April 22, 2021

☒ **INFORMATION** ☐ **ACTION**

SUBJECT: FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC PLAN DATA DIGEST

Strategic Priority Area 1: Child Health
Goal: All children thrive by achieving optimal health prenatal through age 5.

Strategic Priority Area II: Child Development
Goal: All children birth through age 5 have high-quality, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness.

Strategic Priority Area III: Family Functioning
Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.
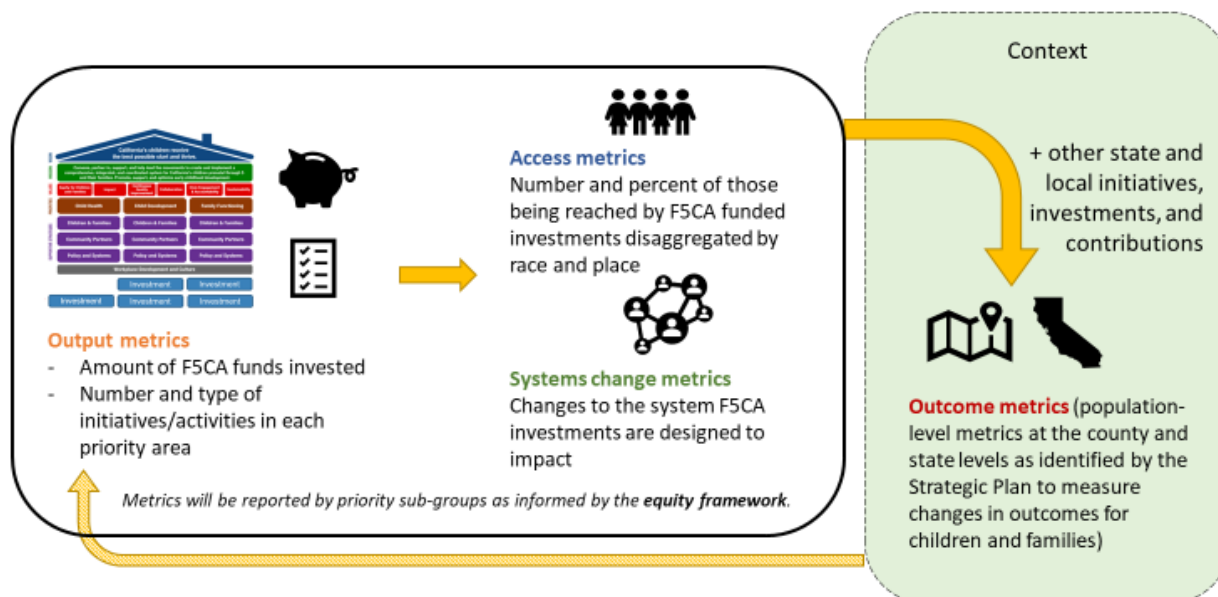
SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

First 5 California (F5CA) is committed to ensuring California's children prenatal through age 5 receive the best possible start in life and thrive. It prioritizes equitable policies, practices, investments, and partnerships to help all of California's children (and their families) achieve their full potential.

F5CA is recognized as a catalyst for change and is at a critical juncture where it can ensure its strategic investments are clearly aligned as it partners with counties and other state agencies to leverage change within the frame of social justice.

To understand progress for children and families in F5CA's Strategic Plan priority areas, staff are developing a Data Digest to track and monitor metrics related to investment outputs, access to services, and systems change, as well as outcome metrics in child health, child development, and family functioning (see metric definitions in the diagram on page 3). The Data Digest is different from the F5CA Annual Report required by the Children and Families Act in that it provides information related to the F5CA Commission's investments only.

The Data Digest will provide a core set of information as a foundation to help F5CA understand whether its investments increase access to services for target populations and generate systems-level changes that are intended to improve conditions for children and families in California, particularly those historically and currently furthest from opportunity.

The following graphic on page 2 shows how the Data Digest will be framed by the Strategic Plan, the types of data to be collected, and how it can be used to understand the impact on child and family outcomes.

As F5CA develops the Data Digest, it is important to think broadly about possible outcome metrics. For example, if F5CA were to identify school readiness as its main goal, it will be important to define school readiness broadly and include metrics in the multiple dimensions of readiness: children, families, schools, and communities. Further, since there is not a statewide measure of children's school readiness, F5CA will have to use proxies (e.g., parents reading to their baby every day, developmental screening, adverse childhood experiences, access to healthy foods, etc.) and ensure those measures include equity factors.

The Glen Price Group and Child Trends are coordinating the collection of stakeholder input to inform this work. An initial phase of input will include F5CA Commissioners, F5CA staff, and the First 5 Association. Following this first phase, Child Trends will develop a preliminary set of metrics that will provide the foundation for phase two, which will engage First 5 county commissions, early childhood service providers, and families to provide additional feedback.

During summer 2021, F5CA staff plan to begin collecting select data and will share the results of the first phase of data collection with Commissioners in October 2021.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Commission has not previously discussed or taken action on this subject.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Purpose and Relationship between F5CA Strategic Documents and Reports