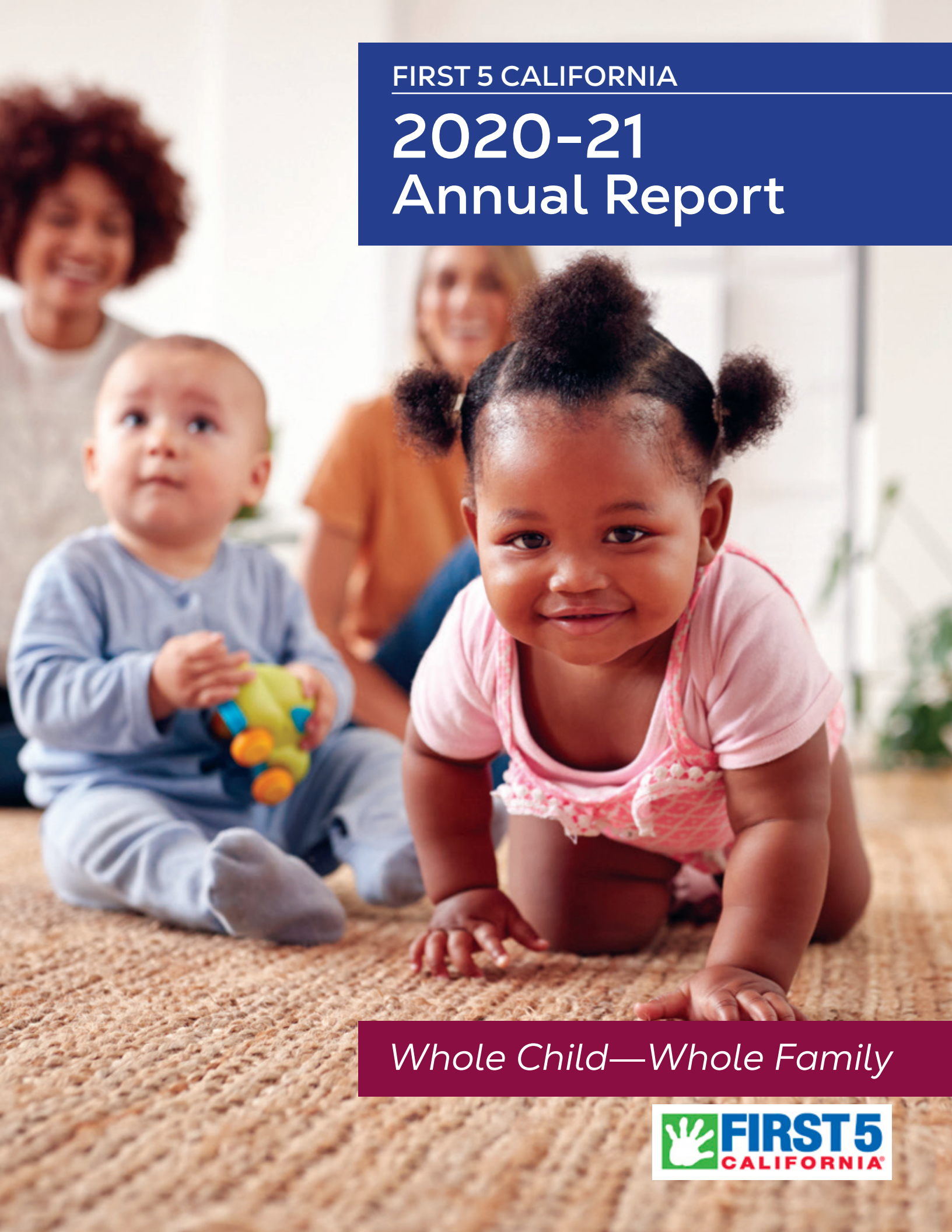


FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA

2020-21 Annual Report



Whole Child—Whole Family



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FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, Chair

California Surgeon General, Appointed by the Governor

Molly Munger, Vice Chair

Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Mayra Alvarez

Appointed by the Governor

Monica Fitzgerald

Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Shana Hazan

Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Elsa Mendoza Jimenez

Appointed by the Governor

Jackie Majors

Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER:

Mark Ghaly

Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

Kris Perry, Designee

Deputy Secretary of Early Childhood Development of the California Health and Human Services Agency

MEMBERS WITH TERMS ENDING IN 2020:

George Halvorson, Chair (Member until December 2020)

Appointed by the Governor

Muntu Davis (Member until December 2020)

Appointed by the Governor



"Our commitment at First 5 California is that we never stop learning about, believing in, and supporting the power of families and communities to change the world for the better."

Whole Child—Whole Family

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we continue to meet the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have the opportunity to learn from the challenges we faced during this unique time in our history. The length and severity of the pandemic have had an impact on how people react to personal and environmental stress, especially the youngest among us. Children have gone through periods of isolation that previous generations never imagined.

Our lives and the lives of our children will be changed in a variety of ways from this experience. It is important to acknowledge this reality, learn from it, and to forge ahead together with new and innovative ways to tackle today's challenges and to remain steadfast in our commitment to improving the lives of California's children through the pandemic and beyond.

First 5 California is committed to the principles that have always been the core of our work in serving our state's youngest children and their families. We will continue to partner with the Governor, the Legislature, First 5 county commissions, and other agencies and organizations that advocate for what is best for our kids and their future as we work toward implementing our 2019-24 Strategic Plan, our newly adopted North Star Statement and Audacious Goal.

First 5 California's 2020-21 Annual Report highlights its accomplishments and collaborations at both state and local levels that help us continue to lay the foundational investments that help children thrive. These include:

- An additional \$2 million investment in Fiscal Year 2020-21 to continue to support local mitigation efforts to address COVID-19
- A \$103 million investment in IMPACT 2020 to continue innovative approaches to quality improvement and development systems for early learning and care providers
- One-time funding of \$1.48 million for the California Family Book Distribution Partnership to provide counties with the option to receive children's books or expand existing Dolly Parton Imagination Library programs
- Continuing to lead the way on research for dual language learners to study and find solutions on how best to serve them
- Our investment in Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategies alongside the First 5 Association to clearly identify steps towards a framework that centers equity in the work we do

Our commitment at First 5 California is that we never stop learning about, believing in, and supporting the power of families and communities to change the world for the better. Although progress has been made, there is still much work to do. I consider it a privilege and an honor to be part of this outstanding early learning and care community and its noble work dedicated to improving the lives of young children.

At a time when hope and inspiration are sometimes hard to find, it's more important than ever to show kindness to one another, and to nurture and surround our children with love and support. It's the greatest gift we can give.



CAMILLE MABEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTH STAR

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

AUDACIOUS GOAL

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



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.

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 over 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.

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 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, and 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 that advance child-centered policies and increase these crucial investments.

First 5 California serves as a leader 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. Despite another unique year, First 5 California continued to expand its policy and advocacy engagement in fiscal year 2020–21, 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, early literacy, and *Talk. Read. Sing.*®
- Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other comprehensive community hubs for integrated services for children and families
- Support multi-generational family strengthening policies including economic security, breastfeeding resources, paid family leave, and a fair work week, for California's highest need families
- Expand access to voluntary home visiting programs
- Ensure digital equity across family serving systems, including access to broadband and the necessary



devices that are important in bridging the gap in telehealth and early learning services

Child Health

- Protect children and families' access to health care, and support coordination across health systems to ensure affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage and services for every child and mother, prenatal through age 5
- Support and promote universal developmental, behavioral, and ACEs screenings, linkages to appropriate services, and seamless coordination across systems to improve outcomes for children and families

Early Learning

- Expand access to safe, quality early care and education programs for children ages 0 to 3

- Support implementation of safe, high-quality universal preschool access for all low-income three- and four-year-old children, and safe, high-quality transitional kindergarten and kindergarten statewide
- Define, measure, and achieve school readiness for all California children
- Support a healthy, safe, and high-quality early learning workforce through adequate compensation, stability, diversity, health and safety policies and supports, and robust professional development systems
- Promote statewide access to and participation in quality improvement systems

Revenue

- Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0 to 5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy proposals
- 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 new tax funding structures

ACCOUNTABILITY: FUNDING AND AUDIT RESULTS

Under the California Children and Families 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 2020–21, First 5 California received \$81.3 million, and county commissions received \$325.1 million. This amount includes Proposition 10, Proposition 56 Backfill, and interest earned on the California Children and Families Trust Fund. 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 of births in the state. Each county must prepare an independent annual 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 November 2021, the Controller published its review of the counties' audits for FY 2019–20, 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 at <https://www.ccfc.ca.gov/about/budget.html>.

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ENGAGEMENT

The year 2021 marked another unprecedented year of policymaking as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact all aspects of California legislative, budgetary, and administrative functions. Amid Capitol closures and a continued shift to mostly virtual operations, advocacy once again looked different this year. Partnerships and coalition building proved critical to elevate priorities at a time of immense need across the board. Through shared advocacy efforts between First 5 California and its early childhood partners, as well as leaders in the State Legislature and Congress, the early childhood field was able to secure historic budget investments for children and families, capitalizing on billions of dollars in federal aid and a once-in-a-generation surplus, to make transformative change in family-serving systems.

The state saw major wins in the First 5 California priority area of early learning, many of which were years and decades in the making. Most notably, child care rate increases and rate reform. In the hope of restoring and supporting the early care and education workforce and mixed delivery system coming out of the pandemic, the final budget contains a number of positive changes to provider reimbursement rates. Additionally, the budget provides a framework for rate reform policy for all child care programs, which First 5 California has championed for the last several years. The Legislature was critical in passing these reforms, through which we can: 1) ensure providers and programs are properly compensated for the cost of providing care, 2) ensure rates are responsive to the state's economic diversity and varying quality standards and regulations, and 3) incentivize participation in quality improvement efforts as a means to improve child outcomes.

To support a whole-child, whole-family approach, a number of key investments were made in child health and family strengthening policies. The creation of a Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative to reimagine mental and behavioral health supports for individuals ages 0–25 will be central in how children's declining mental and behavioral health coming out of the pandemic is addressed. In addition, a variety of multi-generational economic security policies were passed, including a second round of financial supports through the Golden State Stimulus program, an increase in the CalWORKs maximum aid payment, and creation of a statewide Universal Basic Income pilot, which together have the opportunity to change the financial trajectory of the next generation of children. A full summary of progress made in First 5 California's 2021 Children's Policy Agenda priorities can be found on page 10.





Vision: California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

2021 CHILDREN'S POLICY AGENDA PROGRESS UPDATE

First 5 California will advocate for the strong start all children deserve by prioritizing children prenatal through age 5 and families from historically marginalized communities, to optimize early childhood development, reduce childhood poverty, and increase learning readiness. First 5 California's efforts will focus on addressing the needs of struggling children and families, recognizing the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism have had on low-income communities and communities of color.

RESILIENT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES	
Support effective parent education and engagement, including parent engagement on child brain development, early literacy, and <i>Talk. Read. Sing.</i> *	Progress Made: \$5 million for California Department of Public Health grants for local agencies to use evidence-based approaches to distribute books to children in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thurmond established a prenatal to 3rd grade literacy task force to ensure every California student learns to read by 3rd grade by 2026, which First 5 CA is co-chairing.
Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other comprehensive community hubs for integrated services for children and families.	Progress Made: Statewide expansion of and infrastructure to support the implementation and use of the community school model to all schools in communities with high levels of poverty (2021–22 Budget).
Support multi-generational family strengthening policies including economic security, breastfeeding resources, paid family leave, and a fair work week, for California's highest need families.	Progress Made: - An extension of the current 60 percent to 70 percent wage replacement rate for paid family leave until the end of 2022 (2021–22 Budget). - Extend Medi-Cal eligibility for post-partum individuals from 60 days to 12 months (2021–22 Budget). - Creation of a statewide Universal Basic Income pilot, with language emphasizing the need to specifically support foster youth and pregnant women as part of the pilot (2021–22 Budget). - An increase in the maximum level of CalWORKs cash grants by 5.3 percent and monthly CalWORKs pregnancy supplement aid from \$47 to \$100 (2021–22 Budget). - A second round of direct financial supports through the Golden State Stimulus program, with additional funds for families with young children and ITIN filers (2021–22 Budget). - Legal aid funding to help renters and homeowners avoid eviction and foreclosure (2021–22 Budget).
Expand access to voluntary home visit programs.	Progress Made: \$69.1 million for CalWORKs Home Visiting (2021–22 Budget).
Ensure digital equity across family serving systems, including access to broadband and the necessary devices that are important in bridging the gap in telehealth and early learning services.	Progress Made: \$6 billion to construct broadband infrastructure and improve access to broadband services throughout the state, including \$3.75 billion for "middle-mile" infrastructure in unserved communities (2021–22 Budget). - Require Caltrans, as part of projects that are located in priority areas, to install broadband conduit capable of supporting fiber optic communication cables (AB 41, Wood). - Align California law with federal law regarding approval of wireless telecommunications applications and provide additional clarity that will allow applicants to deploy communications technology (AB 537, Quirk).
CHILD HEALTH	
Protect children and families' access to health care, and support coordination across health systems to ensure affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage and services for every child and mother, prenatal through age 5.	Progress Made: - Extend pandemic related telehealth flexibilities through December 31, 2022 (2021–22 Budget). - Creation of a Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative to reimagine mental and behavioral health supports for individuals ages 0–25 (2021–22 Budget). \$800 million to support the addition of dyadic care services as a Medi-Cal benefit (2021–22 Budget). - Annual funding to add Doula services as a covered benefit in the Medi-Cal program, and to add Community Health Workers to the class of health workers who are able to provide benefits and services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries (2021–22 Budget). - Improve data collection and research on socioeconomic factors that contribute to negative birth outcomes to close racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and improve perinatal outcomes (SB 65, Skinner).

Support and promote universal developmental, behavioral, and ACEs screenings, linkages to appropriate services, and seamless coordination across systems to improve outcomes for children and families.	Progress Made: • \$25 million to support All Children Thrive, a statewide program to mitigate the effects of ACEs on children (2021–22 Budget). • \$25.5 million for public education on ACEs and trauma (2021–22 Budget). • Eliminate the suspension of Proposition 56 supplemental payments, which will continue to support incentive payments to providers for conducting development screens and screenings (2021–22 Budget). • Require health care service plans and health insurance policies that provide coverage for pediatric services and preventive care to include coverage for ACEs screenings (SB 428, Hurtado).
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EARLY LEARNING

Expand access to safe, quality early care and education programs for children ages 0 to 3.	Progress Made: • 200,000 new child care spaces in Alternative Payment, General Child Care, Migrant Child Care, and bridge program for foster children program (2021–22 Budget). • Supported legislation requiring Dual Language Learner identification, AB 1363, with partners Early Edge and the Advancement Project informed by DLL Pilot Study findings. Legislation was enacted October 2021.
Support implementation of safe, high-quality universal preschool access for all low-income three- and four-year-old children, and safe, high-quality transitional kindergarten and kindergarten state-wide.	Progress Made: • Adopt Universal Transitional Kindergarten as part of a mixed delivery system, phasing in expanded age eligibility to full implementation by 2025–26 (2021–22 Budget).
Define, measure, and achieve school readiness for all California children.	Progress Made: • While there were no bills specific to school readiness in 2021, the adoption of Universal Transitional Kindergarten impacts the school readiness conversation. Additionally, \$4.8 million was allocated for planning and initial implementation of a child care data system, and requirements were made for a unique child identifier compatible with the Cradle to Career data system (2021–22 Budget). First 5 CA also continues Quality Counts California implementation to raise the quality of early learning and care and improve school readiness.
Support a healthy, safe, and high-quality early learning workforce through adequate compensation, stability, diversity, health and safety policies and supports, and robust professional development systems.	Progress Made: • An increase in provider reimbursement rates to 75 percent of the 2018 regional market rate survey, and funding to bring all providers to 85 percent of the 2018 regional market rate survey for the next two years (2021–22 Budget). • Ratify the Child Care Providers United contracts which include rate increases, provider stipends and supplemental payments, pandemic flexibilities, and mental health supports (2021–22 Budget). • Provide a framework for rate reform policy for all child care programs, which will seek to create set rate targets for a single rate system beginning in 2023 (2021–22 Budget).
Promote statewide access to and participation in quality improvement systems.	Progress Made: • \$20 million to improve equity in our quality systems (2021–22 Budget).

REVENUE

Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0 to 5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy proposals.	Progress Made: • Young children and families were included in numerous programs funded with federal CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act dollars, as well as state stimulus funding and new 0 to 5 investments via the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, Community Schools, etc. However, there were no significant state revenue proposals during the 2021 legislative year.
Promote regulation of tobacco-related products, including electronic cigarettes, and sustainability of licensing and enforcement programs.	Progress Made: • Address the disparity in taxation rates between vape products and traditional tobacco products by levying an additional 12.5 percent tax on vaping products (SB 395, Caballero).
Promote inclusion of funding for prenatal and 0 to 3 two-generation prevention strategies in new tax funding structures.	Progress Made: • Create parity between the sale of vape products and traditional tobacco products.



With the year 2021's historic investments in California's young children and families, and momentum in Washington, D.C. for bold reforms and transformative policies, 2022 promises to be another year full of opportunity. First 5 California is committed to supporting children, families, and providers through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, while continuing to build on state and federal advocacy achievements. First 5 California will work to strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders and its efforts to build policymakers' knowledge base and investment in shared priorities. Capitalizing on the deep commitment to early childhood wellbeing from state and federal leaders, First 5 California staff and partners will continue to work with the Administration, Legislature, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Social Services, Department of Education, Early Childhood Policy Council, and others. These entities work together to build and implement a road map for building stronger, integrated, more equitable early childhood systems for all California children, and determine how best to invest scarce resources in this crucial foundation for lifelong success. In doing so, the Commission will build on this year's successes and continue working toward the underlying Strategic Plan, North Star, and Audacious Goal.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic with a sustained risk of global spread. In response, the Governor's Proclamation of a State Emergency and Executive Order, N-25-20, was issued on March 12, 2020.

COVID-19 is having a devastating effect on the world, impacting the lives of every community and individual in some way, shape, or form. Governor Newsom was, and continues to be, at the forefront of addressing this pandemic. Despite the Governor's efforts, Californians still struggle with economic, emotional, and physical impacts of the virus.

In particular, children and families are experiencing a once in a generation health crisis that requires extreme caution to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and prevent infecting large portions of the population. Child care programs and providers have been especially hard hit by closures and dwindling child care services.

To assess COVID-19's impact, First 5 California worked with the Governor's Office, the First 5 Association, and child care advocates to survey counties regarding what supplies were most needed. Survey results indicated basic necessities such as diapers, baby wipes, and hand soap were in high demand.

In April 2020, the First 5 California Commission took action to address the pandemic and approved \$4 million to provide emergency support to local communities around the state grappling with COVID-19. This effort supplemented other supply acquisition efforts around the state and was coordinated to maximize the various funding sources to support the purchase of emergency supplies and not duplicate efforts. The goal was to identify and support priority populations, including child care providers serving children of essential workers and identified high needs families in local First 5 communities.

To that end, First 5 California began the development of a contract with SupplyBank.org, a 501(3) (c) non-profit organization and systems change agency operating similar to a food bank, but for basic needs. In partnership with SupplyBank.org and the First 5 Association, First 5 California conducted a second assessment to further quantify the needs of child care providers remaining open for the children of essential personnel and the broader community.

The Commission subsequently approved an additional \$1 million during the May 2020 Commission meeting in order to continue supporting the local mitigation efforts to address COVID-19. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020–21, SupplyBank.org worked directly with each First 5 county commission to develop a county-specific distribution, storage, and delivery plan. This plan included distribution to several local partner agencies.

Local partner types included:

- Family Resource Centers
- Women, Infants, and Children Program
- Homeless and domestic violence shelters
- Local First 5-run centers
- Child care providers
- Other nonprofit and agency partners

Through the efforts of this program, SupplyBank.org and local partners were able to leverage additional emergency supplies through donations and other support to maximize on the original investment from First 5 California. SupplyBank.org and the First 5 Association gathered statewide data to illustrate the full scope of this distribution network. Through Fiscal Year 2020–21, SupplyBank.org collectively distributed the following emergency supplies to every county throughout the state:

- 11 million 3-ply adult and child masks
- 150,000 washable face masks
- 33,940 KN95 masks
- 12 million diapers

- 20.4 million baby wipes
- 20,964 baby formula
- 475,296 feminine hygiene products
- 206,160 units of all-purpose cleaner and disinfectant
- 333,286 units of hand sanitizer and hand soap
- 5 million surgical gloves
- 11,000 Infrared thermometers
- 6,500 digital thermometers
- 63,000 children's books

As the initial investment and contract with SupplyBank.org sunset on February 28, 2021, First 5 California staff went to the Commission in March 2021 to recommend an additional investment of \$2 million to continue pandemic mitigation efforts through emergency supplies distribution. With the approval from the Commission, First 5 California staff began developing another contract with SupplyBank.org and working with the First 5 Association to identify local needs for emergency supply efforts beginning in Fiscal Year 2021–22. Data about the outcomes of the additional investment and who it targeted will be provided in the FY 2021–22 Annual Report.





Martin			
Jessica	●		
Hope	●		
Maggie	●		
	6	0	
	Griffin/Soldos/Joan		
Did you like the butter?			
	YES	NO	
Trey	●		
Valeria		●	
Valentina	●		
Kayla		●	
Leahnic	●		

First 5 County Commission Program Result Areas

FOUR RESULT AREAS

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

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

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

Exhibit 1 contains the total numbers of services provided to children ages birth to 5 and adults (including primary caregivers and providers) for Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, and Improved Child Health. During FY 2020–21, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 983,820 child services and 732,917 adult services. The distribution of expenditures in these three result areas totals \$283 million.

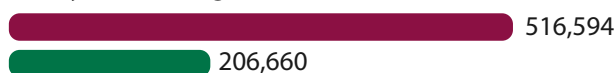
Exhibit 1: Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 Across Result Areas

● Adults ● Children

Child Health



Family Functioning



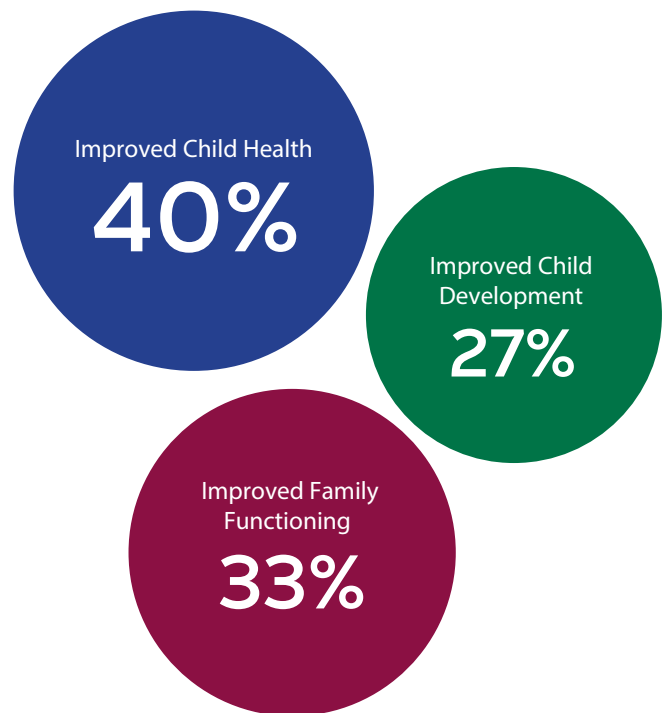
Child Development



* Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

The result area, Improved Systems of Care, with expenditures of \$103 million, differs from the others. It consists of programs and initiatives for system-wide structural supports for efforts within the other three result areas. The four result areas combined show total expenditures of \$386 million.

Exhibit 2: Total Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 by Result Area



*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers
Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, December 2021



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

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

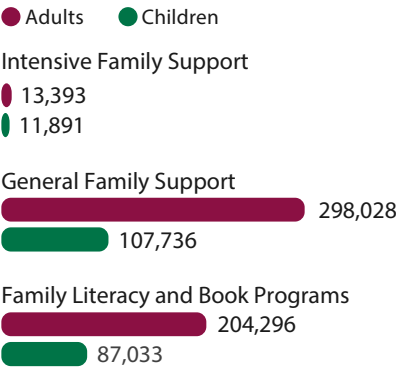
Family Functioning includes the categories Family Literacy and Book Programs, General Family Support, and Intensive Family Support. Services include instruction on general parenting topics, support for basic family needs and case management, parent education and literacy, referrals to community resources,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

In FY 2020–21, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 206,660 services to improve family functioning for children ages birth to 5, with 87,033 child services in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 107,736 child services in General Family Support and 11,891 child services in Intensive Family Support.

First 5 county commissions provided a total of 516,594 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 204,296 adult services in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 298,905 adult services in

General Family Support and 13,393 adult services in Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 3 displays the numbers of services provided.

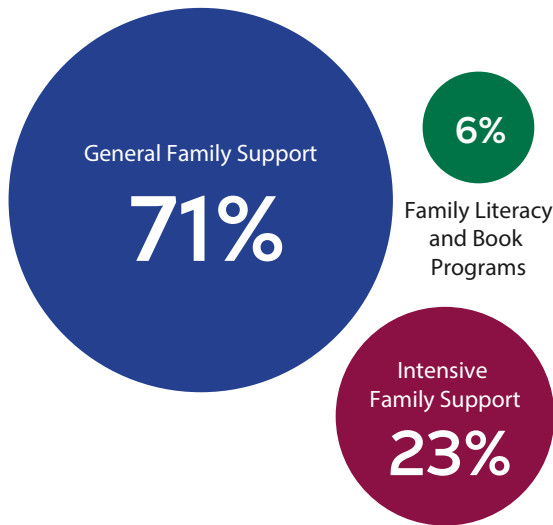
Exhibit 3: Family Functioning—Total Numbers of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 by Service



* Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

First 5 county commissions expended \$94 million to improve Family Functioning, with 6 percent of expenditures in Family Literacy and Book Programs, 71 percent of expenditures in General Family Support, and 23 percent of expenditures in Intensive Family Support. Exhibit 4 shows the distribution of expenditures by service category.

Exhibit 4: Family Functioning—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 by Service



*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers
Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, December 2021

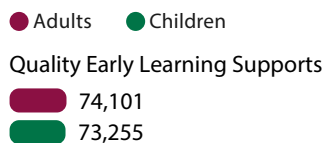
IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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

In FY 2020–21, First 5 county commissions delivered 589,252 child development services to children ages birth to 5, with 515,997 child services in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 73,255 child services in Quality Early Learning Supports.

First 5 county commissions provided 80,944 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 6,843 adult services in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 74,101 adult services in Quality Early Learning Supports. Exhibit 5 displays the numbers of services provided.

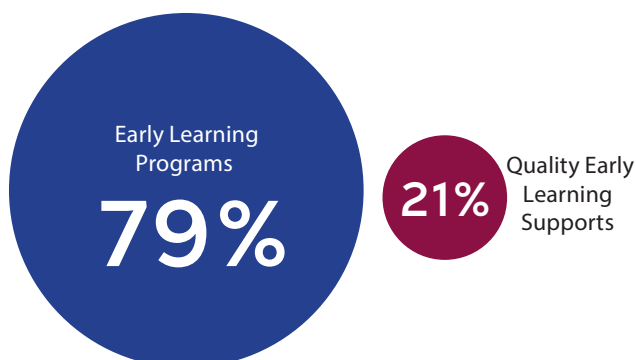
Exhibit 5: Child Development—Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 By Service



* Totals for Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

In FY 2020–21, county commissions expended \$77 million to improve Child Development, with 21 percent of expenditures in Early Learning Program Direct Costs and 79 percent of expenditures in Quality Early Learning Supports.

Exhibit 6: Child Development—Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 by Service

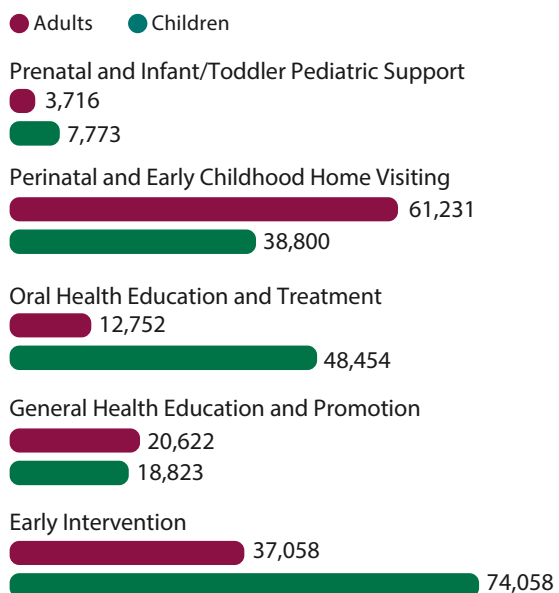


*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers
Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, December 2021

IMPROVED CHILD HEALTH

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

Exhibit 7: Child Health—Total Number of Services Provided to Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 By Service



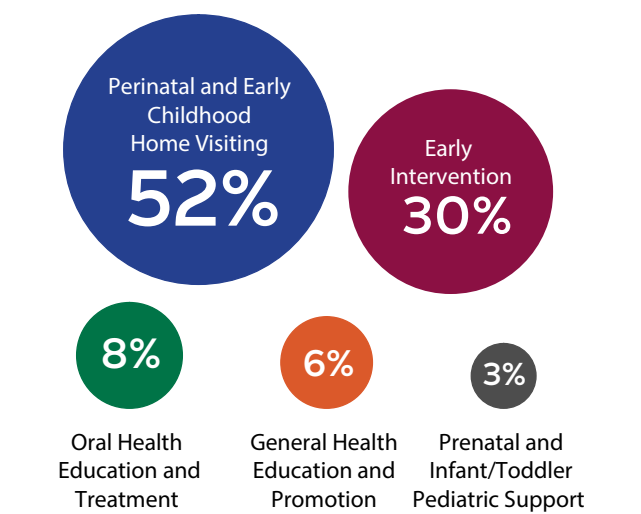
*Adults include both Primary Caregiver and Provider counts

In FY 2020–21, First 5 county commissions provided a total of 187,908 services to children ages birth to 5, with 74,058 child services in Early Intervention, 18,823 child services in General Health Education and Promotion, 48,454 child services in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 38,800 child services in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 7,773 child services in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

First 5 county commissions provided 135,379 services to adults (parents, guardians, primary caregivers, relatives, and providers), with 37,058 adult services in Early Intervention, 20,622 adult services in General Health Education and Promotion, 12,752 adult services in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 61,231 adult services in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 3,716 adult services in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

In FY 2020–21, county commissions expended \$112 million to improve Child Health, with 30 percent of expenditures in Early Intervention, 6 percent of expenditures in General Health Education and Promotion, 8 percent of expenditures in Oral Health Education and Treatment, 52 percent of expenditures in Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting, and 3 percent of expenditures in Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support.

Exhibit 8: Child Health— Distribution of Expenditures for Children Ages 0 to 5 and Adults* in FY 2020–21 by Service

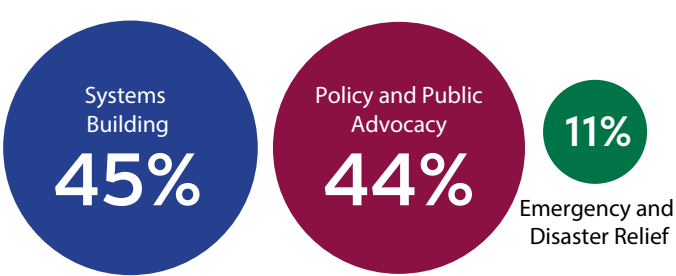


*Adults include both Primary Caregivers and Providers

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Systems of Care addresses system-wide structural supports as county commissions focus efforts within the result areas of Family Functioning, Child Development, and Child Health. For example, interagency collaboration allows coordinated wrap-around efforts from multiple organizations providing focused client services. Since this result is at a systems level, counties do not report numbers of children and adults served. Expenditure data indicate that for FY 2020–21, county commissions expended \$103 million to improve Systems of Care, with 11 percent focused on Emergency and Disaster Relief, 43 percent on Policy and Public Advocacy, and 45 percent of expenditures toward Systems Building.

Exhibit 9: Systems of Care—Distribution of Expenditures in FY 2020–21 by Service



Source: County Revenue and Expenditure Summary, December 2021

POPULATIONS SERVED

County commissions served a diversity of populations by age, race/ethnicity, and language (Appendix C). Statewide, 502,638 children were served by county commission programs. The total of 778,341 adults served included primary caregivers such as parents and other family members (703,802) and service providers (74,539).

By age, 37 percent of children served were under 3 years old, 39 percent were ages 3 through 5 years old, and 24 percent were of unknown age.

By race/ethnicity, children served included Hispanic or Latino as the largest group (41 percent), followed by White (14 percent), Asian (6 percent), Black or African American (4 percent), Other (3 percent), Two or More Races (3 percent), Alaska Native or American Indian (less than 1 percent), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (less than 1 percent) and unknown race/ethnicity (28 percent).

With respect to primary language of children served, the two largest groups served were speakers of English (42 percent) and Spanish (25 percent), followed by speakers of Asian languages (Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, 3 percent) and language unknown (27 percent).



Priority Area: Child Health

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. The *Kit* is a foundational resource to support parents with the most important job anyone can have: parenting.

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

The *Kit* includes a health handbook; a baby board book; a Women, Infants, and Children mobile website flyer; a poison control brochure and magnet; and other important information on paid family leave, literacy, and early learning.

The *Kit* also features the *California Parent Guide*. Written in collaboration with UC Berkeley's Health Research for Action, the *Guide* contains tips for parents on:

- Keeping children healthy and safe (includes COVID-19 safety information)
- Tracking developmental milestones
- Handling emotional and behavioral challenges
- Finding quality childcare

Parents can also access the *Guide* online at:

<https://parentguide.first5california.com/en-US> (English)

<https://parentguide.first5california.com/es-MX> (Spanish)

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 95,000 distributed in Fiscal Year 2020–21 alone.

Parents can order the *Kit* directly by visiting First 5 California's ordering portal at <https://first5parentingkits.com>.

SMOKING AND VAPING CESSATION

Cigarette smoking among adults in California has decreased from 16.5% in 2003 to a new low of 6.5% in 2020.¹ Though smoking prevalence has decreased in California overall, smoking remains high among low-income families and poses health risks to the most vulnerable children. Inequities continue between demographic groups as smoking prevalence becomes concentrated among certain ethnic minorities and low-income families. As a result, existing health disparities among these children can be exacerbated when exposed to nicotine, tobacco smoke, and e-cigarette (vape) liquid and aerosol.² For women, smoking while pregnant dramatically increases the risk of health problems such as preterm birth, low birth weight, birth defects, and damage to a developing baby's brain and lungs. Pregnant women who do not smoke but are exposed to secondhand smoke also face increased risk of stillbirth.³ Additionally, newborns exposed to secondhand smoke are at elevated risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and young children who are exposed are more likely to have ear infections, breathing problems, and learning disabilities.

E-cigarette use is on the rise, especially in young adults, up from 10.1% in 2017 to 14.9% in 2018 among those 18–25 years old.⁴ The increasing use of e-cigarettes is problematic since vaping while pregnant and secondhand exposure after birth can expose a developing child to nicotine and other toxins. Thirdhand exposure to surfaces in rooms where someone smoked or vaped can also be a health hazard for children.



Helpline Services

First 5 California has funded the California Smokers' Helpline (Helpline) since 2001 to help parents and caregivers of young children quit smoking, educate the public about the harms of tobacco use, and reduce the likelihood that babies and young children will develop tobacco-related health problems. In 2018, Helpline services expanded to include vaping because of the rise in e-cigarette use. In FY 2020–21, the Quitline provided services to 2,411 tobacco users who were either pregnant, or parents or caregivers of children ages birth to 5; of those, 317 used e-cigarettes (vapes).

The Helpline provides one-on-one telephone counseling for smokers, vapers, and for non-tobacco using proxies (i.e., family members or friends calling on behalf of smokers or vape users). Helpline services are available in English (1-800-NO-BUTTS for smokers, 1-844-8-NO-VAPE for vape users), Spanish (1-800-45-NO-FUME for smokers and vape users) and through the Asian Smokers' Quitline (<https://www.asiansmokersquitline.org/>) in Chinese (Cantonese & Mandarin) (1-800-838-8917), Korean (1-800-556-5564), and Vietnamese (1-800-778-8440). Helpline services also include:

- Automated text, chat, and mobile apps to engage people in the process of quitting who might not be ready to take the step to work one-on-one with a counselor
- Counseling services that utilize scientifically validated protocols shown to double the odds of callers quitting tobacco and vaping
- Self-help materials, referrals to local resources, and free nicotine patches (for medically eligible tobacco users), sent directly to requesters' homes
- Counseling services for vaping cessation that address misunderstandings about health risks associated with vaping, difficulty assessing nicotine consumption, and challenges in identifying triggers
- Information on the www.nobutts.org website and downloadable fact sheets about the dangers of secondhand smoke, why "Kids and Vapes Don't Mix," how to stay smoke-free with a new baby, the health consequences of exposing young children to e-liquid and vape aerosol, and the relationship between smoking/vaping and COVID-19



Rebrand to Broaden Reach

Helpline services have evolved over the years to be responsive to the rise of vaping and to changes in the way people seek help. In FY 2020–21, the groundwork was set to launch a more inclusive name that extends to vape users and non-tobacco using proxies as well as the more expansive forms of intervention services. In fall 2021, the California Smokers' Helpline was rebranded as Kick It California. Along with new phone numbers (1-800-300-8086 for English and 1-800-600-8191 for Spanish), there is a new more interactive and user-friendly website (www.kickitca.org). The website was designed to appeal to smokers but also those who vape or chew tobacco, or those who just want to help others to quit. It provides a range of services from interactive self-guided quitting to chatting or talking with a quit coach for individualized care.

HOME VISITING

Home visiting is a primary prevention strategy for inter-generational support for pregnant women and families with children in the first few years of life. During the past decade, the home visiting landscape in California has become more complex as federal, state, and local funding is invested in home visiting services. Many First 5 county commissions support and fund home visiting. The California Department of Public Health implemented the California Home Visiting Program following passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 that established the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program with funds for evidence-based home visiting in every state. Additionally, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1811 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018), appropriating funding for implementation of the California Home Visiting Program under the CalWORKs program effective January 1, 2019.

Research shows intervening as early as possible to mitigate the impacts of poverty has the greatest likelihood of improving child outcomes. Early childhood home visiting and out-of-home prenatal/pediatric supports have proven to help vulnerable children and families overcome barriers to health and well-being. Yet in California, not all families who are eligible and interested have access to voluntary home visiting or prenatal/pediatric support services. Only 10 to 20 percent of at-risk families who would likely benefit from home visiting receive these services.

Recognizing effective home visiting expansion requires an infrastructure to recruit and retain a well-qualified workforce and coordination across home visiting programs. In 2019, the First 5 California Commission authorized two investments to promote effective home visiting expansion and coordination:

1. **Home Visiting Workforce Study.** Effectiveness of home visiting relies upon a well-qualified, culturally responsive workforce. In July 2019, the Commission authorized \$2 million through January 2022 for a study to understand the demographics, training, retention, and well-being of the existing California home visiting workforce, map the workforce to the demographics of vulnerable families, and provide policy recommendations for workforce infrastructure and policy. In FY 2020–21, Child Trends conducted interviews with over 80 home visiting staff and received survey responses from more than 900 home visitors representing 171 programs in 48 counties, and launched a home visiting supply and demand map to inform policymakers and stakeholders about service levels and gaps. The study is guided by a Core Advisory Group, which includes representatives from First 5 county commissions and home visiting partners, California Departments of Social Services and Public Health, and state policy leaders.

Child Trends published their findings in March 2021, including analysis of how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted home visiting programs, staff, and service delivery:

- More than 40 percent of home visiting staff are new to the field or new to their positions within the last three years.
- Most home visitors hold at least a bachelors' degree and their most common fields of study include child development, early childhood education, psychology, social work, and nursing.
- Two-thirds (66 percent) of the workforce speaks Spanish and identifies as Hispanic or Latinx. Most (90

percent) reported sharing racial, ethnic, or cultural traits with at least some of the families they serve.

- The mental health and well-being of home visiting staff is a concern; one-quarter of home visitors and 15 percent of supervisors reported experiencing depressive symptoms above the clinical cutoff. Personal and work-related stressors related to the pandemic are likely contributing factors. Family needs changed during the pandemic. More families had basic needs such as diapers or food, parenting supports, and mental health services.
- Factors contributing to retention of the home visiting workforce include longevity in the field, training on virtual home visiting, lack of discrimination by families or in the workplace, satisfaction with on-the-job stress, and salary.

The home visiting workforce study will continue during 2021–22 with interviews and additional data collection. It will conclude in January 2022 with policy recommendations.

2. **Home Visiting Coordination Funding.** Most California counties are implementing at least one home visiting program through First 5 county commission investments, Maternal Infant and Early Childhood



Home Visiting, or CalWORKS (Home Visiting Program) funding. Although most counties offer home visiting to families, counties report being at different stages of service coordination. For most, home visiting programs operate as separate and distinct programs even while sharing similar goals, principles, and desired outcomes. In October 2019, the Commission authorized \$24 million through June 2025 to promote home visiting coordination at the local level. The funding is being implemented in two stages. Stage one includes approximately \$9.5 million through June 2022 to support county coordination and technical assistance to achieve coordination goals. Priorities for stage two and the remaining \$14.5 million will be determined based on what is learned from stage one. Stage two will be implemented between FYs 2022–23 and 2024–25. Specifically:

- In fall 2021, F5CA funded 50 counties interested in improving coordination across home visiting programs and integrating home visiting into other child- and family-serving systems. Ensuring a coordinated home visiting and family support system became more important than ever to meet family needs during the pandemic to help families recover as the pandemic ran its course.
- First 5 California contracted with James Bell Associates to host peer-learning opportunities, offer monthly group technical assistance sessions on topics of interest to the counties, provide individualized support, and connect implementers to key resources for supporting coordination efforts.
- For participating counties, the first coordination activity was the completion of an environmental scan to understand the local landscape of

families who could benefit from home visiting and identify existing and potential partners who could provide critical services to support children and their parents/caregivers. This information laid the groundwork for determining how to build or strengthen coordination to reach more families and improve existing services.

The home visiting workforce study and coordination activities are being implemented in collaboration with leaders from the California Department of Social Services, California Department of Public Health, First 5 Los Angeles, and the First 5 Association of California.

FUNDED RESEARCH: CALIFORNIA HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY

First 5 California continued its support of the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR) with \$1.7 million of funding approved by the State Commission in July 2019. CHIS is the largest state health survey in the nation. First 5 California has been the primary funder of the CHIS child questionnaire since 2001. The child questionnaire asks parents about topics, including child care, preschool participation, positive parenting activities (e.g., parents' or caregivers' 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 parents, and receipt and use of First 5 California's *Kit for New Parents*. Funding also supports online public access to data via the AskCHIS query tool (ask.chis.ucla.edu), the AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition mapping tool (askchisne.ucla.edu), and research reports (healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis).





In June 2021, CHPR UCLA Center for Health Policy Research released a policy brief funded by First 5 California, *Developmental Screening Among Children Ages 1–5 in California* (<https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/2021/Developmental-Screening-Among-Children-policybrief-jun2021.pdf>). During the last decade, California has seen progress in the number of screenings for young children, but there is still room for improvement in at-risk communities. Key findings included:

- The percent of all children screened for age-appropriate development increased to 72 percent in 2018 compared to less than 30 percent in 2007
- Parents reported being asked if they had any concerns about their children’s learning, development, or behavior by their child’s physician about 64 percent of the time in 2018 compared to 47 percent in 2007
- Despite improvement in overall rates of developmental screening, researchers found disparities by family characteristics such as health insurance type, usual source of care, parental education level, race and

ethnicity, and dual language learner children in the household, pointing to directions for improvement needed

In October 2020, CHPR released a methodology brief partly funded by First 5 California, *Innovative Methods to Increase Child Interviews in the California Health Interview Survey* (<https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/design/Documents/CHIS2019-Child-Redesign-MethodologyBrief-Oct2020.pdf>). The brief identified difficulties with survey data collection and methodologies to improve survey yield. In 2019, CHIS replaced its historic telephone mode with a mixed-mode web and telephone design using address-based sampling.

Additionally, CHIS implemented two new methods to specifically increase the number of child survey completes in 2019: 1) placing the child survey questions before the adult survey, and 2) oversampling households with children through predictive modeling. These changes helped CHIS achieve over 3,000 child completes in 2019—the highest number of child questionnaire completions since CHIS 2012. These innovative methods show promise for other surveys seeking to add or improve child survey data collection.



Priority Area: Child Development

IMPACT 2020

First 5 California completed the first year of IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) 2020, a \$103 million investment to support local and regional Quality Improvement System infrastructure. This represented a continued commitment to the innovative First 5 IMPACT approach to quality improvement and professional development systems for early learning and care (ELC) providers. IMPACT 2020 is designed to address the needs of the whole child and builds upon the initial effort of First 5 IMPACT, which was launched in 2015 and sunset on June 30, 2020. The implementation of IMPACT 2020 takes place at a local consortium level, supported by the Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs (T&TA Hubs). IMPACT 2020 is funded from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023. It was included in a joint request for application (RFA) developed in partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE), the Quality Counts California Local Consortia, and Partnership Grants. The cross-agency funding opportunity included both CDE Block Grants (California State Preschool Programs Block Grant and Quality Counts California [QCC] Block Grant), as well as IMPACT 2020, to align the QCC system of funding and strengthen partnerships to streamline implementation, achieve cost savings, and create efficiencies at the local and regional level.

IMPACT 2020 works in cooperation with all other ELC quality improvement efforts and investments in California to support the implementation of the QCC Quality Continuum Framework. IMPACT 2020 is specifically designed to fund quality improvement expansion and support providers serving high-impact communities and populations not already receiving support. QCC participation focuses on expansion of access to high-quality ELC in private centers; family child care (FCC) homes; with family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers; and in alternative settings such as home visiting programs and libraries.

The QCC RFA, along with implementation documents, and processes and procedures, can be found on the QCC website at <https://qualitycountscalifornia.net/resources/qcc-local-consortia-and-partnership-grants-rfa-documents/>.

Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, consortia and T&TA Hubs have continued to show flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of ELC settings and the children and families they serve. While the pandemic brought closures to sites and delayed classroom observations, ratings, and delivery of planned professional development services, QCC administrators were able to adjust to meet new priorities such as emerging health and safety needs, COVID-19 prevention practices and resources, family support, child social-emotional needs, and training and resources on trauma-informed practice.

Because of the flexibility of IMPACT 2020 and T&TA Hub supports, consortia and Hubs were able quickly pivot to provide COVID response, such as delivering critical supplies (personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, cleaning supplies) to those continuing to provide care for the children of essential workforce personnel. In addition, many IMPACT 2020 partners supported families whose ELC programs were closed, either temporarily or permanently, by providing distance learning and mental and physical health resources. To address workforce needs, local administrators promoted the use of technology to access virtual professional development and coaching, when feasible, and many worked





to share technology resources. Most consortia also adjusted eligibility requirements for teachers and programs to receive stipends and grants in order to support essential early learning and care providers despite the participation barriers due to COVID-19.

For FY 2020–21, amid a global pandemic, local consortia participating in IMPACT 2020 reported that of the 8,502 sites participating in QCC, over two-thirds (5,841) were supported in full or in part with IMPACT 2020 funding. With support from First 5 California's Emergency Supplies Program and its partnership with Supplybank.org, IMPACT 2020 lead agencies were provided access to personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, diapers, and other materials needed for early learning environments. Consortia quickly responded and utilized existing staff, including coaches, administrators, and trainers to distribute these critical supplies to ELC sites and families. With immediate health and safety needs met, IMPACT 2020 lead agencies continued to provide quality improvement supports such as professional development training, coaching, and check-ins with providers and programs using various platforms to provide dedicated virtual quality support.

Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs

T&TA Hubs continued to be the primary source of support for consortia. Funded through IMPACT 2020 dollars, Hubs streamlined the collection of data and management of expensive data systems, saving substantial administrative dollars. T&TA Hubs provided trainings, facilitated communication, shared best practices, and promoted consistency in supports available to coaches, trainers, and administrators. Regional T&TA Hub support was deemed particularly beneficial by small and rural consortia that would not have been able to access certain training or have the critical mass needed for Communities of Practice and other professional learning opportunities.

Local consortia identified the Hubs as very effective in supporting the use of data to guide continuous quality improvement decisions and in sharing best practices to efficiently manage their programs. Hubs analyzed regional quality improvement information to target supports specifically to local/regional needs. Data also informed administrators of gaps in the available trainings. Trauma-informed care principles and practices were identified as the most sought-after coach/trainer content area. QCC administrators, as well as coaches and trainers, took advantage of race, equity, diversity, and anti-bias learning opportunities. T&TA Hubs also identified infusing dual language learning strategies into each of their QCC models as their next priority area of focus. First 5 California will continue to fund T&TA Hubs throughout the IMPACT 2020 funding period.

Shared Services Alliance Networks

On August 19, 2020, the First 5 California Commission approved funding from IMPACT 2020 for the startup of Shared Services Alliance (SSA) Networks to build capacity in ELC settings by providing business and operational infrastructure support. On June 17, 2021, First 5 California announced the release of the *SSA Pilot for ELC Request for Applications (RFA)* funding opportunity.

This investment was made available to Local Public Entities to support private, licensed ELC providers and tribal child care settings, with priority given to FCC homes and other small and underserved providers. These SSA Networks will leverage regional partnerships to streamline local operations, such as billing, enrollment, fund management, and reporting, which will allow for increased service capacity within the Network.



SSAs are an emerging model in California and are utilized in other states to strengthen small ELC businesses by supporting them to become financially sound and more efficient. Small programs that participate in SSAs receive access to business support and automation tools that enable data sharing and back-office services, led by an entity that serves as the SSA Network. The SSA Network can deliver these services with less time and money, driving more resources directly into classrooms to support qualified, effective teachers.

Seven applicants were selected through a competitive application process to receive the SSA Network funds, including Merced County Office of Education, First 5 San Luis Obispo, Yolo County Office of Education, First 5 Sonoma, First 5 Solano, First 5 Commission of San Diego, and Ventura County Office of Education.

State-Level Support

Through IMPACT 2020, a \$6 million state support contract was awarded to WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies to deliver technical assistance and foster partnerships between QCC state agency partners, regions, and local consortia. WestEd and First 5 California are working together to develop working relationships with institutions of higher education (IHE), which includes developing common definitions and shared quality standards across many professional development (PD) types. WestEd is developing a platform for online PD, as well as creating resources for non-subsidized ELC providers, including FFN, FCC, and private centers. Alignment of quality standards is

also being improved through the upcoming roll-out of the Coach Certification program development. WestEd's work also includes evaluating successes of IMPACT 2020 work, identifying effective strategies, and analyzing key factors that result in program success. These evaluation findings will be used to highlight the benefits of a quality infrastructure for children and families to policy makers and to make informed decisions about future program development.

Additional state-level support came from the creation of the QCC Reporting Portal. Co-developed by First 5 California and CDE, and built by First 5 California, the portal increases collaboration across QCC funding sources and decreases administrative burdens at local and state levels by providing a single digital access point for submitting invoices, maintaining accurate budgets, tracking spending, and submitting data and other reporting to the state. The online QCC Reporting Portal provides a one-stop shop for counties to submit the various reports required for QCC and has been a long-standing request from local partners to more closely align and collaborate at the state level to streamline grant administration.

QUALITY COUNTS CALIFORNIA

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

All ELC participant sites in QCC are reported in the statewide common data file, which is inclusive of all the state's QRIS funding streams. This data provides the state an efficient and coordinated method for receiving information about each county participating in QRIS. As of June 30, 2021, there were 8,502 participant QCC sites across the state, including 3,162 family child care homes, 4,137 centers, 665 Family, Friend and Neighbor providers, and 538 additional alternative settings. In total, 347,194 children ages 0 to 5 benefitted from the quality improvement support provided by QCC.

Growth in QCC participation increased by 10 percent statewide from last fiscal year. Through the QCC Annual Performance Report, Consortia reported that 94% of QCC participant sites remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ninety-two percent (92%) of QCC consortia

indicated participation and support in QCC was as a major factor in sites remaining open. This is especially encouraging considering as of January 2021, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) reported 8,330 licensed sites, or 11% of licensed programs statewide, were closed due to COVID-19.

The QCC consortia and partners did a tremendous job meeting the needs of ELC programs and providers in the past year. The support included ongoing communication, so participant sites were informed and cared for, and felt less isolated, knowing how incredibly chaotic and difficult things became as the pandemic unfolded and continued to impact the field. Collaboration among existing and new partner agencies (including CDSS Community Care Licensing, Department of Public Health [CDPH], and local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies) to support the workforce and provide care and referrals resulted in increased information, allowing the field to keep up with the surge of details from public health officials and other state agencies. ELC providers received financial support in the form of stipends, relief grants, and other business funding, and professional development supports such as access to coaches, therapists, and early childhood mental health consultants to address trauma in staff, children, and families.

The onset of COVID-19 presented QCC local and regional partners with many challenges. QCC state leadership approved adjustments to local rating cycles for QRIS, alleviating stressors on participating sites when support and rating processes were significantly limited. As the pandemic was realized, and local and state guidance began to roll out to providers, consortia provided critical support to programs and the field. This included communication and guidance (frequently coordinated with local Child Care Resource and

Referral Agencies) on mandates and information from state and federal agencies and programs, as well as supplies and resources. These linkages included the CDSS—Community Care Licensing, the California Department of Education—Early Learning and Care Division, CDPH, as well as other forms of safety-net support to businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program and the California Employment Development Department Unemployment Benefits.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2020–21, the F5CA-funded QCC website added content for audience-specific webpages, updated county profiles, new Regional Hub profile pages, and expanded messaging around the importance of quality early learning and care. Additional 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 is continually added to the QCC website. In addition to website expansion, all five virtual modules of the Family Engagement Toolkit were released in both English and Spanish and are now accessible for professional development hours on the QCC website. For more information on QCC, visit the website at <https://qualitycountsca.net/>.

SMALL POPULATION COUNTY FUNDING AUGMENTATION

The Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) enables First 5 county commissions in small population counties throughout California to meet provisions of the Act and provide programs for children prenatal through age five that promote, support, and improve early childhood development. Without their local First 5 commission, children in most of these counties would not have access to necessary services. Because the statutory funding formula in the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10) is based on each county's proportion of statewide annual births, many First 5 county commissions receive relatively small amounts of funding for operating a commission and local programs. To close this gap, First 5 California has augmented statutory funding for counties with small populations and a low number of births.

The FY 2017–21 SPCFA funding term supported capacity-building around selection and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed programs, evaluation of effectiveness, and fiscal sustainability planning. In FY 2020–21, the 20 participating small population counties with 1,000 or fewer annual births received a total of approximately



\$3.9 million in SPCFA funding. SPCFA counties reported carrying out local systems building activities, as well as supporting programs in the areas of child health, family support and strengthening, and early learning and development.

On January 28, 2021, the First 5 California Commission approved up to \$20 million beginning April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, to focus on systems change and system efficiencies. In this new funding cycle, 21 small population counties with less than 1,000 births annually are being offered technical assistance from Child Trends to carry out the goals of the SPCFA grant. Counties completed a “Telling the Story of Systems Change” tool for at least one systems change activity by June 30, 2021. For example, five counties focused their systems change work on improvement of service coordination, while three counties focused on increasing access to programs/services. With support from Child Trends, SPCFA counties are exploring options for pooling services with the goal of piloting potential pooled services during the funding term.

DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNER PILOT

Nearly 60 percent of California’s children ages birth through five years old are Dual Language Learners (DLLs) learning English and another language at home. Research shows supporting DLL children to develop their home language and English early in life enhances cognitive skills, academic outcomes, and long-term economic gains. In 2016, First 5 California’s DLL Pilot study was authorized by the First 5 California Commission with a \$20 million investment through Fiscal Year 2020–21. In January 2021, the Commission granted a no-cost extension through December 2022 to complete the DLL Pilot activities which have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goals of the study are to examine culturally and linguistically responsive and effective intentional teaching, family engagement, and professional development (PD) strategies for DLLs.

The DLL Pilot study has been implemented in three phases: landscape (winter–spring 2019), in-depth (summer



2019–fall 2020), and expansion phase (fall 2020–summer 2022), with participation from 16 counties: Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) is leading the evaluation of the study in each phase.

Study Findings

In FY 2020–21, AIR published six reports highlighting key issues for serving DLLs in early learning and care settings in California. Reports are available on AIR’s DLL study website at <https://californiadllstudy.org/reports>. Highlights include the following:

- Spanish is the most common language spoken by DLLs in California early learning programs, followed by Mandarin (24%) and Pilipino/Tagalog (19%).
- Many programs incorporate children’s home languages; however, the majority of programs (58% centers; 60% family child care homes [FCCH]) do not use a specific DLL curriculum or model
- There is a lack of trained staff who speak a child’s home language or are prepared to work with DLL children and their families, and DLL-specific PD is rarely required for early educators.

- More than three in four sites (78% centers; 75% FCCs) report not having enough funding for PD. Programs that require DLL-specific PD tend to be publicly funded and serve a larger proportion of DLLs.
- Some linguistically and culturally appropriate materials exist in programs, but increased access to more materials is needed. There are very few valid and reliable assessments available for use in languages other than Spanish. To obtain a comprehensive picture of the skills of DLLs, children should be assessed in both English and their home language.
- DLL identification practices vary by program type and funding stream. Few programs administer a home language survey or direct child language assessment to identify DLLs. Programs are more likely to rely on informal strategies such as observing the child (73%) or asking a family member informally (82%).
- Many centers (84%) and FCCs (57%) use assessments for DLL children, but few assess DLLs in their home language. Assessments in Spanish are much more common than assessments in other languages.
- Assessing math skills in the home language is particularly important for DLLs who are dominant in their home language. Spanish-dominant DLLs were most likely to score higher on math as assessed in Spanish, compared to balanced bilingual and English dominant DLLs.

Expanding Effective Practices

The expansion phase of the study, launched in summer 2020 and funded through June 2022, will provide information for policymakers to understand how to sustain and scale effective instructional support, family engagement, and PD strategies, and how to expand these to other contexts during the COVID-19 pandemic. This phase also supports the DLL Pilot counties to integrate DLL practices into other early childhood education initiatives such as Quality Counts California.

As of June 2021, DLL Pilot counties reached 44 of 58 counties by sharing DLL PD opportunities with 28 non-DLL Pilot counties. Additionally, the expansion activities included education campaigns to emphasize the importance of home language competency, and distribution of age-appropriate books in multiple languages.

In April 2021, DLL Pilot counties began participating in monthly Communities of Practice (CoP) meetings, a key

part of the expansion phase. CoPs help counties learn from experts and each other about DLL best practices related to implementing, expanding, and sustaining their DLL expansion projects, make recommendations about policy to better support DLLs, and highlight resources that should be developed and/or translated to support high-quality practices.

The CoPs are focused on two strands:

- Educator engagement, preparation, and PD
- Improving systems of support for DLLs

The CoPs are implemented in partnership with Advancement Project of California, Early Edge California, California Department of Education—Opportunities for All Branch, and AIR. Funding for the CoP is provided by the Emerging Bilingual Collaborative and the monthly CoP sessions are facilitated by the Glen Price Group.

The three phases of the study build on one another to further the ultimate goal for California's youngest DLLs: to thrive, develop bilingual ability, be ready for kindergarten, and succeed in school and beyond. AIR will summarize findings from the three phases of the study in summer 2022, including policy recommendations aligned to the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.





CALIFORNIA FAMILY BOOK DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP

A wide body of research has demonstrated that early experiences with books and positive parenting practices, such as being read to in the first three years of life, are critical to robust brain development.⁵ Recognizing the importance of getting books into households with young children, in May 2020, First 5 California provided \$1.48 million in one-time funding for the California Family Book Distribution Partnership. Through this partnership, counties were provided the option to receive a direct shipment of books or expand existing Dolly Parton Imagination Library programs.

The California Family Book Distribution Partnership aligns with the Governor's Parent Agenda by providing needed resources to families and supports the California Surgeon General's goal to reduce adverse childhood experiences.⁶ It was also a timely investment, as early literacy programs encourage parent/child bonding, promoting resiliency and therefore providing positive childhood experiences buffering against adverse childhood experiences. Amid a pandemic when many schools and child care programs closed and stress among parents and children is heightened, it is more crucial than ever that children engage in comforting activities and routines.⁷ Activities, such as shared book reading, where parents and caregivers spend one-on-one, quality time with children, can help protect children from the harmful effects of stress and trauma.

Thirty-six counties requested direct book delivery and received over 277,000 books packaged in sets of three. In response to county feedback, bilingual titles, and a special wordless printing of *Three Brainy Birds Spreading the Word* book from the *Talk. Read. Sing.*⁸ campaign were included as part of the book bundles. Additional book acquisition within this project focused on content that reflects and affirms the diversity of California's families and communities. First 5 California and the California Department of Education jointly created a bilingual tip sheet for families that was packaged with the books for distribution to highlight the importance of early literacy and build on First 5 California's *Talk. Read. Sing.*⁸ campaign.

In addition to direct book distribution, twelve counties expanded Dolly Parton Imagination Library programs by enrolling 18,957 new children to receive monthly books and sustain enrollment for two years. Books acquired through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library are vetted and selected by early childhood educators with a focus on core human values: respect, acceptance, consideration, appreciation, listening, openness, affection, empathy, and love towards other human beings. The expansion of Dolly Parton Imagination Library combined with direct shipment of books will provide over 730,000 books to approximately 111,364 families over two calendar years (2021–2022).

EDUCARE

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 California's first Educare centers in Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties. First 5 California's investment 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 serves 168 Santa Clara County 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's Early/Head Start and State Preschool programs, and the East Side Union High School Child Development Program.⁸ First 5 California's fiscal support to Educare California at Silicon Valley ended in June 2018.

Educare of Los Angeles at Long Beach (ELALB), another public-private partnership led by Long Beach Unified School

District and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, operates its stand-alone facility located on the Barton Elementary School campus in the Long Beach Unified School District and serves 182 students and parents.⁹

ELALB modified and transitioned programs and curriculum due to the onset of the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and allowed for the resumption of in-person instruction to half the students by July 2020, while providing comprehensive, online, virtual services to the rest.

ELALB worked through the COVID-19 challenges and succeeded in serving the communities most vulnerable kids and families while raising faculty standards via professional development and partnerships. Partnerships included: Head Start and Early Head Start, Attendance Works “All In” Campaign, Brazelton Touchpoints, and Sobrato Early Academic Model (SEAL).

A notable achievement included ELALB and SEAL executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2020–21 school year, a successful replication of the SEAL Model that values English Learners’ home language as an asset. The MOU led to the full implementation of a *Spanish Dual Language Model for Heritage Learners* for all 16 Educare classrooms in the 2020–21 school year.

In June 2021, the contract with Educare of Los Angeles at Long Beach concluded.

FUNDED RESEARCH: CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE EVALUATION

During 2021, the Child Care Resource Center released the evaluation report, *Strengthening California’s Emergency Child Care Bridge*. First 5 California co-funded the evaluation with the Heising-Simons Foundation and First 5 San Bernardino. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify outcomes and guide continuous improvement for this recently implemented statewide emergency child care program for children in foster care.

The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) was enacted by the State Legislature in 2017 to provide kinship caregivers, or other caregivers, emergency child care. Overseen by the California Department of Social Services, the Bridge Program works to connect child welfare agencies and early learning and care systems in each county across the state. Foster parent caregivers can receive emergency child care vouchers with child care navigator support to help them find care appropriate for their family, while child care providers receive

trauma-informed care training and coaching. The first-year report identified statewide successes and challenges faced by families and staff during implementation of the Bridge Program. The following recommendations were made:

- Extend the length of the Bridge voucher for each child, including through the reunification or adoption process
- Develop statewide guidelines for Bridge Program implementation
- Develop a statewide data system to track Bridge-specific data that could integrate with existing and future data systems in child welfare
- Dedicate efforts to outreach and recruit Bridge child care providers to participate in trauma-informed care training and coaching
- For Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) trainings, offer different skill levels relevant to providers’ existing knowledge base (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced levels)
- For TIC training materials, include a breakdown of materials by child age because trauma-informed care may be different for infants, preschoolers, and school-age children
- Provide trainings in Spanish

During Year 2 of the study, CCRC has conducted additional surveys and interviews with Bridge Program administrators, staff, caregivers, and providers in the 12 participating counties. Findings will be summarized in a forthcoming report. The goals are to identify county successes and challenges with the program, including changes made to the program, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the program.





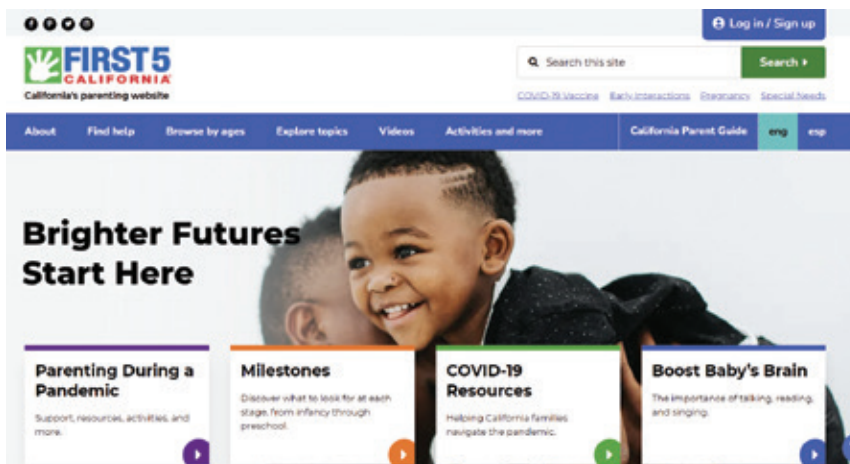
Priority Area: Family Functioning

PARENT WEBSITE

First5California.com is First 5 California's main resource 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 2020, the updated First 5 California Parent Site went live in both English and Spanish. Content for the site was informed by educators and researchers in the field of child development. It was redesigned to provide new levels of functionality, enabling parents to create an account and personalize their visit by inputting their child's age, allowing them to access resources, tips, and activities specific to their interests. Parents and caregivers visiting First5California.com can browse by their child's age group—Newborn, Baby, Toddler, or Preschool—to check developmental benchmarks and instantly access a wide variety of parenting tips, articles, instructional videos, and developmentally appropriate activities geared specifically for that age group. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the First 5 California Parent Site served as a resource tool for families seeking up-to-date information about COVID-19, services and resources for families needing assistance with childcare, unemployment and Paid Family Leave information, vaccine FAQs, and worker resources.

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 related to early brain development. First 5 California's Facebook audience includes 215,433 followers. Instagram has 13,300 followers and Pinterest has 1,900 followers. Beginning spring of 2020, engagement increased as families were primarily spending time at home and logging onto social



media to find activities to engage their children and to look for information about staying healthy and the latest on COVID-19. Throughout 2020 and 2021, First 5 California broadcast numerous Facebook bilingual book readings for families teaching or quarantined at home.

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, has been one of the most successful public health awareness efforts in First 5 California history. A 2019 study and health policy brief from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research shows 87% of parents of children ages 0 to 5 recognize the messages of this campaign and understand 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. From 2020 to 2021, specialized television and radio spots were produced and aired, reminding parents of the heightened importance of staying engaged with their children through talking, reading, and singing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving into 2022, First 5 California is building on the *Talk. Read. Sing.*® message

with the concept of promoting Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments to buffer against the effects of toxic stress, which is exacerbated by early adversity, even in utero. The presence of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) can lead to negative health and social outcomes throughout a lifetime. The messaging will aim to educate and support family resiliency and encourage healthy outcomes for all Californian families.

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. Due to COVID-19, the tour of the Express was cut short in mid-March 2020. Even though edutainers could not physically visit with families throughout the state, First 5 California connected with families online. Beginning in May 2020, First 5 California began live-streaming on Facebook, engaging bilingual reading times featuring Edutainers from the First 5 Virtual Express as well as celebrities such as Mario Lopez, Univision's Argelia Atilano, Disney Jr.'s Sonal Shah, and California's First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom. Additionally, the First 5 Virtual Express team produced multiple videos featuring singing, puppet making, exercising, and cooking using the First 5 California cookbook for families to enjoy during their time at home together. In 2022, First 5 California looks forward to finding new and engaging events and activities for communities throughout the state as COVID-19 restrictions are modified or lifted.





First 5 County Commission Highlights

Alameda

First 5 Alameda County leveraged existing investments, partnerships, and infrastructure in service to an equitable recovery from the pandemic, and long-term policy changes that address structural inequities and support the conditions for families and children to thrive.

- Distributed nearly 2 million health, safety, and educational supplies.
- Partnered with Alameda Alliance for Health, Medi-Cal Managed Care plan, to outreach to over 1,298 families to ensure access and utilization of pediatric care and immunizations.
- Administered \$4 million in CARES Act funding for grants and air purifiers to family child care providers.
- Leveraging pre-pandemic investments and partnerships, Neighborhoods Ready for School grantees became support hubs to connect families with resources.
- Provided developmental screening, care coordination, and linkages to services for 5,788 parents/caregivers and 5,978 children; 729 providers received training/support.
- Partnered with Help a Mother Out and Supplybank.org to distribute over 4 million diapers. Funded an evaluation for use in policy advocacy.
- Hosted monthly “Dad-scussions,” a virtual series for fathers.
- Distributed over 11,000 earliest learner and kindergarten readiness backpacks via 27 neighborhood partners.
- Trained 1,684 community-based and 2,659 early childhood education professionals on topics such as housing and economic rights, early education, and mental health.
- Provided emergency relief, training, and coaching/consultation to 3,508 child care providers, impacting 1,240 parents/caregivers and 8,621 children.
- Continued support of an early childhood education apprenticeship pilot blending CalWORKs, Prop10, and philanthropic funding. Eighteen people graduated and seventeen people were placed in jobs.

- Advocated for using COVID relief funding for young children and families, and proven strategies in the state budget.
- Partnered with the community to use data and research for local policy advocacy.
- Hosted a policy speaker series with Dr. Raj Chetty, the University of Oregon RAPID-EC, and UC Berkeley Center for Child Care Employment.

Alpine

First 5 Alpine focuses most of its investments on child development programs and parent education.

- 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 eight weeks old and continues to serve them until they enter kindergarten.
- Busy Bears Playschool is a non-licensed early care and education program serving children as young as three months old all the way through kindergarten.
- The Catalyst Community Parent Education Project provides learner-centered workshops to parents, caregivers, and providers.

A key accomplishment this year involved coordination of a Kindergarten Round-up Event to better prepare children, families, and the school system for the start of the 2021–22 school year. Eleven of the 15 students anticipated to enter kindergarten were served by this event. This is an increase over the previous year’s early registration of just six students. The results of this event included:

- Improved service coordination and connection to care: The Kindergarten-Round-up event served as a one-stop shop for registering children for kindergarten. It also provided needed health and vision screenings. Having First 5 conduct outreach increased the number of early kindergarten registrants and hosting it at the Early Learning Center offered a convenient

and trusted location for families to participate.

- Facilitating use of data across early childhood systems: School readiness data will be used by the school district to customize the start of school for incoming students. It will also be used by First 5 to better understand what services may be most useful in preparing kids for kindergarten in the future. Additionally, the information collected through the family survey was also used to identify the need for dental services. First 5 and the school district will be working together to bring a dental van to Alpine County in 2021–22.

Amador

First 5 Amador County continued to invest in areas that support parents as their children’s first teacher. The Commission made significant changes in service delivery to best meet the needs of families during the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff and funded community partners worked diligently to create a plan and look for opportunities to support children, families, and child care providers through virtual formats as well as curbside and home deliveries.



- Family Resource Centers, the Baby Welcome Wagon Universal Home Visiting, Dad and Me, Kindergarten Readiness programs, Playgroups, and Amador Quality for Kids mobilized to meet the needs of the community through what has been a challenging two years.
- First 5 Amador and a few local donors continued to fund the Imagination Library which mails an age-appropriate book monthly to children enrolled in the program. Approximately 60 percent of age-eligible children in Amador participate in this family engagement, early literacy program, and more than 70 percent have access to the books in their homes.
- First 5 Amador continued to assist with the coordination and promotion of the 33 Little Free Libraries throughout the county. These Little Free Libraries are stocked and maintained by the community with books for children and adults. Fortunately, First 5 Amador's e-newsletter, social media, and strong relationships with local media outlets made it possible to remain connected with families and caregivers.
- Amador's Quality for Kids initiative continued to engage a high percentage of Family Child Care homes as well as Center-based programs.
- First 5 Amador continued to work with community partners to establish and improve systems that impact families.
- First 5 Amador continues to oversee the Amador/Calaveras Perinatal Wellness Coalition. This successful group includes nurses, paraprofessionals, a retired physician, and Women, Infants, and Children, and continues to successfully monitor the system to ensure families receive quality and timely services.

Butte

First 5 Butte County engaged in strategic planning and adopted a 2021–2026 plan which envisions that “every child will have the opportunity for a resilient, thriving future through a nurturing, supportive network of families, caregivers, and their community.” In service of this vision, the Commission provides the following highlights:



- First 5 Butte partnered with community agencies by providing emergency funds to support 238 children and 511 caregivers who were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the catastrophic Bear Fire which killed 15 people and devastated the community of Berry Creek.
- First 5 Butte developed and adopted a new data system and website in order to streamline and enhance access for community members so that they may more readily engage with and seek funding from the Commission.
- First 5 Butte implemented the Dual Language Learner Expansion and provided funding to four community partners as part of a coordinated effort that centers language and cultural preservation in Hmong and Spanish speaking communities, as well as the distribution of technology and literacy supports to dual language learner families experiencing deep poverty and the crippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- First 5 Butte supported the COVID-19 vaccination effort by serving as the lead agency for identification, outreach and communication to child care and early care providers when it was their turn to receive the vaccine.
- First 5 Butte renewed its investment in home visiting and family support services by committing to five more years of funding for both the Butte Baby Steps and Tus Tu Menyuam

programs. Collectively, the programs provided intensive services and supports to 141 children and 253 caregivers in fiscal year 2020–21.

- First 5 Butte refined its commodity distribution skills and coordinated the dissemination of tens of thousands of personal protective equipment supplies and diaper kits to partner agencies who distributed directly to families and early learning and care providers.

Calaveras

In FY 2020–21, First 5 Calaveras funds were invested in prevention activities, early literacy promotion, and parent education. In this difficult pandemic year, the program grantees found innovative and effective ways to reach families. This dedication and creativity served as a positive force for Calaveras County families struggling with pandemic-related stressors.

- The Raising a Reader home visitor adapted to the COVID-19 restriction by revamping the whole concept of home visiting to virtual and socially distancing platforms. Book bags were delivered by porch drop-off by a masked coordinator.
- Home visits were done via the Zoom platform or through phone calls. Participating parents expressed that they were overwhelmed with pandemic-related family issues. The visits focused on practical approaches to positive child interactions. “The

virtual home visits influence families to find calm ways to handle big emotions and influence adult and child alike.” (Raising A Reader Home Visitor).

- Children made early literacy gains. Parents made gains in knowledge and skills, and found a safe place to share their fears and frustrations during the pandemic year.
- First 5 Grantees continued to provide services to children at preschool centers and family child care sites, via remote strategies.
- Children were able to continue lessons in nutrition, science, and personal safety from a variety of programs, and received early literacy kits from libraries.
- Teachers were engaged with the curriculum materials provided, and children were engaged with age-appropriate videos and materials. “When we did our SAFE Self lessons, the children really enjoyed watching the videos. We extended the lessons throughout the week, recapping what the topic was. There was one family that really appreciated the topic of gun safety,” (Preschool Teacher).
- In addition, we appreciate the 1,800 books provided by First 5 California, which were distributed to a variety of early childhood education sites, special education, and social welfare programs.

Colusa

In FY 2020–21, First 5 Colusa County continued to respond to the ever-changing needs of the community as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In-person programming was essentially halted as virtual platforms emerged as a safe format to deliver services to children and families. Input from families and grantees was considered to ensure that virtual formats offered the same level of service without compromising the integrity or outcome of the program. First 5 Colusa also considered the ease of accessibility for families that were already experiencing additional burdens and stress as a result of the Pandemic.

- First 5 Colusa Family Resource Centers increased food accessibility and access for low-income households through a county-wide collaboration utilizing CARES Act funding. Participation in food access programs increased by

46% from FY 2019–20, serving 2,400 families.

- First 5 Colusa successfully launched their localized Help Me Grow program in December 2020. Help Me Grow provided access to developmental screenings to 102 children; 87 of which were provided additional case management services.
- The Raising A Reader program served 97 families countywide. The program, offered in collaboration with three library branches, provided services through a virtual format with weekly drive-thru book bag dissemination. Colusa County Office of Education’s literacy initiative provided three books per week for each child enrolled, building home library collections for their families.
- Weekly online Growing Start Parent/Child Playgroups were offered to 67 families, serving 85 children. Activity kits that correlated with the online engagement platform were disseminated to families via a drive-thru process at three different Family Resource Centers in the county.

As the climate and conditions of the pandemic continued to evolve and change daily, the Commission committed to ensuring the delivery of quality programs and services that reflected the needs of children and families in the county.

Contra Costa

Last year, First 5 Contra Costa County applied a whole child, whole family approach to making services more coordinated, equitable, and responsive to families’ needs. The following are COVID-19 Survey Highlights (<http://www.first5coco.org/2021-covid-19-impact-survey/>; N=533):

- 40 percent of parents lost employment after the shelter-in-place order.
- Cash assistance, debt forgiveness, and free or affordable child care arose as top needs for parents. First 5 Contra Costa connected families with COVID-19 supplies, distributing 2,827 books and 27,632 personal protective equipment single packs/items from First 5 California and Help A Mother Out to programs across the county.
- First 5 California, the Low-Income Investment Fund, and other philanthropic funders also collaborated to aid 100 family child care providers with \$600,000 of COVID-19 relief grants.

- For the Antioch CHANGE Housing assessment, East County Regional Group members and Community Engagement staff collected 1,030 surveys from Antioch residents and are holding community forums to share learnings and establish housing policy priorities.
- Funded by the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware Initiative, First 5 Contra Costa held two convenings of over 100 providers to make collective progress toward implementing a trauma-informed Network of Care. They also launched an online hub for connecting, learning, and collaborating on trauma informed practice. Currently, First 5 Contra Costa is funded by ACEs Aware to pilot a Contra Costa Network of Care, including key partners, First 5 Contra Costa, La Clinica, and the Contra Costa Crisis Center. The Network features an integrated approach to ACEs screening and referring families to buffering support services in order to mitigate the impact of ACEs on families and prevent future ACEs.
- The Ready Kids East County initiative hosted a series of School Readiness Parent Cafés for black families in which parents voiced hopes for educational settings that reflect their children’s needs and interests. Ready Kids East County has launched a workplan to build collective vision and capacity for educational stakeholders to best serve black families.



Del Norte

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Del Norte County focused heavily on parental and child resiliency through these trying times. It is hard to look back at this year without seeing COVID-19 as the primary event affecting First 5 Del Norte's work. It may be overused, but "unprecedented" is still the right word to describe Fiscal Year 2020–21. Never before has our entire county experienced a community-wide trauma of this length and magnitude, shutting schools and businesses for months. Fortunately, First 5 Del Norte's work over the past years put it in a good position to continue to support families even while we couldn't be physically with them.

- One of First 5 Del Norte's major programs, the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods continued to provide essential services throughout the year with drive-through diapers and wipes giveaways, personal protective equipment giveaways, and multiple drive-through community outreach events like backpack giveaways, Community Baby Showers, and a Winter Break Meal Program. Two of our key programs required no face-to-face contact: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the Ready4K parent support/engagement texts.
- First 5 Del Norte was able to continue to bring Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning 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 via ZOOM. The training-coaching cycle was appreciated by providers.
- First 5 Del Norte also expanded the reach of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library throughout the year with registration forms handed out to every preschool class, kindergarten class, child care provider, community baby shower participant, and new parent kit registration in the county. Enrollment continues to increase and feedback from families has been positive.
- First 5 Del Norte received its third of three years of funding from the Mental Health Services Act Innovation fund that will help continue providing and developing culturally appropriate content of the parent-support texting program, Ready4K. Working with



ParentPowered, we are adapting their existing texting program, Ready4K, to provide connections to local programs and resources; encourage community connections; and boost mental health and protective factors messaging. The goals of this project are to increase parent capacity to support their child's social-emotional development and school readiness; increase parental resilience, self-care, access to mental health services; and connect parents to their community and community resources.

El Dorado

First 5 El Dorado County has always taken a regional approach to planning and service delivery, recognizing that different areas in El Dorado County have unique resources and needs. Within this framework, the Commission identified Community Hubs as the primary strategy within its 2016–2021 Strategic Plan. In partnership with county agencies and community-based partners, First 5 El Dorado has leveraged resources to support a variety of services through five Community Hubs.

During 2020–21, a total of 2,411 (not unduplicated) individuals were provided with Community Hub services. First 5 El Dorado funded partners, and adjusted their scope of services and delivery modalities in response to COVID-19 restrictions and other safety protocols. While all programs continued to offer their traditional scope of services, they also worked to be responsive to the unique needs of families in each Hub by:

- Managing and Staffing COVID-19 Response Activities: Hub staff

conducted contact tracing and case investigation and organized and staffed immunization clinics that served thousands monthly throughout the county.

- Distributing Food, Educational Materials, and Basic Needs Supplies: Hub staff provided thousands of families with food, diapers, hygiene supplies, books, themed activity kits and crafts, and educational resources.
- Providing Social Supports: Hub staff worked to remain visible in their communities, increase their outreach on social media and other communication platforms, and found innovative ways to fill the social gaps.

First 5 El Dorado reaffirmed its commitment to the Hub model within its 2021–23 Amended Strategic Plan, developing the Hubs 2.0 model which will build upon the existing navigation system and expand its reach to all individuals in the county. The Hubs 2.0 model will move the Commission toward systems-level changes and away from program-specific investments, prioritizing access to services, referral, and navigation, and more effectively engage the community.

Fresno

First 5 Fresno County envisions a future where all children and their families are healthy, loved, and nurtured. This past year, First 5 Fresno adapted and innovated new ways to support the wellbeing of families amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Community Health Teams (CHT): As part of a countywide goal to dramatically scale home visitation services for families, First 5 Fresno

partnered with the County of Fresno's Department of Public Health (DPH) to launch the CHT project. CHT is a cost-effective, localized model pairing public health nurses with teams of paraprofessionals from community benefit organizations (CBOs) to provide research-based home-visitation services to families who may otherwise not qualify for federal- or state-funded programs. Through CHT, DPH partnered with four CBOs to support families across the county with parenting, early learning, family literacy, developmental screening, and a multitude of other resources and referrals – all while prioritizing the health and safety of staff and families through virtual and modified service delivery.

- Lighthouse for Children Community Learning Center (CLC): Rooted in community and state partnerships, the CLC is home to programs and services supporting families and early childhood professionals. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CLC transitioned its direct services into the virtual space and supported families with essential resources. For example, through a partnership with Prevent Child Abuse California, First 5 Fresno hosted four AmeriCorps members who facilitated weekly, virtual classes for more than 80 families focused on healthy development, enhancing interactions between children and caregivers, and preparing children for school. The AmeriCorps team also led the distribution of personal protective equipment and supplies to partners serving Fresno County families as part of the First 5 California Emergency Supplies Program and partnered with the Central California Food Bank to distribute formula, baby food, and more than 535,000 diapers.

Glenn

First 5 Glenn County highlights of the Fiscal Year 2020–21 program includes:

- Nurturing parenting classes are helping parents gain the skills and knowledge they need to use nurturing and positive strategies to guide and teach their child(ren). The Nurturing Parenting program provided virtual parenting instruction to 43 individuals. The average Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) scores

increased within all domains for the 24 parents and caregivers that participated in Nurturing Parenting, and they completed both a pre- and post-assessment. Additionally, the risk of child maltreatment decreased between 10 and 14 individuals, depending on the AAPI domain being considered.

- Families and individuals were provided resources through supply distribution activities. First 5 Glenn staff distributed the diapers and diapering supplies with education regarding baby skin integrity maintenance, bathing supplies, nutritional info. with food supplies, formula, bottles, clothing for those in desperate need, shoes and socks, blankets, bedding supplies. New mothers were supplied with personal protective equipment for COVID-19 prevention, sanitary feminine supplies, toilet paper, wipes, and bathing supplies. All families and children were provided with ongoing dental education that included toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss every three months.
- All children in preschools, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, infants in child care, day cares, and other programs were provided with Art Materials, Play Dough, Reading Books, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, tape, activity books, and various learning toys. Over 700 bags of these materials went to children, including children in their homes during the year to support parents and children during the pandemic lock down here in our county. Services were interrupted so the Commission agreed to spend the funding as needed for immediate and basic needs of families and children.

Humboldt

The Road to Resilience (RtR) Program is a partnership between First 5 Humboldt County (F5H) and United Indian Health Services (UIHS) that provides intensive services and support to pregnant women and new parents who are impacted by Substance Use Disorder (SUD). RtR supports Perinatal Healthcare Navigators at UIHS who work closely with families to help them access physical and mental health care, parenting support, and other services during this critical time for child development and family bonding. This allows for services that meet families where



they are and centers service plans directly around a family's communicated needs. Families are also supported in connecting/reconnecting with traditional birthing and parenting practices.

An important part of this work has been the development of partnerships such as that with UIHS. RtR also coordinates with Tribal Wellness Courts and Child Welfare Services to integrate Navigators into Wellness Court and Family Case Plan processes.

Training is another part of the work. For example, in 2021, F5H, in partnership with UIHS, the Yurok Wellness Coalition, and the Hoopa Valley Tribal Court, hosted three Weaving Wellness community forums regarding ways to support tribal families to prevent the separation of families and reduce prenatal substance exposure. Local tribal and national SUD experts came together to discuss supporting families impacted by SUD and supporting traditional birthing and parenting customs so that providers know how to best support local tribal families. The hope is that these partnerships will help “de-silo” services and bring about more collaboration among service providers. Ultimately, this will reduce barriers for families seeking these services.

The initial three-year grant to F5H from the California Office of Child Abuse and Prevention for the program was due to expire next June, but F5H has been awarded

almost \$1,000,000 to continue the program for an additional two years through June 2024.

Imperial

First 5 Imperial County, in partnership with a number of agencies, continued to fund and promote services designed to support the healthy development and well-being of children 0–5 years of age and their families, which was challenging due to the many pressures facing families and providers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Imperial County, a notable program designed to support one of the most vulnerable populations in the county provided an array of important services based on intensive intervention and advocacy support offered to children placed under the protective custody of the Juvenile Court System as a result of adverse childhood experiences related to abuse or neglect. All of these children find themselves in situations where they are in need of care that reflects stability and positive experiences in order to support the healing process. Through this program, each child is assigned an advocate that, upon completion of rigorous training, devotes a minimum of 18 hours per month to each child. The essential functions offered by the advocate are to:

- Ensure the child's needs are represented through court proceedings
- Support the long-term placement of the child
- Be involved in enrolling the child in preschool/child care services
- Be engaged in the process to ensure that the child completes their basic immunization series
- Work to safeguard that the child receives a developmental assessment that is administered by a collaborating agency and follows up on any referrals for additional screening or services.

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, all children (65) under the custody of the Juvenile Court System were appointed an advocate. Of all cases closed, 74 percent were reunified with at least one biological parent, 93 percent were up to date on their immunization series, and 53 percent of children who received a developmental screening service were court ordered to receive additional intervention services.

Inyo

When looking back, what is so remarkable is how the entire year was in a pandemic. Shifting services, meeting on Zoom, working from home, and facing unprecedented challenges were all common themes.

First 5 Inyo County approached this unique year with flexibility and resiliency, prioritizing emerging needs and responding to challenges facing families and partners. Caregivers shared a sense of isolation, cut off from community.

First 5 Inyo County launched a new home visiting program with an innovative referral system to provide services to high-risk families. Home visiting staff created connections with families, meeting on Zoom or socially distanced in the park, playing games, reading books, and talking about challenges and goals. Caregivers also shared concerns about their children's development.

First 5 Inyo County provided developmental screenings online and offered Busy Bag activity kits. Each month, caregivers could pick up a Busy Bag, each containing age-appropriate art activities, learning games, and a book to read. Caregivers appreciated having new activities to fill the extra time children had at home and inviting moments to play as a family. Partners expressed frustration in understanding what services were available.

First 5 Inyo County created three tools to help providers refer clients. When the only hospital's lactation support program closed, First 5 Inyo County created a Breastfeeding Care Pathway, listing lactation supports to refer moms. Through the Triple P Network, First 5 Inyo County made a Provider & Services Sheet, to refer families to a Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

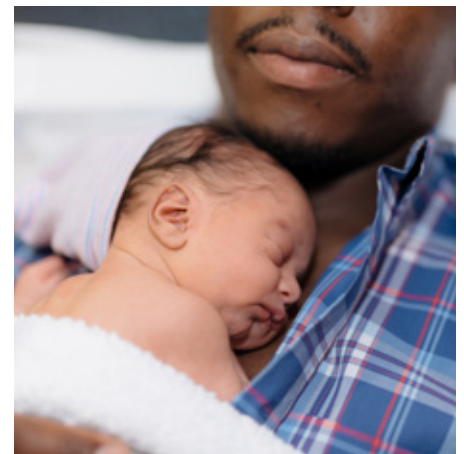
With the Family Strengthening Collaborative, First 5 Inyo County launched an online resource list, highlighting over 200 local services and programs. This is the strength and power of First 5 Inyo County and across the state, to meet local challenges, build systems, and provide services for families to be resilient and thriving, even in a pandemic.

Kern

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 Kern County began a new five-year funding cycle reinvesting in the Commission's commitment to serving children and their families through programs that address Health and Wellness, Parent Education

and Support Services, Early Childcare and Education, and Integration of Services.

- Programs worked together to develop innovative methods to continue service delivery with minimal interruptions given the pandemic restrictions. The programs used social media and hybrid-virtual formats to provide court-mandated parent education, workshops, center-based activities, and case management services. In addition to the virtual platforms, the Kern County Children's Dental Health Network adapted and scheduled drive-thru dental screenings to address children's dental needs. This service delivery method also provided an opportunity to partner with the Children's Mobile Immunization Program and provided access to two services at one location.
- In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Kern continued its commitment to systems change efforts by applying and being awarded the Home Visiting Coordination grant, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware planning grant, and the Earned Income Tax Credit grant. Each award presented First 5 Kern with the opportunity to engage and work with community partners to help facilitate conversations on networking, collaboration, and system delivery, with an overall goal to enhance the systems of care by addressing the inequities faced by the children and families of Kern County.
- First 5 Kern launched ResilientKern.org, a website designed to collect and share information and resources specific to trauma-informed care. The website includes relevant news,





a list of local partners, training opportunities, recordings of past sessions on ACEs, and information on trauma and toxic stress. In addition, the site contains updates on ACEs Aware projects and will grow as efforts in this area develop.

Kings

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, one of the most significant accomplishments First 5 Kings County had was the development of the First 5 Kings County Family Resource Centers. With a funding investment of \$631,012, the Kings County Family Resource Centers provides Early Childhood Education, Home Visitation, Developmental Screening, Parent Education and Referral services.

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, 1,041 children ages 0 to 5 and 835 parents, siblings, and caregivers who live in Kings County visited a Family Resource Center. Kings County's Family Resource Centers continued to be a central hub for families to become aware of the various services available in the community, especially during the pandemic.

Other highlights that took place during Fiscal Year 2020–21 included:

- The Linkages 2 Learning project provided 1,866 school readiness services to incoming kindergarten children attending the school site's spring or fall orientation, and/or receiving a school readiness backpack.
- The Kings County CARES About Quality project provided support, ranking,

technical assistance, and materials to 66 preschool and child care sites.

- The local CARES project provided training and professional growth advising to 182 professionals working in the early childhood education field, as well as providing a Professional Learning Community for the growing home visitation workforce.
- The United Cerebral Palsy Special Needs project provided 65 developmental assessments and 63 interventions to children ages 0 to 5.
- The United Cerebral Palsy Parent & Me project served 167 children ages 0 to 5 and 134 parents through weekly center based early childhood activities, with the majority of services delivered virtually.
- First 5 Kings County funded the translation of the 211 resource line database to Spanish, making the information on the website and mobile application available to Spanish-speaking families.

Lake

First 5 Lake County collaborated within the county and across the region to reach out and educate families and providers serving young children in Fiscal Year 2020–21.

- In coordination with the Northwest Region First 5s, a child abuse prevention media campaign comprised of videos and radio ads was developed. Radio ads aired

throughout the region, and videos were shared via public access television and on social media. The Lake Family Magazine Positive Parenting Guide, funded in part by a County of Lake "Cann Grant," was created to encourage parents to "dream big" for their family. It explains the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors, and child development and safety across ages, and includes information on how to access resources. The Guide is available online, and 5,120 copies of the English edition and 500 copies of the Spanish edition were printed for distribution in the first-print run. Copies were made available at family-serving agencies and placed in waiting rooms and anywhere parents may go to get information.

- The Substance Free Childhood Toolkit was developed to help local providers in their efforts to educate families about the potential negative impacts of substance use during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.
- A Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit was developed to help medical and other providers serving women in the perinatal period to screen for Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders and to be able to follow up with connection to appropriate local resources. This Toolkit was made possible by leveraging Proposition 10 funds with a Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Mini Grant from the County of Lake Department of Behavioral Health. All three publications are available for viewing on the First 5 Lake website (www.first5lake.org).
- To assist with distribution and outreach, First 5 Lake County developed media toolkits to help community partners promote this important work. The Imagination Library provided books for 67 percent of children under age five.

Lassen

First 5 Lassen County has invested in the Pathways Home Visiting Program as its primary strategy for achieving its vision that "all Lassen County children will thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments; enter school healthy and ready to learn; and become productive, well-adjusted members of society." While

COVID-19 continued to impact services, Pathways Home Visiting Program made some changes to their service delivery. It is estimated that half of all home visits were conducted virtually using either Facebook Messenger's video chat or over the phone. While not ideal, this enabled Pathways to work with families during the pandemic. As a rural county, it is important that all local partners are able to work together to provide services to families. To enhance this delivery system, First 5 Lassen began working on the Home Visiting Coordination Funding in December 2020. Since then, a comprehensive team has been assembled who meet on a monthly basis to examine and develop a plan to create a "soft handoff" for high-risk families. Upon completion, this referral platform will assist families in gaining access to the resources that are available to them, and help children thrive. As COVID-19 continued to have an impact, First 5 California shipped personal protective equipment to help child care providers to continue with their services. These supplies helped 19 childcare providers to continue services. In addition, First 5 Lassen partnered with Lassen HEARTS to help distribute diapers and wipes to community members that were in need.

Los Angeles

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, almost half of First 5 Los Angeles County's 135 contracts supported organizations that carried out systems of care work throughout Los Angeles County. Grantees reported a variety of accomplishments to increase access, quality, alignment, and sustainability of family-serving systems, thereby improving the lives of children and families. Grantees strengthened inter-agency collaborations and partnered with parents by harnessing formal and informal networks to share information and resources. Grantees, working with parents and other providers, advocated for both local and statewide issues, such as higher reimbursement rates and slots for child care, and increased funding. In one example, a collaboration between parents and grantees succeeded in reinstating LA Metro bus service to pre-pandemic levels. A committee comprised of LA Metro, families, and the grantee was established to improve public safety resulting in a \$40 million commitment by LA Metro to explore alternative safety ideas. The grantee stated, "By creating these collaborations, families felt empowered to

navigate...and [obtain] more resources." Professional development reached a new level by covering referral eligibility and follow-up, equity and cultural inclusion, trauma-informed care with families, and grant writing capacity. For example, one grantee launched a webinar series for 300+ health professionals on racial/ethnic health disparities by offering continuing education credits. Also, grantees increased their capacity for using and interpreting data for decision making, planning, and resource allocation. Grantees also gave examples of how they have helped families increase their awareness of existing services and community assets. The number of children and providers reached through First 5 Los Angeles investments has doubled from the previous year, and many direct service grantees reported collaborating more with each other and with other community groups in the county to reach more families and fill gaps in services.

Madera

First 5 Madera County continues investing in the healthy development of children 0–5 years of age and their families. First 5 Madera remains committed towards supporting parents and caregivers in becoming their child's first teacher, partnering with community stakeholders towards systems improvements, and investing in opportunities that contribute to a child's overall healthy development.

First 5 Madera County successfully converted in-person services to virtual platforms this year. Current efforts were elevated, and family participation widened into the harder-to-reach communities. The Family Resource Centers well reflect this accomplishment. Family Resource Center staff uploaded 52 educational videos to social media platforms and provided virtual parenting classes. Families also participated in drive-thru events where they received personal protective equipment and educational materials for at-home supports. The Special Projects department offered its car seat safety education virtually and some in-person car seat fittings. Additionally, through a partnership with the Tzu Chi Mobile Vision Clinic, PreK children received a vision screening, and some obtained glasses within minutes.

Other funded program highlights include:

1. **Parent Cafés.** Two separate parent cafés were offered this year, one in Eastern Madera County and another

to the Oaxaqueño community. Parents shared that the programs equipped them to be better advocates for their children and helped them make connections with other parents.

2. **Backpack Literacy.** In partnership with the Madera County Libraries, families received training and backpacks filled with books, journals, and other supplies to support and enhance home literacy.
3. **Dynamic Mindfulness.** The program was self-paced and included six, one-hour modules where providers received a certificate of completion and Dynamic Mindfulness tool kit all to ameliorate the impact delivering trauma-informed care has on service providers.
4. **ASQ Screening.** In partnership with county social workers, this program offered ASQ screenings and referrals to foster children.

Marin

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Marin County's Learning Bus continued to align efforts with other community partners including Parent Services Project, West Marin Community Services, and the



Shoreline School district to support and engage families with children ages 0 to 5. The positive impact of building these relationships will be supportive wraparound support with all community partners in alignment and responsive to meet the needs of families with young children. The Learning Bus found ways to stay connected to community via check-in calls with attendees, Zoom meetings, virtual Learning Bus storytimes, and provided Little Learners Kits/Kits Pequeños Aprendizes: Play-based learning activities and materials designed to nourish children's learning. Other First 5 Marin County highlights included:

- First 5 Marin's Communication Forums have a solid place within Marin. As previously reported, the forums have led to the formation of coalitions and collective efforts among those looking to move into action on the issue explored in a forum. Op-Eds and earned media are now routinely associated with the gatherings. Approximately 1300 individuals Participated between August 2019 through February 2020, with individual forums attracting between 75 to 475 attendees.
- In Fiscal Year 2020–21, forums began adapting to the virtual environment. An initial offering on Social Emotional Development brought more than 900 participants from within and beyond Marin, shining light on the potential of the forums to thrive in a virtual community.
- Marin County of Education successfully expanded the use of a standards-based kindergarten entry screening with 11 districts participating. Which included 4 districts with 100% participation, and continuing to grow the buy-in and infrastructure necessary for what will hopefully become used countywide.
- Help Me Grow Marin hired key staff, a core database was developed, and the initial website development was launched. Help Me Grow was part of coordinating and securing support of state funding's coming into place for universal screening and home visiting.

Mariposa

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, the most significant accomplishment of First 5 Mariposa County was the School Readiness Program, funded for \$222,894. 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 children for kindergarten. The facilities, curriculum, and activities are creative and educational, and focus on developmentally appropriate activities using Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM) curriculum. This program is free of charge to the children in Mariposa.

Another funded program that was highly successful was the instructional aide hired to work in the Mariposa Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten classroom. The program was funded for \$18,481 for Fiscal Year 2020–21. 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 15 transitional kindergarten students who ranged in age from 4 through 5 years, and having an aide made it possible for the students to work on enrichment projects and technology.

Mendocino

Fiscal Year 2020–21 continued to bring challenges from the effects of COVID-19, including the closure of the Imagination Library program which ran in Mendocino County for 11 years. The decision to close the Library was difficult, but ultimately came down to program inequity.

- First 5 Mendocino continued to offer Triple P groups in both English and

Spanish virtually throughout the county in collaboration with multiple county and partnering agencies. Providing groups virtually has brought about both challenges and successes, while we are able to provide more groups due to the remote capabilities, collecting survey data has been challenging. Additionally, the State of California and County of Mendocino unanimously recognized January as Positive Parenting Awareness Month for the 4th year.

- The IMPACT grant funds are used to support the Quality Counts California Manager, coaches who provide training and mentoring to preschool and child care staff, and direct financial incentives to sites for their participation and quality improvement activities.
- First 5 Mendocino, in collaboration with Adventist Health Labor and Delivery Department and MCHC Care for Her, provided funding for a pilot year of YoMingo, a parenting app which provides information from prenatal to parenting, including local content and resource information.
- First 5 Mendocino also collaborated with Zero to Three to provide a five-part series on Supporting the Early Childhood Workforce: Shifting from Shelter-in-Place to the New Normal.
- First 5 Mendocino hired a Home Visiting Coordinator to help facilitate the Home Visiting Consortium which connects and collaborates with all home visiting programs throughout



the county. Efforts within the first year included creating a mission and vision, and conducting an environmental scan, which surveyed the workforce, families, and community. Additionally, First 5 Mendocino set up a new data management to better collect data from grantees and the community. The efforts of the new system should be seen in Fiscal Year 2021–22.

Merced

First 5 Merced County (F5MC) launched its new strategic plan in Fiscal Year 2020–21.

- Over the year, F5MC spent approximately \$2.1 million to support services for more than 8,000 children, caregivers, and providers to build and enhance the five protective factors that promote optimal development and enhance the system of effective family support/strengthening programs.
- As seen globally, the onset of the pandemic was a major influencing factor for F5MC staff and grantees. The F5MC staff were reassigned to the public health response to the pandemic, as F5MC is housed within the County's Public Health Department. This reassignment caused the delay of many strategies originally planned to start in FY 2020–21.
- For strategies focused on system strengthening, the home visiting coordination initiative was launched.
- For strategies focused on service providers, IMPACT was the only multi-year strategy funded, and one-time COVID-19 Relief Funds were provided to family child care homes and centers to help cover the costs of staying open during the pandemic.
- For strategies directly serving children and families, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Week of the Young Child, Innovation/GROW grants, mini grants, and sponsorships were implemented. All other strategies were postponed. Every grantee mentioned increased stress and difficulty with implementing some or all of their services. Service providers, however, were resilient and expressed gratitude for the F5MC staff, allowing them to adapt their scopes of work and budget. Some grantees reflected on the silver lining of pausing or shifting of services. After things settled down,



they would think at a higher level about how to change systems and strengthen their infrastructure.

Modoc

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Modoc County invested in key partnership efforts to ensure children and families could access high-quality early education and care, mental health services, nutrition/health resources, prenatal health initiatives, and parent/family education. Utilizing strong relationships, First 5 Modoc and its partners addressed barriers created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Collaborative partnerships were built with 10 funded programs serving 564 children (334 primary caregivers and 41 providers).

- Efforts included the Tulelake/Newell Family Resource Center which promoted self-sufficiency through service coordination, case management, playgroups, benefits access, and parenting classes.
- Modoc County 4-H Cloverbuds offered an experiential program engaging children and families in agriculture and life-skills learning.
- Dollywood Imagination Library provided monthly age-appropriate books at no cost to families with 1,500+ books delivered.
- Budding Tree Preschool and Surprise Valley Child Development Center

provided high-quality education/care environments to families not eligible for subsidized programs.

- Breast is Best and Prenatal Incentive program promoted lactation consultations, breastfeeding awareness, and connection to prenatal care.
- Early Mental Health Services provided 11 families intensive family support through home-based psychotherapy and increased access to therapy for families experiencing crisis.
- Also, the First 5 Modoc Early Learning & Resource HUB helped programs and families mitigate barriers of connection by conducting outreach through pop-up events at libraries, farmer markets, and health fairs. The HUB helped connect 339 children (245 caregivers), to cross-sector systems, services, and resources within Modoc, the region, and state. Services included early education and care connection, health services (physical and mental) connection, parenting education, professional development, and essential needs.

Mono

Thanks to the partnership of families, childcare providers, funders, and community agencies, First 5 Mono County continues to offer a strong system of

support to children and families in Mono County through home visiting, playgroups, oral health support, school readiness, and the Mono Alpine Childcare Quality System. Specific successes include:

- Partnering with non-tax filing families to support access to the Child Tax Credit. Through home visiting, First 5 staff was able to share information about the Child Tax Credit and how to access it. This critical support to families is what many need most—an economic boost to provide for basic essentials of rent, food, and utilities for families.
- Resuming in-person home visits, playgroups, and Kindergarten Round Up. Working with the Health Department to get guidelines on safety practices and participation limitations in groups, First 5 Mono staff began offering in-person services after ceasing them during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff noted how critical it is to work with families in person to be the best possible resource to families. In-person services allow for a better understanding of the child and family and are better able to decrease the isolation so many families face especially in a remote and rural community.
- Sustaining a high percentage of provider participation in the Childcare Quality System—88 percent of licensed sites in the county.

Thanks to providers for choosing to spend their time working towards higher levels of quality, children and

families in Mono County who have a child care provider are supported with professional development for their provider, developmental screenings for their children, and an intentional link to home visiting services. While the challenges of living in a rural and remote area are many, First 5 Mono and partners enjoy personal connections with one another contributing to streamlined work that quickly identifies challenges and often produces solutions.

Monterey

Throughout Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) served 22,270 children, families, and providers by directing time and resources to meet the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic while advocating for systems change to address long-term inequities.

- In June, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors supported a request from Bright Beginnings, an early childhood development initiative of the Monterey County Children's Council, for \$1.5 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to address child care needs in Monterey County. The request prioritized short and long-term child care infrastructure and included teacher retention incentives, planning for facilities and business start-ups, and child care stipends for families in need. F5MC is the fiscal sponsor for Bright Beginnings and collaborated in drafting the request, advocated with local systems leaders, and crafted outreach messaging.
- F5MC will lead the coordination of

child care stipends for families.

- F5MC co-sponsored vaccine clinics for child care workers and supported funded partners in fully implementing virtual services for families.
- F5MC serves as the fiscal sponsor for the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network. Created in 2018, Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network continues to grow its reach through workshops, an annual Parent Power Summit, and regular state and federal legislative visits. All events and materials are bilingual in English and Spanish and center race, equity, diversity, and inclusion. In October 2020, the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network hosted Centering Children & Families at the Heart of Recovery: A Town Hall with Congressman Jimmy Panetta. The panelists discussed how the region can collectively recover from the current economic, social and environmental challenges our children and families are facing. Child care, education, health and racial equity were highlighted. Parent leaders led the discussion on the priority focus areas sharing how systemic factors affect individual families and how community voice drives positive, lasting change.
- The Commission developed and adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2021–2024 and released a Request for Proposals for programs that meet the Mission, Vision, and Goals set about by the new plan. The new Strategic Plan and contracts began July 2021.

Napa

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Napa County continued investing in systems-level change through supporting the initiatives and projects designed by leaders in the First 5 Napa Network. One initiative from the first cohort of the First 5 Napa Network (2018–19) is the Rainbow Action Network, a group of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) and ally community members committed to making Napa County a welcoming and safe home for LGBTQ families.

First 5 Napa and Rainbow Action Network led efforts in Fiscal Year 2020–21 to:

- Create LGBTQ and gender-inclusive early childhood education settings





using Rainbow Kits and coordinated training

- Utilize Little Free Libraries to increase access to diverse (anti-racist, LGBTQ/ gender-inclusive) children's books throughout Napa County

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, 64 Rainbow Kits were distributed to early childhood education settings throughout Napa County.

- 167 providers were trained to best utilize the Kits. The Kits include LGBTQ and gender-inclusive picture books with bookmarks for facilitating discussion, LGBTQ-inclusive toys, invitations for using the toys in the classroom, suggestions for inclusive teaching techniques, family engagement ideas, and policy recommendations that support and promote diversity and inclusion.
- Thirty-four providers completed an end of year survey. Five out of six reported increased confidence in implementing LGBTQ and gender-inclusive practices into their programs because of the Rainbow Kits. Providers most liked the discussion bookmarks.

In June 2021, First 5 Napa and Rainbow Action Network distributed 500 diverse children's books through Little Free Libraries. All books contained tips in English and Spanish for grown-ups to have discussions about race, diversity, LGBTQ,

gender inclusion, and standing up against unfairness while reading children's books. Many of the books included bookmarks to help guide discussions and define terms that might be difficult for grown-ups to break down for children. First 5 Napa and Rainbow Action Network built and utilized community members to paint 11 Rainbow Little Libraries that were placed in "book deserts" in Napa County.

Nevada

Though reports show an overall decrease in the number of participants served during Fiscal Year 2020–2021, First 5 Nevada programs reported successes in developing creative ways to engage the families they are working with.

- The Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee has worked tirelessly to implement a seven-part "Learning Journey" to bring information to their partners while advancing collective race and equity work within local community-serving agencies.
- The Family Resource Centers have continued to provide engaging activities virtually and in-person (when approved by Public Health) with a focus on reducing isolation and promoting age-appropriate developmental activities.
- The evidence-based home visiting program, Healthy Babies, has been

working to find ways to resume in-person home visiting services.

- Internally, staff has been focused on the implementation of the Persimmony database to track contractor deliverables and enable programs to gather client-level data. The database was launched in July 2021 and the Commission is encouraged by the potential for additional evaluation and program improvements.
- Commission staff also have focused a lot of energy on community-wide collaboration through the Home Visiting Coordination grant and partnering with the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Western Nevada County on their prevention planning efforts. Community collaborative efforts allows First 5 Nevada to strengthen partnerships with funded partners and other community-based organizations that serve children and families.
- Finally, during Fiscal Year 2020–21, the First 5 Nevada Commission developed and adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2021–24 and released a Request for Proposals for programs that meet the Mission, Vision, and Goals set about by the new plan. The new Strategic Plan and contracts begin July 2021.

Orange

- **Championing Equity:** Dedicated to gaining deeper knowledge/ understanding of race, equity, diversity, and inclusion, First 5 Orange County partnered with CCSP to build staff/consultant skills and confidence addressing issues of racial equity, anti-racism, and parent engagement. First 5 Orange County is also participating in the reStructure program with Orange County Human Relations, a 12-session, 1-year program that unpacks and identifies areas of racial equity needs and strengths within an organizational structure as well as at the individual level. First 5 Orange County is sponsoring participation in the reStructure cohorts for commissioners and staff, as well as community partners and nonprofits so that we are building up champions for equitable outcomes.
- **Family Engagement:** Through its Engaged Neighborhood collaboratives, First 5 Orange County has supported increased family engagement through education opportunities on the Early Development Index, Developmental Milestones, and Advocacy. The Santa Ana Early Learning Initiative engages over 100 parent/caregiver leaders who champion early childhood development at school district/city events; the La Habra Little Learner collaborative engages the Parent Teachers Association on their task force, with parent leaders hosting virtual events to share their learnings; and Garden Grove and Anaheim Engaged Neighborhood collaboratives

have created goals to incorporate family engagement in the coming years.

- **COVID-19 Response:** During the pandemic, First 5 Orange County pushed out hundreds of thousands of dollars of supplies, learning kits, personal protective equipment, and more. Together, with agencies like Early Childhood Orange County, Orange County Department of Education, and the Orange County Child Care and Development Local Planning Council, the Emergency Child Care Task Force provided webinars, stipends, cleaning supplies, guidance for reopening, COVID-19 health and safety trainings, health guidance around cleaning, as well as information around mental health and stress reduction resources for providers. First 5 Orange County also updated its website with specific resources dedicated to mitigating the strain that COVID-19 was causing on the community.

Placer

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Placer County implemented the Collaborative Action Plan together with its network to advance the strategic priorities related to children and families. Staff worked with funded partners to develop program logic models, conduct program cost analyses, and draft scopes of work; contracts commenced January 2021.

- As the collective action work proceeds, staff are ensuring each funded partner has an engagement strategy to reach First 5 Placer's priority populations; shared indicators are included across similar program areas; and activities match First 5 Placer strategies, priorities, and funding plan.
- Toward the focus on addressing disparities, seven \$20,000 mini grants were funded to serve targeted communities in furtherance of the aims of the Strategic Plan.
- The Commission also created a Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion subcommittee to examine how First 5 Placer can provide funding, evaluate, and support outreach with an equity lens.
- The Commission also advanced its systems improvement work in several ways. One-third of First 5 Placer's revenue was unrelated to tobacco

taxes and included funding to support structure and collaboration, capacity building, and outreach and engagement. These included an expansion of Home Visiting programs and systems work to develop an Adverse Childhood Experiences Network of Care. These set the stage for implementation of an Early Identification and Intervention system in Placer County.

- In response to emerging needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 Placer and its funded partners explored opportunities to do their work differently, including virtual program facilitation; tracking data virtually; finding and referring families to high quality, affordable child care; and having to temporarily cancel programs and services. Funded partners were flexible, responsive, and resilient.

Plumas

First 5 Plumas County supports home visiting programs in which trained peer professionals provide regular, voluntary home visits to expectant and new parents and offer guidance, risk assessment, and referrals to other services offered in the community. While the Commission has historically invested in home visiting as its primary strategy in realizing its vision and fulfilling its mission, these services are needed now more than ever. Families are enduring the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic and recurring wildfires that have decimated large portions of the county.

In the 2020–2021 programming year, home visiting programs adjusted their practices so they could continue to provide a comprehensive service array to families with the youngest children. Services were offered in nontraditional settings (front porch visits and meetings in parks and other open spaces) and home visitors sought to meet families increasing needs for emotional support and basic needs. As a result, 56 families were provided support with a total of 3,517 services rendered. Evaluation results reveal that families receiving these services experienced enhanced protective factors and routinely identified their home visitor as a source of information, comfort, and stability.

In addition to direct service delivery, the Commission also supported efforts to strengthen the family support system through the establishment of a Family



Strengthening Coalition. This Coalition was established to ensure that support systems are responsive to community needs, collaborate to improve access, and work in partnership with families to improve outcomes. It conducted an environmental scan to assess the concentration of risk, quality, and capacity of existing family support services, with a special emphasis on home visiting. This information was used to identify opportunities to expand or improve services for families and young children in Plumas County.

Riverside

First 5 Riverside County continues to focus on opportunities to expand, enhance, and integrate key platforms for engaging and serving families with a whole child/whole family/whole community lens.

In July 2020, First 5 Riverside took administrative responsibility for the Riverside County Family Resource Centers. This community-based service setting rounds out the key platforms for in-home, healthcare-based and early learning-based settings that First 5 Riverside has historically supported. Further, this gives First 5 Riverside an opportunity to develop, enhance, and improve cross-sector pathways for families from the prenatal phase of development through age 5 and beyond. Key investments include home visiting (997 children served), HealthySteps (9,622 served), Quality Start (803 provider incentives earned), and direct response to Family Resource Center (FRC) constituents (5,170 served).

First 5 Riverside is utilizing a single data system to support home visiting and FRC programming, allowing for integration of home-based and community-based resources for families. Further, the HealthySteps program and the Help Me Grow system support the integration of early childhood development supports into the larger healthcare system by embedding these programs into health sector databases. FRCs align investments with programs that use the Protective Factors Framework and promote community hubs for integrated services and crisis supports. In Fiscal Year 2020–21, the FRCs provided pandemic support and resources, increasing strategic partnerships to serve respective communities with growing needs due to COVID-19. This harnessed local leadership and combined resources to improve county services by building sustainable infrastructure through community fairs.



Some examples in Fiscal Year 2020–21 include home visiting program outreach, personal protective care distribution events, flu shot drive-throughs, pre-paid food cards to 250 farmworkers, and a toy drive which included 371 children ages 0 to 5.

Sacramento

First 5 Sacramento County funded an evaluation of Help Me Grow Sacramento (HMG) to better understand how its three primary services (call center, home visiting, and informational website) were helping families understand and promote their child's developmental milestones and get connected to essential services. The following highlights key findings:

- 6 HMG staff members and seven HMG Family Advocate clients were interviewed, and 33 call center and website users completed an online survey.
- Staff were especially proud of HMG's partnerships with wraparound services and the ACEs Aware Community, and appreciated the ability to work through obstacles on behalf of families.
- Staff reported challenges, including insufficient specialized or accessible service providers to which they could refer families, staff capacity issues, COVID-19, and larger scale social issues.
- Clients often heard about HMG through word of mouth and referrals from agencies, and felt the navigating

external systems, education on parenting styles and strategies, and resources provided were beneficial.

- 100 percent of family advocate clients and call center participants have recommended or would recommend HMG to someone they know. 97 percent of call center and website users found what they were looking for.
- When asked for ways to improve HMG, some clients mentioned more availability of staff, spreading the word to move families in need, and a return to in-person services.
- Evaluation recommendations included: enhancing communication between partners, improving marketing strategies, innovate new partnerships for language needs, and continue evaluating client and staff experiences.

San Benito

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 San Benito County continued to provide services and supports to children, families, and providers that addressed the ongoing effects of the Coronavirus. For example, through a partnership with nearly 40 other agencies, families and child care providers received weekly deliveries of food and other essential supplies, including cleaning supplies, diapers, and formula. Families receiving these emergency supplies were also referred to case management or home visiting services if they needed additional



support. Families who chose to participate in the case management and home visiting programs demonstrated significant improvement in family functioning, knowledge of parenting and child development, positive parenting practices, feelings of social support, access to concrete supports, and the parent-child relationship, according to pre-post surveys. Children in the program also demonstrated improved resilience, as measured by their ability to stay calm and in control when faced with a challenge.

In addition to direct services, First 5 San Benito responded to the ongoing needs of the community by sponsoring and facilitating a multisector collaborative of local leaders. The objectives of the network collaboration included improving the capacity of local agencies to understand the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on families and to provide culturally sensitive, trauma-informed care; addressing complex problems by breaking down silos and promoting communication, collaboration, and alignment within and across service sectors; and providing multiple entry points to the service system with warm handoffs and a collaborative treatment approach to address fragmentation. At the end of the fiscal year, a survey of the collaborative members found that the majority felt the collaborative was important and beneficial to them, that what they were trying to accomplish as a collaborative couldn't have been accomplished alone, and that the time is right in the county for this work.

San Bernardino

Early Literacy Support: During Fiscal Year 2020–21, 4 First 5 San Bernardino AmeriCorps members provided one-on-one literacy, mathematics, social emotional, and school readiness services to students in 4 Head-Start Preschool sites in the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department. Adhering to COVID-19 Pandemic protocols, they also provided much needed support and services to local food banks, virtual learning support, and drive-by community events. These members contributed over 4,347 hours and served more than 3,460 families and 2,081 children.

Fiscal Year 2020–21 was the first “full-service” year of the Parent and Child Connection Program, working with 4 local jails and serving 442 families. The program gives inmates an opportunity to bond with their children by reading a story and recording their voice on a device which is inserted into a stuffed animal and delivered to the child and caregivers.

The Maternal Health Network is made up of more than 100 individuals from approximately 60 organizations throughout San Bernardino County to help improve the experience and outcomes for families who are planning to get pregnant, those who are pregnant, and those who have recently delivered a child. The Network establishes partnerships between service sectors, uses data to drive continuous quality improvement efforts, and takes collaborative action to improve the health and wellness of families engaged in the maternal health system.

The Network has made significant strides in establishing itself as a successful systems change initiative. Key milestones achieved in Fiscal Year 2020–21 include:

- Established an Action Plan for implementation of short-term strategies
- Launched the Mental Health Network website as a hub for resources and information sharing
- Collected and analyzed consumer data to understand the experience of families within the maternal health system – centering the voices of consumers in quality improvement efforts
- Facilitated a multi-sector collaboration to better serve females who are pregnant and incarcerated

- Elevated the needs of Black and African American families, with equity identified as the most pressing issue facing families in San Bernardino County

San Diego

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to present unique challenges for staff, community partners, and San Diego families. First 5 San Diego County staff engaged with partners in a joint countywide COVID-19 response effort. Under the leadership of the First 5 San Diego Executive Director, First 5 San Diego staff worked to provide families and providers of children birth to 5 years of age with supportive resources and services to ensure their safety and well-being.

- First 5 San Diego initiated ongoing communication with the Early Childhood Education Coalition to assess the impact of the pandemic on the childcare sector.
- First 5 San Diego maintained the Early Care sector support webpage to provide up-to-date information on the rapidly evolving public health situation with local, state, and national guidance tailored to the childcare community.
- First 5 San Diego also began hosting informative telebriefings and engaged a diverse provider group throughout the county, all while following public health guidelines and utilizing digital methods of communication. This response effort led to the re-activation of the Child Care Disaster Council, co-chaired by the First 5 San Diego Executive Director. The Council developed the “Child Care Emergency Response Plan” that outlined a means to coordinate, receive, and distribute emergency supplies from the state and from First 5 California through regional distribution sites.
- First 5 San Diego service providers continued to offer services, including virtual phone check-ins, virtual developmental/behavioral services, virtual home visits, and virtual preschool. Maintaining these connections and supporting families through these most difficult times has been critical for families’ well-being. Despite the pandemic, thousands of families benefited from community-

wide services, such as daily activities on social media and the First 5 San Diego website, distribution of the *Kit for New Parents*, maintaining the parent warm line, and providing community health screenings and outreach.

San Francisco

For over two decades, First 5 San Francisco County has invested in the county's youngest children, their families, and providers who work on their behalf with a mission that all children will thrive and start school ready to learn. The COVID-19 pandemic, stay-at-home mandates, and the resulting economic downturn caused momentous and unprecedented challenges for San Francisco's families, bringing new meaning and urgency to this mission.

Investments in the Quality Connections Quality Rating and Improvement System reaches approximately 8,000 children in over 400 participating early care and education sites. When surveyed during the pandemic, 50 percent of programs worried they would go out of business in three months; 25 percent reported having to lay off or furlough staff. Through twice-weekly partner meetings at the height of the crisis, and continuing weekly round tables that reached hundreds of providers with re-opening guidance and technical support, 100 percent of city-funded sites were able to re-open by September 2020.

The Family Resource Center Initiative pivoted all services to remote and virtual modalities providing a vital lifeline by distributing food, diapers, and household supplies; offering myriad opportunities for social connection; advocating with landlords; and singing to children over Zoom. Supports continued throughout 2020 and subsequent 2021 pandemic surges. Over 1000 COVID-positive homes with babies and toddlers received formula, diapers, wipes, and baby food from Family Resource Centers during this time of isolation when they were cut off from other supports. Family Resource Centers made regular wellness calls to their approximately 6,000 enrolled families. They oversaw nearly 2,500 food pantry distributions per week and ensured that 2,433 gift cards and food vouchers were put in the hands of those who had lost some or all income due to COVID-19. Case Management supports were at record high rates, exceeding the average annual participation rate over the last 6 years of 1,600 by nearly 200 families.

San Joaquin

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 San Joaquin County focused on the areas of Enhance Early Learning, Improve Child Health, and Strengthen Family and Community Support and Partnership.

First 5 San Joaquin invested in Raising Quality! IMPACT 2020: Family, Friend, and Neighbor Initiative that aims to enhance the

quality of care provided by grandparents from diverse racial and ethnic communities. In this first year, 74 grandparents enrolled and cared for 104 children (58 infants and toddlers and 46 preschool aged children). Grandparents received support that included coaching, goal setting, workshops, and information regarding early screening and detection of developmental delays and were provided access to the screening tools. Due to screening access, 142 of the children were screened and 13 received referrals for follow up. First 5 San Joaquin will expand this program to approximately 230 new grandparents in 2021–23 by leveraging local funding.

Three First 5 San Joaquin WORKs programs provided services to families with children ages 0 to 5 who receive CalWORKs benefits.

- HousingWORKs helps families facing homelessness and aids in reducing housing barriers.
- JourneyWORKs addresses mental health and substance abuse issues, helps parents maintain healthy independent family lives, and helps assure children are in safe and stable homes.
- FamilyWORKs supports positive health, growth, and well-being; expanding educational and economic opportunities for families to exit poverty. Home visiting participants received services such as job search and readiness, and screening of 215 children for early detection of developmental delays.

The WORKs programs served a total of 601 individuals from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, including 230 Latinx, 180 African American/Black, 51 White, 49 Multiracial, 15 Asian, 4 Pacific Islander, and 72 were unknown, other, or did not specify. Evaluation results showed that when families participated in two or more WORKs programs, had higher success in achieving their goals as opposed to those participating in one WORKs program.

San Luis Obispo

Amid challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, First 5 San Luis Obispo County continued directing urgent-needs investments to its local Community Foundation Disaster Response Fund, offering support to a wide breadth of family-serving agencies across the county.





- Under First 5 San Luis Obispo's new Strategic Plan, the Commission bolstered basic needs and mental health supports while propelling new programmatic ventures in early learning and resiliency. This included providing funding for the expansion of a bilingual, inclusive preschool as well as parent learning pods focused on giving families real-time experiences with their children, social networking, and age-appropriate insight on growth and development.
- In collaboration with County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department, San Luis Obispo's Mental Health Services Act-funded 3 by 3 Partnership with local pediatric clinics yielded nearly 340 hours of one-on-one health education and developmental screenings for families, with more than 1,000 children screened and 181 children identified as needing early intervention services. To shine a brighter light on those efforts, First 5 San Luis Obispo shifted the theme of its monthly "Hands-on Heroes" public awareness campaign to honor individuals working in the spirit of Help Me Grow.

- The First 5 Health Access Training Project held provider-outreach events on topics ranging from COVID-19 vaccine updates, rental assistance housing and eviction prevention resources, child tax credit information, and supports specific to Immigrant families.
- First 5 San Luis Obispo went from advocacy to action with the rollout of the community-driven Family-Friendly Workplace Toolkit, an online resource designed to help employers assess their current business practices, explore the benefits of family-friendly workplace policies, and identify opportunities for change.
- Work also began on creating an associated Family-Friendly Workplace "Accelerator" Program in partnership with the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce and County of San Luis Obispo. Both of these projects were born from a "We Are the Care" Initiative to address local child care challenges.

San Mateo

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 San Mateo County maintained its multi-faceted investments in programs supporting all aspects of a child's early years, including Quality Early Learning; Healthy Development; Resilient Families; and Policy, Advocacy, and Communications. Supported by \$4.5 million in community investments, First 5 San Mateo's funded partners served nearly 15,000 children, parents, and providers. The highlights included:

- Ongoing leadership and collaboration in efforts to support the community during COVID-19. First 5 San Mateo helped to secure and distribute \$5.3 million through the Child Care Relief Fund, including \$4.5 million from the CARES Act, and \$530,000 in private contributions. There were weekly meetings to plan and coordinate efforts, and partner in the distribution of emergency health and safety supplies. Throughout the year, partners drove 5,160 miles countywide to deliver over 7,000 items, including diapers, gloves, masks, and children's books, to more than 300 child care providers.
- Launching the next phase of the Trauma- and Resiliency-Informed Systems Initiative, including administration of a Trauma-Informed Organizational Practices Assessment

and Professional Learning Cohorts. The Trauma-Informed Organizational Practices Assessment was completed by over 350 staff across 8 organizations serving families with young children. Six organizations joined the inaugural Learning Cohorts. Cohorts meet monthly in small groups, and each participating agency receives tailored coaching to support staff as they interpret assessment results, develop goals and strategies for improvement, and work together to nurture a healing environment for clients and the workforce.

- Continuing to sustain and develop high-quality facilities to meet the county's increasing need for child care. In Fiscal Year 2020–21, the Build Up Initiative completed 425 new spaces, confirmed that 822 spaces will be added soon, and initiated planning for an additional 369 spaces.

Santa Barbara

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Santa Barbara County invested \$3,449,178 in programs and services for 826 children, 929 primary caregivers/family members, and 30 providers. Investment strategies included family support, expansion and quality of early childhood spaces, communications and policy development, and systems change and capacity building. First 5 Santa Barbara achieved several noteworthy results that improved the lives of children and families within the county:

- COVID-19 Response: First 5 Santa Barbara-funded partners prioritized emergent needs among families with children ages 0 to 5 years and made numerous referrals for basic needs and concrete support. Agencies continued providing food and other much needed material items to families, including diapers, baby wipes, masks, books, and developmentally appropriate toys and activities for children. Programs also hosted multiple vaccination clinics and made personal phone calls to families to answer any questions they had.
- Early Learning Plans (ELPs): First 5 Santa Barbara and its UC Santa Barbara Evaluation Team worked with four local school districts on developing ELPs that aim to improve continuity between the early childhood education and K–12 systems, and reduce income-based opportunity

gaps among young, at-risk children. The goal of all ELPs is to expand efforts to improve social-emotional and cognitive development and thus promote kindergarten readiness and early elementary school success. An additional five school districts will join this initiative in Fiscal Year 2021–22.

- Dual Language Learner (DLL) Study: First 5 Santa Barbara started implementing Phase III of the DLL study. The main activities included a countywide public awareness campaign about the importance and value of being bilingual. In addition, four ELP school districts were subcontracted to provide early childhood and family DLL activities and the Quality Counts and Workforce Pathways partnership created specialized DLL professional development. Due to COVID-19, the majority of the DLL activities will be conducted in Fiscal Year 2021–22.

Santa Clara

First 5 Santa Clara County launched an expansive COVID-19 relief effort leveraging both existing funds and systems to support communities using their network of partners. First 5 Santa Clara has leveraged \$11,891,786 for its COVID-19 response efforts.

- The Family Strengthening and Support initiative tracked their safety-net support efforts using the Needs Tracker (<https://first5kids.org/safety-net-supports/>) they put in place across all their family resources centers.
- Nearly 15,000 family needs were recorded in Fiscal Year 2020–21. Food (2,372) was the top need for families, followed by activities for children (1,379), toiletries (1,063), and child care (886).
- First 5 Santa Clara organized curbside distributions at over 24 community sites where families could pick up food, calming kits, resource guides (provided in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese: www.first5kids.org/resources), diaper kits, formula, and personal protective equipment. A total of 1,724,800 diapers and 13,824 formula cans were distributed to families.
- To support the stabilization of child care for the community, the Early Learning Initiative launched the Family

Child Care Stabilization program which awarded more than \$5.2 million to 528 Family Child Care Homes. In addition to using these funds, full-year scholarships were awarded to 40 families who were residing in the City of San Jose, and 17 subsidized classrooms expanding their care to serving over 200 families.

- The Health and Wellness Initiative oversaw and distributed 473 Calming Kits to parents and providers to promote coping and calming. In addition, 12,894 personal protective equipment were provided, and 16,373 period products were distributed to families.
- In conclusion, First 5 Santa Clara was able to respond quickly to support the needs of the children, families, and community they serve and leveraged funds in order to provide a wide net of support. Findings of these efforts were presented at the Santa Clara County Children's Summit as well as the 2021 American Public Health Association Conference.

Santa Cruz

First 5 Santa Cruz County's Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program supports mothers and their newborns at three Santa Cruz County hospitals. Before leaving the hospital, families are visited by a Newborn Enrollment Coordinator and are provided Medi-Cal enrollment assistance and given the First 5 California *Kit for New Parents*, and newborns are linked to a medical home. The program also expanded partnerships with key agencies to offer additional supports to families.

- Connection to medical care: In Fiscal Year 2020–21, 96 percent of all

mothers had a newborn visit, and 95 percent received a *Kit for New Parents*. Of all mothers with Medi-Cal births, 97 percent were assisted to complete an application for their new baby, and 99 percent chose a primary care provider for their child.

- New County programs: First 5 Santa Cruz began assisting with two new programs, which the Newborn Enrollment Coordinators incorporated into their visits. The State-wide Student Identification number (SSID) created for newborns by the County Office of Education, used to support the social, emotional, and academic development of children from birth through grade 12; and the Santa Cruz Community Ventures Semillitas savings account program for newborns, with incentives throughout childhood to save money to be used for college or vocational education after high school.
- Access to food: The COVID-19 pandemic has many families in the community struggling to get access to food. The Newborn Enrollment Coordinators provide families with resources to apply for the CalFresh program and Women, Infants, and Children.
- Lowered emergency department use: These program services may have an effect on the use of the emergency department for very young infants, and particularly those covered by Medi-Cal. Since the launch of this program at Watsonville Community Hospital, the number of infants on Medi-Cal who visited the emergency department dropped 74 percent by 2020.



- Summary: Through these efforts, the program is helping to increase access to affordable quality health care for newborns and improve overall maternal, child, and infant health.

Shasta

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Shasta County began a multi-year Home Visitation grant. It established a cohort to create a sustainable, unified system to support families with home visiting services, and is completing an Environmental Scan to assess home visiting program needs and gaps. Other Shasta County achievements included:

- Continued work with community partners around Adverse Childhood Experiences' (ACEs) education, prevention, and intervention, including quarterly community meetings.
- Completed ACEs' Aware Planning grant and expanded ACEs and Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS) screenings to over 300 parents and families.
- Help Me Grow Shasta completed 385 developmental screenings for children ages 0 to 5 and provided referrals and case coordination services to over 1,800 children and families.
- Distributed over \$690,000 to participants of Quality Counts North State to improve the quality of early childhood education and distributed over \$24,000 in academic scholarships to 40 early childhood education providers to increase their knowledge of child development.
- Distributed over \$295,000 to participants of Quality Counts California, Region 2 Hub for training and support to early childhood education providers.
- Continued to support local child care and social service providers with grant funds and supplies in response to COVID-19.
- Partnered with community-based organizations to provide COVID-19-safe activities for families, such as virtual story-times and drive-through events.
- Coordinated 15 Week of the Young Child events, and distributed over 7,000 children's books.
- Invested over \$119,000 in community collaborations to strengthen families in Shasta County.

- Invested over \$111,000 in the Launch Parent Partner program to support families and reduce chronic absenteeism in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten.
- Through the Healthy Babies Program, First 5 Shasta provided mental health services to 51 pregnant women and mothers of children aged 0 to 2 experiencing depression or anxiety during pregnancy or postpartum.
- First 5 Institute delivered learning opportunities for 800 children and 580 parents/caregivers through professional development and library story times.
- Created "Champions for NorCal Kids" Podcasts to expand outreach by more than 600 listeners

Sierra

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Sierra County supported expecting families and children starting from birth to have the best first five years of life possible, and grow up healthy and happy in strong and resilient families. First 5 Sierra values early educational opportunities so all children can develop and become strong, smart, and resilient adults.

- First 5 Sierra's most successful achievement continued 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. Investing in a program where all children living in rural communities can attend preschool,

ensures that Sierra County children will start Kindergarten with the most optimal preparation with the least disparity.

- First 5 Sierra provided backpacks and school supplies to all children entering Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten, which was highly appreciated by the parents and children.
- First 5 Sierra continues to seek innovative ways to support and positively impact Sierra County's children through programs such as yoga, music, and swimming lessons.
- The crisis and changes brought by COVID-19 affected the normal functioning of scarce child care providers, but First 5 Sierra supported them in every way possible. As a result, all providers were able to stay open with minimal closures, providing consistent support for all families and essential workers.

Siskiyou

"Yes. We are open!" were common words heard each time the phone rang at the Siskiyou Family and Community Resource Centers (FRCs). Co-funded by First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission, FRCs continued to expand their services in most of Siskiyou County, keeping their doors open, and providing services without disruption, while upholding COVID-19 safety measures. This critical approach was deeply appreciated by county constituents,



with over 600 parents and 800 children receiving services from the FRCs, and over 250 children participating in playgroups. The FRCs continue to be the critical community hub for services, supports, and resources.

- During Fiscal Year 2020–21, the FRCs, in collaboration with First 5 Siskiyou, offered evidence-based parent education classes and workshops, and distributed nearly 2,000 family activity kits and over 14,000 children's books. FRCs also hosted over 40 outreach events to increase family awareness about the array of offerings provided at each FRC. These programs improve the quality of parent-child interactions, support children's development, and increase connections between parents.
- Additionally, the Ready4K evidence-based parenting education program, delivered via text messages, was adopted by First 5 Siskiyou in partnership with the Mental Health Services Act. Each week, parents receive fun facts and easy tips on how to promote their children's development by building on existing family routines. More than 600 parents actively participated in this program and received over 150,000 messages. The extensive menu of offerings is made possible through diverse funding partners. As a result, the total revenue for this small county has grown 137 percent. At the core of this success is the Small Population County Funding Augmentation dollars invested by First 5 California. The diversified funding and commitment by FRCs provide the path for parents to have more opportunities to engage with resources than ever before and build protective factors for family success.

Solano

In early Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Solano County established the Vallejo First 5 Center, in the zip code with the highest risk factors for children. The center provides a full range of dual-generation services to support healthy behavior, social and emotional development, and school readiness for children, as well as providing parents the tools needed to develop positive parent-child relationships. Building on the success of the Vallejo First 5 Center,

and because of Assemblymember Jim Frazier's advocacy, First 5 Solano received \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2021–22 California State Budget to support opening a First 5 Center in Fairfield. Additionally, First 5 Solano acted as an anchor institution in coordinating COVID-19 responses in Solano County for young children, their families, and the providers that support them.

First 5 Solano accessed over \$1 million in funding from the CARES Act. The funding was utilized in a variety of ways, including:

- Supporting child care for essential workers as part of the efforts of the Office of Emergency Services. Seventy-six families and a total of 124 children were provided care at two pop-up child care locations.
- Local stipends were provided for licensed child care providers. One-hundred twenty-nine child care providers serving a total of 1,056 children were enrolled in the stipend program, preserving their ability to stay open despite increased costs in providing care.
- Grants were provided for social distancing equipment, individual learning supplies, cleaning supplies, and other supports through the First 5 Solano Emergency Response Fund.

Sonoma

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Sonoma County's focus was far-reaching in many ways. Responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic remained a high priority as the agency elevated the critical role of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs to distribute supplies, basic needs, access to benefits, system navigation, COVID-19 testing, and more.

- First 5 Sonoma maximized public education and communications through its electronic newsletter and multiple social media platforms to amplify local information about COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and safety. To mitigate the spread of the virus, child care providers and families were notified as soon as vaccines became available. As a direct response to the impact of COVID-19 on the local child care system, First 5 Sonoma, with the support of collaborative funding, distributed over \$1 million in grants directly to child care providers in the Child Care Resiliency Fund.
- The Commission, staff, and



stakeholders, despite the virtual environment, developed and finalized a new, robust four-year strategic plan, grounded in a bold commitment to advancing equity, diversity, belonging, and anti-racism—committing over \$14 million to programs, services, and systems improvement. The strategic plan also included the development of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion framework to guide internal policies and grantmaking mechanisms and support funding partners to increase cultural responsiveness and authentic parent engagement practices.

- In spring of Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Sonoma became the first local First 5 commission to partner with the California Student Aid Commission, receiving funding of over half a million dollars to establish over 800 Child Savings Accounts for children, ages 2 to 5.
- As the Federal Government locally rolled out the Coronavirus Local American Rescue Plan Act funding, First 5 Sonoma formed a coalition of over 20 child-and-family-serving



organizations to proactively advocate to ensure the funding was directed toward the impacts of the pandemic and families with young children.

Stanislaus

It is the mission of First 5 Stanislaus County to be a catalyst to help give children and families the best start. This commitment was unwavering with the deepening impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic during this past year.

- Early in Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Stanislaus worked with its funded partners to ensure services continued to be delivered to the community in a safe way. First 5 Stanislaus partner organizations reach thousands of the most vulnerable members of the community each year. Partners continued to offer services virtually, and by phone and drive-through formats which allowed children and families to remain connected to their support systems and receive basic needs when they were most needed.
- Through its partnership with a network of 12 local Family Resource Centers, First 5 Stanislaus invested

\$310,000 of emergency funding into the local community for basic human needs and support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Over 1,760 individuals impacted by the pandemic received assistance such as housing/utility payment relief, grocery assistance, cleaning supplies, or basic needs. \$70,000 of this special funding was issued to community partners for technology enhancements to support virtual customer engagement strategies. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 Stanislaus-funded partners were able to make a significant impact with the children and families they served.
- The parents of 7,687 children received family support services through countywide Family Resource Centers or other programs, and 935 received more intensive services focused on improving child abuse risk factors. The parents of 576 children attended parenting classes to increase parenting skills and knowledge. 90 percent (788/880) of families of children ages 0 to 5 increased the time spent reading with their children at

home after receiving literacy services. 808 children ages 0 to 5 who received literacy services, received a book to build upon the skills they and their families learned.

Sutter

First 5 Sutter County Children and Families Commission received an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware Grant from the State of California. First 5 Sutter used these funds to start building a Network of Care to interrupt the toxic stress response in children and adults. The Network of Care includes two Medi-Cal clinics, social services (Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health and Domestic Violence Council & Child Abuse Prevention Council, and Women's Shelter), and other community-based organizations, such as the school district and law enforcement.

- First 5 Sutter has invested resources in the "Handle with Care initiative," a trauma-informed approach for supporting children who have been exposed to a traumatic event that requires a response from law enforcement. The first virtual Trauma-Informed Workshop was held in

the summer and garnered a lot of interest from attendees, as well as interest from other partners to join the Network of Care.

- Another success of First 5 Sutter is the partnership with two Medi-Cal providers, Peach Tree Health and Feather River Tribal Health. First 5 Sutter worked directly with the providers' behavioral health directors to provide ACEs screening during Help Me Grow events. Help Me Grow events typically have eight screening stations, including physical health, child development, and positive discipline; and now, another station has been added for ACEs screening. Medi-Cal providers conducted the screenings in a sensitive way, while giving educational materials to families that explain the consequences of ACEs.
- Peach Tree Health has added a HIPPA-compliant text messaging platform to send ACEs and Pediatrics ACEs and Related Life Events Screener assessments directly to patients and are training staff on how to explain toxic stress to patients. Thus far, there has been a good response from the families that completed the screenings.
- Lastly, members of the Network of Care have shown interest in having a unified, bi-directional system for screening and referrals. After exploring different options, First 5 Sutter will host the launch of the Aunt Bertha platform.

Tehama

First 5 Tehama County promotes collaborative and creative solutions for building sustainable programs that serve children ages 0 to 5 and decrease silos to better serve Tehama's children and families.

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Tehama continued to support the Pregnancy to Preschool Partnership, a collaboration of publicly funded agencies to streamline referral and data sharing processes. An online referral system affectionately called the "Tracker" launched in the spring of 2020. The Pregnancy to Preschool Partnership partners have spent the last year utilizing the "Tracker" to decrease silos and increase access to services. Through support from the Small Population County Funding Augmentation program, First 5 Tehama funds the School Readiness Home Visitation and Help Me Grow program to ensure that there is no barrier entry point for any children. Notably, families have both improved family functioning and child health, and increased social connections.

Regarding medical health, 98 percent of children participating in home visiting had medical services. To better understand the impact, the Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes was adopted showing the positive impact on families: between the pre- and post-tests were statistically significant for all domains, including Teaching, Responsiveness, Encouragement, Affection.

Through a partnership with the local department of education and cradle-

to-career collaborative, First 5 Tehama facilitated eight Health and Wellness webinar series, attended by 183 community educators learning about timely topics, such as resilience, equity, social emotional wellbeing, and flow. Two of these eight webinars were offered in Spanish and focused on mind and body strategies for resilience. One participant shared, "As a home visitor, I have been to many amazing trainings, and this was the first time it felt like it was just for me. I almost cried when I realized it was in Spanish."

First 5 Tehama will continue to use the learnings from this year to build programs and support systems addressing rising pre-pandemic and pandemic-related needs of children, families, and systems.

Trinity

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Trinity County Children and Families Commission invested in a variety of services aimed at supporting children prenatal through age five and their families. Primary investments include School Readiness Playgroups. The Trinity County Office of Education provides pre-K programs at various locations throughout the county. The pre-K school readiness program offers structured playgroups using a nationally recognized curriculum aimed at preparing children for the academic, social, and emotional rigors of kindergarten. The school readiness program also provides health-related supports to ensure that children are healthy upon kindergarten entry. Lastly, the program offers parenting and family literacy activities to support parents and caregivers as their child's first teacher.

Tulare

First 5 Tulare County's vision is that all Tulare County children thrive in supportive, safe, loving homes and neighborhoods, and will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, all of First 5 Tulare County's funded programs served 42,022 parents and children. First 5 Tulare is proud of all the efforts its programs have put forth in Fiscal Year 2020–21. The following are highlights of two programs:

- United Way of Tulare County 2-1-1 Resource and Referral Program saw an overwhelming increase of 336 percent (from 2018 to 2020) in calls for families seeking health care services and basic needs due to COVID-19, the drought, and fires. United Way of Tulare County 2-1-1 Resource and Referral Program





referred and linked families. The program staff worked tirelessly to ensure families were linked to services.

- Parenting Network Dinuba Family Resource Center opened its doors in March of 2020. Initially, they were unable to provide services due to COVID-19 protocols and procedures. This past year, they focused on outreach and continued to provide services to families in need via creative approaches. This program also has increased the number of families they served this year by 250 percent: Last year, they served 30 families, and this year they served 104.

Tuolumne

First 5 Tuolumne County provides leadership and support for programs to achieve the vision that all children are healthy and ready to learn.

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Tuolumne County invested \$569,300, providing services to nearly 1,300 young children, parents, and providers. Although First 5 Tuolumne faced significant challenges due to COVID-19, the programs and staff adapted and found creative and innovative ways to stay connected to local families. Many programs have permanently improved the systems of delivery. First 5 Tuolumne's main focus areas are the following:

- Improved Family Functioning: Staff at the Family Learning Center responded to the need of families by delivering personal protective equipment, diapers, wipes, and other essential supplies, reducing stress on families to find these necessary items.

- » First 5 Tuolumne's parenting classes and home visits were also transitioned to an online platform, which enabled many parents to participate whom otherwise would not have. There were 653 children served with books through the Imagination Library.
- » First 5 Tuolumne has built a great partnership with the Birth Center to offer a *Kit for New Parents* to every parent who delivers their baby at the hospital. Over 300 kits were distributed this year.
- Improved Child Health: The Smile Keepers Oral Health Program was not able to visit children in person due to public health restrictions, but they were able to provide virtual oral health education to 50 parents at birthing classes and 336 parents through online kindergarten registrations.
- Improved Child Development: Tuolumne County invested \$208,000 in supporting its early childhood education system by providing professional development and coaching. Through blended funding, every early childhood educator in the county was eligible to receive a stipend for completing continuing education. Eighty-two providers took this opportunity to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and improve their capacity to serve our youngest children.

Ventura

First 5 Ventura County's Fiscal Year 2020–21 investments in the county's early childhood system supported

the continuation of the place-based Neighborhoods for Learning Initiative, which focused on Parent and Child Together classes and family support services; maintained preschool services; continued investment in Help Me Grow; and ongoing systems integration, advocacy, and capacity building efforts.

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, the Commission developed an implementation plan to support the Fiscal Year 2020–21 Strategic Plan to extend most of the Commission's current investments and target resources towards strengthening the larger early childhood systems and building organizational capacity. The Commission continued to address emerging needs of families with young children and service providers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Commission convened the Early Childhood Education COVID-19 Taskforce to ensure a coordinated response to the child care needs of essential workers and issues facing child care providers. Taskforce partners provided technical assistance workshops for providers on COVID-19 health and safety measures, immunizations, and how to apply for local, state, and federal relief funding.
- Through First 5 Ventura partner networks, emergency supplies of diapers and personal protective equipment provided by First 5 California were distributed to child care providers.
- First 5 Ventura was invited to participate in a national project led by Nemours Children's Health System and a state-level project led by the Center for the Study of Social Policy to better leverage Medi-Cal in promoting child outcomes.
- First 5 Ventura is now slated to receive reimbursement for a portion of expenditures associated with Medi-Cal Administrative Activities, as all Help Me Grow program components were implemented in-house as of July 1, 2020. Significant strides were made this past year with the Commission's parent engagement strategy, which is built upon a national model, in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Policy's EC-LINC. EC-LINC is a vibrant learning and innovation network of local communities, dedicated to bringing together a mix of services, supports,

policies, and practices that help all young children and their families thrive—locally and across the nation.

Yolo

In Fiscal Year 2020–21, First 5 Yolo County achieved an increasingly sharper focus on prevention and deeper investments in systems transformation, while supporting COVID-19 responses. Funded program highlights include the following: helping families avoid the need for entry into the Child Welfare Services system and supporting positive parenting; increasing access to early mental health screens and supports; providing public health support with COVID-19 safety trainings; child care provider stabilization; vaccination education; vaccination clinics for child care providers; and concrete supports to families and providers.

- Together with direct service partners, First 5 Yolo further developed its largest initiative, The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R), for high-risk perinatal families. All program components, including in-clinic/in-community navigation, Healthy Families America Home Visiting, and Behavioral Health Home Visiting, are increasingly coordinated, aligned, and targeted to integrated systems transformation.
- The Commission realized significant progress in its goal of systems improvement and home visiting coordination led by R2R progress. R2R is designed to prevent conditions that contribute to child maltreatment and prevent adverse childhood experiences by identifying high-risk mothers and infants and providing intensive services. R2R establishes central coordination for home visiting, integrates medical and social services, and addresses early learning and family strengthening with over 10 partner agencies. The approach helped to support isolated and vulnerable families during the pandemic.
- Given local and statewide data showing the devastating toll of COVID-19 related impacts on current birth cohorts and noting the inspiring successes of R2R, First 5 Yolo proposed an American Rescue Plan funding project to include postpartum nurse visits for all Medi-Cal families and expanded access to intensive home

visiting services in R2R. Recently approved, this project will launch in Fiscal Year 2021–22 and is planned for a 3-year duration.

Yuba

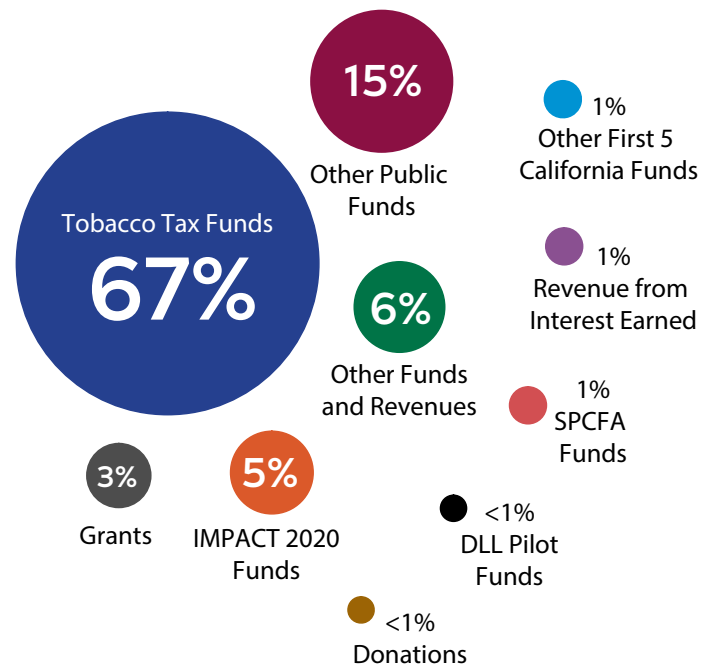
This past year, for the first time since their inception, First 5 Yuba secured over \$425,000 in external grant funds to support the health, development, and wellbeing of children ages 0 to 5 and their families. With these resources, First 5 Yuba was able to bring new programs and services to young children and their families, child care providers, medical providers, home visitors, and community based organizations. Specifically, resources were leveraged to enhance existing early screening and detection programs, build upon current systems change strategies within medical settings, and respond to the ongoing needs of the child care sector induced by the pandemic. With these resources, First 5 Yuba strengthened existing and established new partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional community-serving agencies such as health centers, family resource agencies, resource and referral agencies, community services development, Office of Emergency Services local food bank, child welfare, and others. First 5 Yuba collaborated with existing funded partners

to braid funding and build programs to meet the unique and challenging needs of the families they serve. During the first half of the year, First 5 collaborated with County Community Services Department, Childcare Planning Council and Children's Home Society of California to obtain over \$355,000 of local CARES Act funding. Partners worked quickly to establish a new program using existing systems to distribute stipends directly to licensed and license exempt child care providers to ensure child care businesses remained open and operating safely. Providers were incentivized to expand services and provided tools, such as Chrome books, to help reduce isolation and close the digital divide. During this past year, success can be visualized through undeniable resiliency among First 5 Yuba funded partners, innovative partnerships, and internal growth as an agency to obtain additional resources and meet the growing needs of children ages 0 to 5 and their families.



Appendix A1: Revenues by Sources, FY 2020-21

Tobacco Tax Funds (1)	\$305,363,626	67%
IMPACT 2020 Funds (2)	\$24,684,773	5%
SPCFA Funds (3)	\$4,135,932	1%
DLL Pilot Funds (4)	\$779,440	<1%
Other First 5 California Funds (5)	\$4,986,229	1%
Other Public Funds (6)	\$70,648,597	15%
Donations (7)	\$235,317	<1%
Revenue From Interest Earned (8)	\$4,245,199	1%
Grants (9)	\$15,525,246	3%
Other Funds or Revenues (10)	\$26,798,848	6%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$457,403,207	100%



This table represents revenues for all 58 county commissions.

- (1) Total Proposition 10 and Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenue. Tobacco tax revenues reported by county commissions may differ from revenues reported by First 5 California because of accrued state revenues not yet disbursed to counties.
- (2) Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT 2020) consortia or regional hub funds received from First 5 California
- (3) Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) funds received from First 5 California
- (4) Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot funds received from First 5 California
- (5) Other funds received from First 5 California
- (6) Other federal, state or public funds received
- (7) Donations received by the county commission
- (8) Interest earned in all Children and Families Trust Fund revenue accounts by the county commission
- (9) Grants received by the county commission
- (10) Other funds or revenues received, may include rental income or revenue from services provided



Appendix A2: Number of Services and Expenditures by Result Area and Service Type, FY 2020–21

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers and Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Family Literacy and Book Programs	87,033	203,371	925	204,296	291,329	40%	17%	\$5,797,695	6%	2%
General Family Support	107,736	291,198	7,707	298,905	406,641	56%	24%	\$66,225,473	71%	17%
Intensive Family Support	11,891	12,944	449	13,393	25,284	3%	1%	\$21,525,209	23%	6%
Total Improved Family Functioning	206,660	507,513	9,081	516,594	723,254	100%	42%	\$93,548,377	100%	24%

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers and Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	515,997	5,196	1,647	6,843	522,840	78%	30%	\$15,888,619	21%	4%
Quality Early Learning Supports	73,255	17,467	56,634	74,101	147,356	22%	9%	\$61,479,662	79%	16%
Total Improved Child Development	589,252	22,663	58,281	80,944	670,196	100%	39%	\$77,368,281	100%	20%

IMPROVED CHILD HEALTH

Service Type	Children	Primary Caregivers	Providers	Total Primary Caregivers and Providers	Total Number of Services	Percent of Services in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Number of Services (1)	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Early Intervention	74,058	29,372	7,686	37,058	111,116	34%	6%	\$33,926,426	30%	9%
General Health Education and Promotion	18,823	18,985	1,637	20,622	39,445	12%	2%	\$6,504,077	6%	2%
Oral Health Education and Treatment	48,454	12,724	28	12,752	61,206	19%	4%	\$9,396,505	8%	2%
Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting	38,800	61,170	61	61,231	100,031	31%	6%	\$58,420,378	52%	15%
Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support	7,773	3,705	11	3,716	11,489	4%	1%	\$3,760,087	3%	1%
Total Improved Child Health	187,908	125,956	9,423	135,379	323,287	100%	19%	\$112,007,473	100%	29%
Total Client Service Counts	983,820	656,132	76,785	732,917	1,716,737					

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Service Type	Total Expenditures for Services	Percent of Service Expenditures in Result Area (1)	Percent of Total Expenditures (1)
Emergency and Disaster Relief	\$11,720,726	11%	3%
Policy and Public Advocacy	\$44,661,681	43%	12%
Systems Building	\$46,469,093	45%	12%
Total Improved Systems of Care	\$102,851,500	100%	27%
Grand Total	\$385,775,631		

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

Data include all 58 county commissions. First 5 Kings and First 5 Glenn submitted provisional data for this publication.

Appendix B: Result Area and Service Type Definitions

RESULT AREA: IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

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

Family Literacy and Book Programs

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

General Family Support

Programs providing short-term, non-intensive instruction on general parenting topics, and/or support for basic family needs and related case management, including meals, groceries, clothing, and temporary or permanent housing acquisition assistance. General family support may include playgroup programs that provide parents/caregivers with opportunities to engage, learn, and play with their children. Playgroups are structured, intentional opportunities for parents and/or caregivers and their young children to engage, learn, and play to support the optimal development of the child, the social-emotional needs of the family, and increase social connectedness. General family support may also include

referrals to family services such as Family Resource Centers (FRC) and other community resources. Core Operating Support includes staff, facilities, materials and other general operating costs associated with an organization's day-to-day functioning. Fatherhood programs and operational support for family service agencies and/or networks are included. In general, these programs are designed to provide less intense and shorter term ("lighter touch") support services and classes for families by paraprofessional staff (e.g., FRCs). **Program models or initiatives include** Abriendo Puertas, Avance, Core Operating Support, Playgroups, Triple P Levels 2-3, and Five Protective Factors.

Intensive Family Support

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

RESULT AREA: IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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

Early Learning Program Direct Costs

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

Quality Early Learning Supports

Programs designed to enhance early learning programs such as professional development for early educators, or implementation and integration of services. This service category may include quality rating and improvement system investments as part of IMPACT 2020 and Quality Counts California. This service category covers early learning and care settings work, most commonly by licensed care providers, but is also inclusive of alternative settings such as FRCs; Family, Friend and Neighbor Care; Boys and Girls Clubs; and libraries. This service category may include interagency collaboration, quality improvement supports, support services to diverse populations, and database management and development. **Program models or initiatives include** Quality Counts California.

RESULT AREA: IMPROVED CHILD HEALTH

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

Early Intervention

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

General Health Education and Promotion

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

Nutrition/Breastfeeding, Safety Education, and Smoking or Tobacco Cessation.

Oral Health Education and Treatment

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

Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Home visiting is the primary service delivery strategy for inter-generational family-centered supports. Home visiting services are provided in the home by qualified professionals with parents, prenatally and/or with children birth to age 3. These voluntary programs tailor services to meet the needs of individual families and offer information, guidance, and support directly in the home environment. While home visiting programs vary in goals and content of services, in general, they combine parenting and health care education, early intervention, and early learning supports for young children and their families. Their visits focus on linking pregnant women with prenatal care, promoting strong parent-child attachment, and coaching parents on learning activities that foster their child's development and supporting families during the pivotal window of pregnancy through early childhood. **Program models or initiatives include** Early Head Start; Healthy Families America; Healthy Steps; Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters; Nurse Family Partnership; Parents as Teachers, Other Maternal,

Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Approved; Welcome Baby; and other Local Models.

Prenatal and Infant/Toddler Pediatric Support

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

RESULT AREA: IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

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

Emergency and Disaster Relief

Unplanned expenditures made in response to a community disruption resulting from local, regional, or statewide events such as fires, earthquakes, floods, widespread illness (epidemic, pandemic), or riots. Direct materials or support may include addressing immediate needs of individuals or communities for items such as diapers, clothing, food, shelter, transportation, childcare, and lost wages. This also includes coalition

building funding used in concert with other philanthropic, government, and business partners to support broader emergency response systems efforts.

Program models or initiatives include Direct Material Support and Coalition Building.

Policy and Public Advocacy

Services include community awareness, and public outreach and education on issues related to children ages 0–5 years old and their families. This also includes work focused on policy change, work with local and statewide stakeholders, Town Halls, policy development, and related efforts.

Program models or initiatives include Resilient Families and Communities, Child Health, Early Learning, and Revenue Sustainability.

Systems Building

Efforts to improve service quality, connections between programs, infrastructure support, and professional development. This category includes activities such as strategic planning, business planning, grant writing workshops, sustainability workshops, and assistance in planning and promoting large community conferences or forums. These improvement efforts should result in

improved outcomes for children ages 0–5 years old. Improvements could be geared toward creating a well-trained workforce with shared professional standards and competencies, creating strong and effective linkages across system components, or leveraging funding to sustain the system of care. Database management and other cross-agency systems evaluation are also included. Program models or initiatives include Early Identification and Intervention (e.g., Help Me Grow), Family Resiliency, Health Systems, Place-Based, and Trauma Informed Care/Adverse Childhood Experiences.



Appendix C: Demographics of Populations Served, FY 2020–21

AGE	INDIVIDUALS SERVED
Children Less than 3 Years Old	185,499
Children from 3rd to 6th Birthday	194,058
Children—Ages Unknown (birth to 6th birthday)	123,081
Primary Caregivers	703,802
Providers	74,539
Total Children Ages 0-5	502,638
Total Primary Caregivers	703,802
Total Children, Caregivers, and Providers	1,280,929



RACE/ETHNICITY	CHILDREN 0-5	PRIMARY CAREGIVERS	TOTAL (1)
Alaska Native/American Indian	3,419	1,797	5,216
Asian	32,403	56,928	89,331
Black/African–American	21,680	24,072	45,752
Hispanic/Latino	203,798	177,746	381,544
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,360	1,170	2,530
Other	15,606	47,113	62,719
Two or more races	16,363	12,531	28,894
White	69,047	49,371	118,418
Unknown	138,962	333,074	472,036
Total	502,638	703,802	1,206,440

LANGUAGE	CHILDREN 0-5	PRIMARY CAREGIVERS	TOTAL (1)
English	211,341	205,007	416,348
Spanish	123,773	133,365	257,138
Vietnamese	12,806	39,272	52,078
Other	12,651	16,564	29,215
Cantonese	2,299	1,744	4,043
Mandarin	1,244	1,157	2,401
Korean	354	376	730
Unknown	138,170	306,317	444,487
Total	502,638	703,802	1,206,440

(1): Column does not include race/ethnicity and language for providers. These data are not collected for the provider population.

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OUR VISION

*California's children receive the
best possible start in life and thrive.*



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