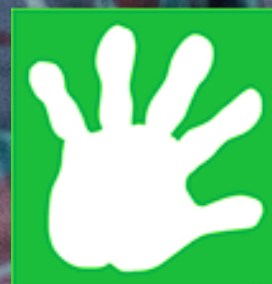


First 5 California Early Literacy Efforts

January 27, 2022



FIRST 5
CALIFORNIA

Current Opportunity

The Need:

- Pandemic has exacerbated and created a universal trauma that has led to a national child and youth mental health crisis
- Isolation and lack of relational connectedness have contributed to this
- Need to promote nurturing environments and relationships

The Opportunity:

- Governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Ability to leverage current partnerships to align with Parent's Agenda



Budget Proposal

- \$10 million in the Governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for early literacy programming for early childhood
- Recommendation of a First 5 California investment of \$10 million for at least a \$20 million total investment
- Matched funding will strengthen existing efforts that support early literacy, child development, and family functioning in partnership with the California Department of Public Health
- A funding request will be presented as an action item in April 2022



Benefits of Books

- Develop early literacy skills
- Encourage bonding
- Promote resilience

Research-based Strategy

- Language and literacy development is a major indicator for school success
- Books in the home increase vocabulary
- Critical for low-income, immigrant, and dual language learner families



Early Literacy Efforts in CA

F5CA Led or Supported:

- California Family Book Distribution Partnership
- Kit for New Parents*
- Talk. Read. Sing.*®
- WIC Books for Kids
- Literacy focus of the Early Math Project
- Taskforce on Literacy/Biliteracy
- Dual Language Learner Pilot

Partner Led:

- Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant
- Grade Level Reading Campaign
- Shared Vision Community Partnership Grants for Early Learning and Out-of-School Time Programs





Partnership Opportunities

California State Departments:

- Public Health
- Education
- Social Services

Expanding Funding:

- Home Visiting Programs
- Black Infant Health Program
- Subsidized child care slots



Components of an Early Literacy Investment

- Promotes achievement of the North Star by addressing parent engagement and availability of books
- Includes an evaluation with clear outcomes and metrics
- Leverages existing early literacy efforts and is sustainable
- Targets priority populations, including WIC recipients, children who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and children participating in home visiting programs



Priority Populations for Early Literacy Programming

- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program
 - In 2020-21, 835,000 children participated in WIC
- Children Experiencing Homelessness
 - 1 in 11 of California's children under the age of 6
- Children in Foster Care
 - 19,766 children 0 to 5 in a foster care placement
- Children Enrolled in Home Visiting
 - 2318 in the California Home Visiting Program (CDPH)
 - 12,263 in CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (CDSS)



Questions?



Thank you!

