



## **First 5 California COVID-19 Emergency Supplies Program**

### **May 2021 – December 2021**

#### **Background**

As the COVID-19 pandemic reached California, the Governor issued Proclamation of a State Emergency, Executive Order, N-25-20, on March 4, 2020. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization also declared COVID-19 a pandemic with a sustained risk of further global spread. Among other impacts, the pandemic created a shortage of essential supplies needed to mitigate community spread so that childcare providers could operate safely while supporting the economic stability of families with young children.

Following approval by Commissioners on April 13, 2020, First 5 California executed an agreement with SupplyBank.org to quickly respond to a lack of available resources by purchasing emergency supplies for local First 5 county commissions throughout California.<sup>1</sup> County commissions provided varying levels of oversight and coordination to distribute supplies locally, while SupplyBank.Org oversaw a needs assessments, procurement of items, kitting and compiling county orders, and other coordination services to the state and counties, as needed.

The First 5 California State Commission authorized this investment and asked local First 5 county commissions to prioritize the distribution of resources to the most vulnerable communities based on data from the Healthy Places Index (HPI).<sup>2</sup>

SupplyBank.Org designed a program to address local needs through a survey for county commissions and in consultation with First 5 California and the First 5 Association. This process had four steps: (1) assess the need for emergency supplies as a state, (2) quantify the need into a budget, (3) build an implementation and coordination plan, and (4) distribute resources and assess program success.

#### **Distribution Summary**

The quantity of resources provided to each county commission was allocated based on a weighted average of the birth rate and amount of COVID related deaths in each county. Through this agreement and SupplyBank.Org's ability to leverage partnerships,

---

<sup>1</sup> The contract between First 5 California and SupplyBank.org was numbered CFF 7605.

<sup>2</sup> The Health Places Index (HPI) is a project of the Public Health Alliance of Southern California. HPI is a powerful and easy-to-use data and policy platform created to advance health equity through open and accessible data. <https://www.healthypacesindex.org/>

county commissions were provided more than 44 million units of items to help keep communities safe.

As informed by the needs assessment and a continued focus to reduce community spread of the COVID-19 virus, supply deliveries included the following items:

- 64,896 Bottles of Hard Surface Disinfectant (32 oz.)
- 5,563,200 Children's 3-Ply Masks
- 15,671,200 Disinfectant Wipes
- 6,639,000 Hand Gloves
- 4,614,794 Diapers
- 11,526,200 Baby Wipes
- 65,496 Bottles of Hand Sanitizer (32 oz.)
- 500,160 Adult 3-ply masks
- 395,640 N95 Masks
- 61,680 Isolation Gowns
- 21,00 Cloth Masks (FEMA)
- 1,000 KN95 Masks

### **Program Distribution Assessment**

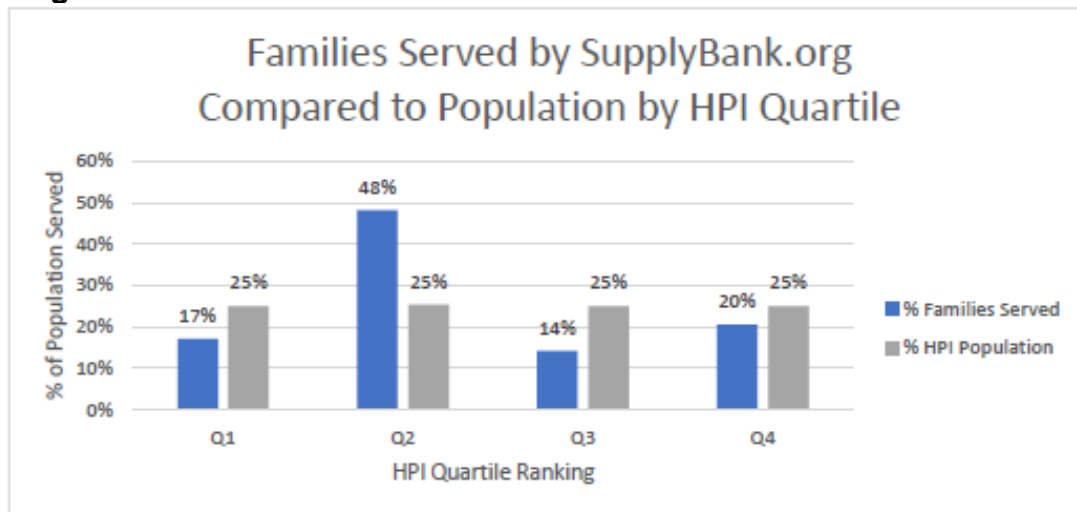
Following the final distribution of resources, SupplyBank.Org collected survey responses from 47 county commissions. Respondents categorized the distribution of resources by the number of families or childcare providers served in each ZIP code. To highlight the prioritization of communities living in ZIP codes with a lower HPI score, the data was broken into four quartiles based on their HPI score.

Neighborhood-by-neighborhood, the HPI maps data on social conditions that drive health — like education, job opportunities, clean air and water, and other indicators that are positively associated with life expectancy at birth. Community leaders, policymakers, academics, and other stakeholders use the HPI to compare the health and well-being of communities, identify health inequities, and quantify the factors that shape health. Evidence-based and peer-reviewed, the HPI supports efforts to prioritize equitable community investments, and develop critical programs and policies across the state.

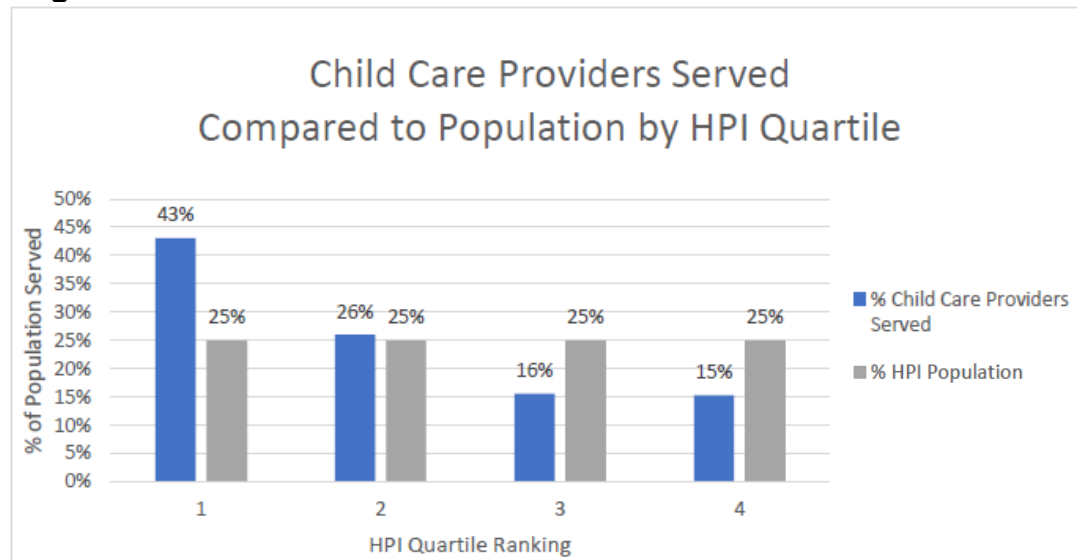
A summary of the survey results can be found below.

- 14,000+ families served in ZIP codes with an HPI score below 50 (65% total families served) – Figure 1
- 10,500+ childcare providers served in ZIP codes with an HPI score below 50 (69% total childcare providers served) – Figure 2

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



These survey results demonstrate the effort county commissions made to ensure that essential supplies were provided to the children, families, and childcare providers who needed them the most during the pandemic. The most disadvantaged families and childcare providers received the bulk of supplies: 65% of families and 69% of providers were in HPI quartiles 1 and 2.

SupplyBank.org would like to share its appreciation and thanks for the First 5 California staff, county commissions, and First 5 California State Commissioners for their time and energy that made this program a success.