



January 19, 2023

INFORMATION ACTION

SUBJECT: FUTURE INVESTMENTS UPDATE

Strategic Priority Area I: 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

In May and July 2022, the First 5 California (F5CA) Commission met to discuss staff recommendations for future F5CA investments and provide direction on which investments to explore further. In November 2022, Proposition 31 was passed by voters which upheld state law barring the sale of flavored tobacco. While Proposition 31 was supported by F5CA as a critical advancement in smoking cessation and overall public health, at the same time, its passage has implications for First 5 revenue that create a different financial context than the one in which the below future investments were discussed in spring and summer 2022. Item 6, Financial Update, includes an updated summary of projections provided by the Department of Finance that include the ban on flavored tobacco, as well as an overview of what those projections mean for F5CA's current commitments and proposed future investments.

The purpose of this item is to revisit the proposed future investments within this new financial context, hear an update from staff on progress made since July 2022 and timelines for further Commission discussion and action, and reaffirm the Commission's desire to proceed with these investments.

Below you will find project summaries and funding amounts for the four investments F5CA staff were tasked with exploring during the July 2022 Commission meeting:

1. Prenatal to Age 5 Data Landscape and Historical Investment Evaluation

Data Landscape: Analyze the landscape of and develop a vision for improving and integrating multiple data systems supporting early learning and care (e.g., Early Care and Education [ECE] Workforce Registry, local Quality Rating and Improvement [QRIS] data systems, mychildcare.gov website, California Department of Social Services [CDSS] site licensing) and early childhood health and wellbeing (e.g., the Strong Start Index). Utilize existing data systems to identify current inequities and recommend data-driven solutions to improve health and wellbeing for all California's children prenatal through five and their families. Intended to guide the Commission and staff in their engagement with efforts such as Cradle to Career Data System (Governor's Office) and Brilliant Beginnings (CDSS), as well as inform future investments (\$3 million).

Historical Investment Evaluation: Examine the overall impact of F5CA (Prop 10) since its inception. An independent team of experts will be retained to document evidence of effects of local and statewide First 5 activities to better understand whom First 5 has served, where First 5 has succeeded and how, and where First 5 has yet to succeed and why. The project will also result in recommendations for ongoing data monitoring and evaluation, as well as opportunities for future investments (\$2 million).

Proposed Funding Amount: \$5,000,000

2. Newcomer Support

Expand support for first-generation immigrant and multi-language learning families (including asylum seekers and refugees) and potential expansion of Microenterprise Development Program.

Proposed Funding Amount: \$10,000,000

3. Early Childhood Behavioral Health

Align efforts with the California Health and Human Services agency to advance shared goals for children's behavioral health with a focus on children ages 0 to 5 and their families, deepen impact of investments underway and under consideration, and leverage strengths and capabilities across our respective agencies and departments.

Proposed Funding Amount: \$10,000,000

4. Fatherhood Initiative

Engage and support all fathers, with a focus on those in low-income and minority communities, to continue connecting and proactively engaging with their children ages 0 to 5. Invest seed funding to launch a fatherhood initiative designed to support fathers, including those involved in the child welfare and criminal justice systems.

Proposed Funding Amount: \$5,000,000

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

During the January 2022 Commission meeting, F5CA staff provided Commissioners a brief [overview of F5CA's current investments](#), including a summary of each office's portfolio, a description of what's been learned from their programs, and how they align with the newly adopted North Star and Audacious Goal. Investments were summarized through a targeted universalism approach and included the following:

- Data about how groups of children are faring toward the goal of having Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments (SSNREs).
- How targeted investments address disparities among specific groups.
- Structural and institutional conditions that continue to be barriers to ensuring all children have the SSNREs necessary to eliminate inequities and ensure healthy development.

Staff presented on [proposed future investments](#) at the May and July 2022 Commission meetings, gathering feedback from the Commission on various proposals and determining which to explore further. After these meetings, the list of proposed investments was narrowed down to four and staff were charged with fleshing out formal proposals to bring back to the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS

None.