



August 19, 2020

INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: LOCAL FIRST 5 STRATEGIES TO SERVE THE STATE'S HIGH PROMISE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Health

Goal: All children thrive by achieving optimal health prenatal through age 5.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Development

Goal: All children birth through age 5 have high-quality, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Family Functioning

Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Since 1998, local First 5 commissions have been building the early childhood systems and supports needed to ensure California's young children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and life. As a voice for the state's youngest kids, they bring together partners and leverage funding sources to strengthen systems of care through advocacy, collaboration, innovation, and communications.

The following are summaries of perspectives that will be presented by four counties:

Yolo: The First 5 Yolo executive director will talk about the intricacies of blending, braiding, and leveraging First 5 funding as an essential part of supporting systems building efforts. She will talk about the importance of funding flexibility to allow for the input and knowledge of the local community to guide investment-based decision making.

Contra Costa: The First 5 Contra Costa executive director will share how First 5 commissions are centering racial equity in the work and why this is a priority for First 5 commissions.

San Bernardino: The First 5 San Bernardino executive director will share how First 5 commissions' responses to COVID-19 have continued to reflect the core values and focus of First 5.

Parent Perspective: A parent from Contra Costa County will share their experiences of how First 5 has played a role in their life.

BACKGROUND OF KEY ISSUES

First 5 innovates locally, then brings successful projects to scale, touching the lives of more than a million kids statewide. Focus areas include quality early learning, resilient families, and comprehensive health and development. Funded projects vary by county in order to meet specific community needs and target populations. From oral health to parent education to policy development, First 5s provide direct services, bring partners together to build systems, and influence state and local policy. Now, more than ever, First 5s are leaders in supporting their local communities in response to COVID-19 and bridging the budget gap in light of current economic challenges.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Commission has not previously taken action on this subject.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. PowerPoint Presentation – Meeting the Needs of California's Under-Resourced Communities
- B. First 5's Recommendations for the State Master Plan on Early Learning and Care