td>Prop 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
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<td>2020-21 thru 2022-23</td>
<td>Prop 10</td>
<td>1998</td>
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</table>
Grant Award Notification (Continued)

1. All grantees shall agree to serve their community's children who are high-impact including those with high-needs, especially infants and toddlers, children living in poverty, dual language learners, foster children, children experiencing homelessness, children with disabilities, and children who are tribal, migrant, and/or live in rural/isolated communities.

2. All grantees shall be required to review and update their plans and budgets annually, or as directed by First 5 California, to reflect changes in policy, priorities, and focus of the First 5 California Commission, and to align with the priorities outlined in the Master Plan on Early Learning and Care.

3. All grantees shall comply with the IMPACT 2020 Funding Details located in Appendix H of the QCC Local Consortia and Partnership Grants RFA. Signing the Grant Award Agreement confirms that the grantee has read and agreed to those funding details.

4. At the direction of the Governor of California per Budget Letter 20-11 (http://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/Budget_Letters/documents/BL20-11.pdf), all grantees shall be reimbursed for expenses related to contract activities necessary to respond and/or reduce the spread of COVID-19, and demonstrates a cost-savings to the State of California until otherwise notified. Upon cease of the order from the Governor related to Budget Letter 20-11, the grantee shall be reimbursed for activities related to the terms of this Grant Award Agreement.

5. All grantees are required to comply with the data and reporting requirements of this grant, including the following:
   a. An annual site-level QCC Common Data File, due annually in September, on behalf of their county or regional consortia. For the Common Data File submission upload, refer to the First 5 California Common Data File Upload System webpage at http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/partners/datasystems.html#upload.
   b. The QCC Consortium Annual Performance Report, due annually in October, which reflects all QRIS activities within their respective county or region. The QCC Annual Performance will be completed via survey and available in the Summer of 2020.

6. All grantees will submit quarterly invoices through the QCC Reporting Portal within a three-week reporting window following the end of each quarterly reporting period. Any invoice received outside of the three-week reporting window without prior approval (extension requests must be submitted at least 10 days in advance of the closure of the reporting window) will be required to wait until the next subsequent quarterly reporting period.

7. To receive reimbursement for QCC expenditures, lead agencies must:
   a. Have an approved grant agreement, which includes Budget Template and Narrative setting forth the planned expenditures.
   b. Maintain accurate fiscal data, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and standards for governmental entities and report actual expenditures by category.
   c. Maintain documentation to substantiate that all costs are reasonable, necessary, allowable, and allocable to the grant (e.g., invoices, receipts, agreements).
   d. Maintain time and effort records to support all salaries, wages, and benefits charged to the grant in accordance with the California School Accounting Manual. If the employee works on more than one activity or cost objective, the lead agency must maintain time and effort records to support the distribution of the employee’s salary or wages among the activities or cost objectives.
   e. Certify that the IMPACT 2020 match requirement has been satisfied
   f. Retain all records related to this grant for at least five years; or when an audit has been requested, until the date the audit is resolved, whichever is longer.
Study Session

Staff Report

July 2020
• IMPACT 2020
  o First 5 Merced County in partnership with the Merced County Office of Education submitted an application for the Quality Counts California RFA. This RFA contains multiple funding streams from First 5 California, California Department of Education and State of California. First 5 Merced received the IMPACT 2020 award of $1,284,333 total for FY 20/21, FY 21/22, and FY 22/23.
  o Based on the grant award, a contract is being developed with MCOE covering the same timeframe. This contract is on the July 2020 agenda for Commission approval.

• Strategic Plan Implementation
  o Now that the Commission has approved the First 5 Merced Strategic Plan 2020-2025, staff has started to develop new application. Over the next few months staff will develop and release the applications below.
    • Request for Applications – Help Me Grow
    • Request for Proposals – Prenatal & Postpartum Care
    • Request for Applications – ACES Community Coalition “ACES Merced”
    • Request for Proposals – Parent Education
    • Request for Applications – Community Resource & Referral
    • Request for Applications – Family Resource Center (FRC) Planning Grant
    • Request for Applications – Capacity Building
    • Study Session: First 5 Merced Minimum Fund Balance
  o Staff has been working with the Health Department to open three position; two First 5 Program Specialist and One Support Service Specialist. The Outreach Coordinator job description is being developed with Public Health staff and County Human Resources. The position will be filled when community events restart, the majority of this position will be attending events and coordinating internal events.
• **Budget**
  o Staff has worked with the Public Health Fiscal Manager to update the proposed budget to reflect the new Strategic Plan. The final budget will be brought to the Commission prior to County Budget Hearings.

• **COVID-19**
  o In partnership with the Merced County Office of Education, First 5 California and California Department of Education to provide materials (books, diapers, cleaning supplies and PPE) to childcare providers, preschools, and informal childcare providers (FFNs). At the first distribution, 147 people were provided materials. Over the next few months, additional materials will be received and distributed. Below are pictures from the First distribution. This was covered by the Merced Sun Star, the article is attached to the report.

• **Attachments**
  o ACEs Aware Grant Awards – two First 5 Merced projects received Funds!
- ACE Overcomers
- Parents Helping Parents
  - Final California Budget Analysis by the First 5 Association
On June 22nd, the Governor, Senate President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon announced they had reached a negotiated budget deal for the FY 2020-21 state budget. The final budget package looks similar to the Legislature’s previously approved budget.

Overall, the budget avoids many deep cuts proposed in the May Revision in the face of a $54 billion budget deficit. Using revenue deferrals, lower caseload projections (based on LAO numbers), and reserve funding, the state budget largely sidesteps the draconian cuts that were considered just weeks ago.

The architecture of the budget is still based on the receiving $14 billion in federal funds using a “trigger up” approach, meaning funding will be restored and/or augmented should federal funding materialize by October 15, 2020 – additional detail is provided in full chart on page 6.

Both the Assembly and the Senate are poised to pass the budget by Friday, June 26th, and we anticipate the Governor to sign soon after.

Below is an overview of the key elements of the budget pertaining to our First 5 Policy Agenda. Commentary and critical next steps can be found in Blue Italics.

I. Quality Early Learning:

The cuts to child care proposed in the May Revise would have devastated the field. Recognizing its essential nature to economic recovery, the legislature made child care a top priority for preservation in the overall budget negotiations. This is reflected in the early learning package that keeps spending levels largely the same as last fiscal year. Specifically, the budget does the following:

- **Preserves provider reimbursement rates** at their current levels and rejects 10% cut to the Regional Market Rate and Standard Reimbursement Rate.

- **Holds harmless** all state-subsidized child care programs if open in FY 20-21. For direct-contactors, reimbursement will be based on enrollment (not attendance) for in-person and distance learning, even if closed due to staff quarantine or school site closure. For Alternative Payment and CalWORKS providers, the hold harmless is applied through fiscal year at certificated need.

- **Adds new spaces**: $53.3 million in new federal CCDBG funds towards Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP) for approximately 5,600 new and ongoing spaces. Additionally, the budget
includes $73 million for one-time essential worker child care vouchers via CAPP (from federal CARES funding). Lastly, the budget allows for rollover of the $50 million (from SB 89 emergency COVID-19 state funding) for Essential Worker Child Care voucher, which was announced in April.

- Provides additional supports for providers and families from CARES Funding, including: **$125 million for one-time stipends for subsidized child care providers offering care during COVID-19** ($62.5 million for AP and CalWORKS providers and $62.5 million for all children enrolled regardless of attendance); **$8 million to extend the family fee waivers** through the end of this fiscal year.

- **Plans for up to $300 million of additional federal CCDBG monies** aimed to increase access, offer re-opening grants, and provide workforce stipends.

- **Provides additional infrastructure supports**: the budget also includes funding for an early childhood education data system, as part of the Cradle to Career data effort ($9.3 million from CCDBG quality set-aside); and appropriated $13.4 million in one-time federal Preschool Development Grant funds to Health and Human Services.

**Reductions**: This budget is not without reductions and hardship, and will limit the vision of building out early childhood systems of care. Most reductions are unappropriated monies that had not reached the field. Specifically the budget:

- Reduces full-day/ full-year California State Preschool Program (CSPP) investments by $159.4 million (for 2020 and 2021), and school-based CSPP investments by an additional $130 million from Prop 98 funding.

- Eliminates $300 million in unspent full-day Kindergarten facilities grants

- Eliminates $245 million in grants to renovate and construct ECE facilities

- Eliminates $195 million for workforce development

- Eliminates $10 million to improve CDE’s early education data system

- Reduces $2.2 million for the Early Childhood Policy Council

- Reduces $35.9 million to adjust CalWORKS Stage 2 and 3 caseloads

**Child Care Moved to Social Services.** Lastly, the budget moves forward with transferring child care services, with the exception of CSPP, to the Department of Social Services. The budget appropriates $2.3 million to assist in the transfer and creates the position of Deputy Director of Child Development to be appointed by the Governor. The transfer will apply to the following programs:

- Alternative Payment Programs
• Migrant Alternative Payments Programs
• CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3 (Stage 1 is already housed at CDSS)
• General child care and development programs
• Migrant child care and development programs
• Child care and development services for children with severe disabilities
• Child and Adult Care Food Program
• Lead agency for the Child Care and Development Fund, Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Early Learning and Care Infrastructure Grant Program
• Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants
• Head Start and Early Head Start
• Resource & Referral Agencies
• Local Planning Councils
• CA Child Care Initiative Project
• Quality Improvement projects (including Quality Counts CA)
• Child Development Management Information Systems

The trailer bill includes language that directs the Department of Finance and the Early Childhood Policy Council to submit a plan to the legislature before March 31, 2021 describing how the department will perform a number of functions, including: making child care program more integrated and connected to CSPP, TK, and elementary school; ensuring families have comprehensive information about their choices for comprehensive supports (including child care); improving state-level reporting through cradle-to-career, interagency data systems; among other activities.

The Association never took a position on the transfer of child care or its policy predecessor as introduced in January as the “Department of Early Childhood Development”. We will be watching this very closely and will be participating in these discussion ahead, especially as they pertain to quality improvement efforts and linkages to other systems of care for children and families. Additionally, we are eager to hear from commissions and your child care colleagues on this topic.
II. Comprehensive Health & Development

Many of the proposed trigger cuts to health and development services were avoided. Specifically, the budget:

- **Prop 56 Provider Payments**: Preserves the Prop 56-funded supplemental payments until July 1, 2021, at which time the rates will be suspended unless otherwise specified. Notably, the rates apply to:
  - Developmental screenings - $20.8 million
  - ACEs Screenings - $7.6 million
  - ACEs provider training - $21 million
  - Physician and dentist loan repayment program - $297.8 million
  - Physician services - $389 million
  - Dental services - $183.8 million

- **Maternal Mental Health**: Restores $34.3 million to implement the extension of pregnancy-only Medi-Cal coverage for up to 12 months after delivery for patients diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition.

- **County MHSA**: Provides counties with flexibility around community services and supports for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Prop 63). Additionally, the budget suspends the reversion of unspent funds for 2019 and 2020 and ensures access to county reserves.

- **Supports for Children with Special Needs**: Preserves supplemental rate increases for developmental services providers, inclusive of the Early Start program. Further, Regional Centers will remain whole and avoid a $55 million ongoing budget cut as proposed in the May Revise. Lastly, the Governor, in both the May Revise and through the negotiated budget package, preserves budget expansion to support special education services through a $645 million increase in Prop 98 funding.

**Reductions**:

- **CalAIM**: Withdraws many of the expansion and innovation efforts around Medi-Cal, and a few efforts that were part of the larger California Advancing and Innovating in Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. Specifically, the budget includes delayed implementation of the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program and withdrawal of $347 million for enhanced care management benefits and incentives as part of the in-lieu-of services provisions of CalAIM.

III. Family Resiliency:

Recognizing the stress and great need for safety net services, many core systems around families were preserved, and even expanded. Notably:

- **EITC Expansion to ITIN Filers with Children Under Age 6**: The CalEITC program was significantly bolstered under the 2019 state budget with the creation of the state’s Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC). These expansions will continue by allowing tax filers using an Individual Taxpayer
Identification Number (ITIN), rather than a social security number, with children under age 6 to qualify for EITC and YCTC. Advocates were hoping the expansion would apply to all ITIN filers, and the legislature includes language in hopes expanding eligibility in future years.

- **Universal Job Protected Leave**: Adopts January Budget proposal to extend Paid Family Leave job protections to all workers currently eligible for program, and extend pregnancy/birth disability job protections to all workers currently eligible. Implementation of this law is set to take effect on January 1, 2021 to allow small business with adequate time to comply and implement the measure.

  *Note, while in the budget, the universal job protection proposal is having a difficult time gaining support in the legislature. It may move through trailer bill or via a legislative vehicle (SB 1383). Additional support and outreach to lawmakers on this proposal will be needed to ensure its success.*

- **Black Infant Health**: Preserves the Black Infant Health program and rejects the $4.5 million cut proposed in the May Revise.

**Reductions:**

- **Home Visiting**: Reduces the CalWORKS Home Visiting Program by $30 million in one-time cut, and restores funding in FY 2021-22. The cut is not expected to impact families currently receiving home visiting services.

**IV. Sustainability & Scale:**

The Nicotine-Based Vaping Tax “vape tax” was ultimately deferred and will be addressed this summer. Late last week, there was a push to include the vape tax in the final budget. However, negotiations around fund allocation and taxation structure (based on nicotine content vs. an additional excise tax) will continue in the weeks ahead.

*The Association continues to fight for our fair Prop 10 equivalency (of 14.8%) of the Vape Tax, regardless of how funding from the tax is generated. We have been working closely with CSAC and CHEAC (county administrator of Prop 99 programs) to deliver this message as clear as possible.*

*Additionally, Senator Caballero (D-Salinas) has emerged as our First 5 champion on this effort. We will continue to work with her staff on the measure and will be asking commissions to contact their lawmakers to keep this issue front and center and to elevate the need for prevention funding, like Prop 10.*
Federal Funding “Trigger Up” Restorations:

Cuts and Deferrals To Be Restored with Future Federal Funding

Pursuant to Section 8.28 of the Budget Bill, as amended, if the state receives an additional $14 billion of flexible federal funding by October 15, 2020, the following restorations and funding actions would occur with one-time federal funds:

- $150 million restoration for the judicial branch budget.
- $45 million restoration for moderate-income housing production funding.
- $203 million restoration of the infill infrastructure grant program at the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- $46 million restoration to child support administration funding.
- $5.8 billion reduction in payment deferrals to K-12 schools.
- $791 million reduction in payment deferrals to community colleges.
- $472 million restoration for the University of California budget.
- $500 million restoration for the California State University budget.
- $88 million restoration for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program at the Student Aid Commission.
- $250 million addition to the budget’s $750 million General Fund “backfill” to offset counties’ recent loss of realignment sales tax funding.
- $2.8 billion deposit to the newly created Employee Compensation Reduction Offset Fund to be used to offset employee compensation reductions in this budget package.

If the federal funding is more than $2 billion but less than $14 billion, the amount above $2 billion shall be proportionally allocated among the items listed above.
ACEs Aware Grantees – 2020-2021

Following is the list of ACEs Aware grantee organizations that received awards on June 9, 2020. Please note that this list is subject to change pending contract negotiations with grantees, as well as the finalization of California’s state budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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<tr>
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<th>Award Amount</th>
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<td>American Academy of Pediatrics – Orange County</td>
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Goldfinger Health
- Provider Engagement – White Paper

$49,000

Hanna Institute/Hanna Boys Center
- Provider Engagement – Network of Care
- Provider Engagement Grant
- Communications Grant

$275,000

Health Education Council
- Provider Engagement – Peer-to-Peer Learning

$100,000

Healthcare Integrated Services
- Provider Engagement Grant
- Provider Engagement – White Paper

$174,143

Hillsides
- Provider Engagement – Peer-to-Peer Learning

$100,000

Hoopa Tribal Education Association
- Provider Engagement – Network of Care
- Provider Engagement Grant

$200,000

Imperial County Local Health Authority
- Provider Engagement – Network of Care

$58,980

Kern Medical Foundation
- Provider Engagement Grant

$50,000

Kings County Department of Public Health
- Provider Training – Supplemental
- Provider Engagement – Network of Care
- Provider Engagement – Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Communications Grant

$390,000
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Merced County Office of Education
  • Communications Grant $98,368

Montage Health Foundation
  • Provider Training – Supplemental $67,430

Northeast Valley Health Corporation
  • Provider Training – Supplemental $50,000

ONTRACK Program Resources
  • Provider Training – Supplemental $180,000

Orange County Department of Education
  • Communications Grant $100,000

Origins Training & Consulting
  • Provider Engagement – White Paper $50,000

Our Children Our Families Council
  • Provider Engagement Grant $29,434

Owens Valley Career Development
  • Communications Grant $99,918

Pacific Business Group on Health
  • Provider Engagement – White Paper $45,640

Primary Care Development Corporation
  • Provider Engagement Grant
  • Provider Engagement – White Paper $146,030

Public Health Institute
  • Provider Engagement – White Paper
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Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency  $92,160
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University of California – San Francisco  $180,000
  •  Provider Training – Supplemental

UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital - Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Portal & Center for Community Health & Engagement  $65,945
  •  Provider Training – Core

UCSF – Phillip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies  $100,000
  •  Provider Engagement – White Paper (2)

UCSF - Fresno  $180,000
  •  Provider Training – Supplemental

Western Youth Services  $250,000
  •  Provider Engagement – Network of Care
  •  Provider Engagement – Peer-to-Peer Learning
  •  Provider Engagement – White Paper
  •  Communications Grant

YMCA San Diego  $99,638
  •  Communications Grant