



October 25, 2018

<p><b>SUBJECT</b></p> <p><b>TWO FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY STRATEGIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Priority Area 3. Public Will and Investment:</b> Build public engagement in, investment in, and support of the optimal well-being and development of children prenatal through age 5, their families, and communities.</p> <p><b>Goal 3.1. Communication:</b> Build public will and investing in early childhood by communicating the potential for positive outcomes for children and families, and the importance of prevention and early intervention.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Action</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information</p>
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### SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

First 5 Association staff and representatives from First 5's Help Me Grow Inland Empire team will discuss county profiles, county highlights, and strategies that contribute to Riverside County's Early Childhood System. Attachments A through F provide additional information.

### RECOMMENDATION

This is an information-only item. First 5 California staff is not requesting action at this time.

### BACKGROUND AND HIGHLIGHTS

#### Riverside County Profile

With a population high of 2.4 million residents, Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California, stretching nearly 200 miles across and comprising almost 7,300 square miles of land. Located just south of San Bernardino, in southeastern California, the county's ethnic make-up is 49% Hispanic/Latino. Nearly 56,000 (10%) of Riverside's families with children are living below the federal poverty level and 48.2% of Riverside's

children, 3-5 years of age, have not historically enrolled in preschool or Kindergarten. Among the residents over the age of 5, 40% speak a language other than English in the home and 21% of children are living within 100% of the poverty threshold.

### **First 5 Riverside County Highlights**

Strategic partnerships have been the focus this past year in Riverside County to address sustainability in many investments. Emphasis has been placed on areas that enhance increased access to quality early learning environments for children and strengthening the professional development systems for early care and education providers, promote early identification and intervention throughout First 5 Riverside funded programs, support team-based interventions in behavioral health to ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach in assessing needs, expand home visitation capacity to increase family resilience and decrease child abuse and neglect, and diversify funding to provide innovative solutions for children and families.

Outstanding results have been achieved through Quality Start Riverside County (QSRC), resulting in almost 2,300 early education instructors benefitting from technical assistance and professional development to increase quality in their classrooms and curriculum as well as enhancing child-teacher engagement. This comprises 430 licensed sites participating in QSRC and 1,115 children provided with access to childcare.

Ongoing investments that have expanded pediatric healthcare have come to fruition, with University of California, Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine graduating 5 pediatric residents who are now practicing in Riverside. Significant accomplishments include regional participation with First 5 San Bernardino and Loma Linda Children's Hospital to begin planning the launch of Help Me Grow to leverage resources and develop a comprehensive systems-level approach to support the success of young children and to connect them readily to developmental services.

Other highlights included breastfeeding support services delivered to over 6,705 mothers, more than 3,500 children received mental health screenings and 823 children received treatment services, and 631 children received water safety classes/swim lessons.

### **San Bernardino County Profile**

San Bernardino County, the largest county in the contiguous United States, covers over 20,000 square miles of land and has the fifth largest population in California with approximately 185,000 children ages 0-5. Located in southeastern California, more than three quarters of the land is vacant and 81% is outside the governing control of the County Board of Supervisors or local jurisdictions, being owned and managed by federal agencies. Given its vast land area, the county's overall population density is low, with the exception of the Valley Region, located in the south-west corner of the county. Nearly 62% of San Bernardino residents are Hispanic/Latino, with the remaining 38% identifying as White, African American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and multi-racial. Among the residents over the age of 5, 41% speak a language other than English

at home, compared to 21% nationwide, and 26% of children are living within 100% of the poverty threshold, exceeding the state average by 6%.

## **First 5 San Bernardino Highlights**

First 5 San Bernardino has yielded many notable accomplishments and positive outcomes for the youngest residents and their families in San Bernardino County. One of the most significant investments by First 5 San Bernardino was in the continued building and implementation of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Quality Start San Bernardino (QSSB) was fully launched to capacity in FY 2016–2017 with 115 early care and education sites participating. Of those sites, 76 received a quality rating while 39 received quality improvement services to prepare them for a future rating, and 47 of the sites rated received a rating of 4 (Quality Plus) or 5 (Highest Quality).

First 5 San Bernardino also improved early childhood systems by continuing the Family and Community Support and Partnerships initiative which served 1303 parents to minimize the risk of child maltreatment. “Footsteps to Brilliance,” an interactive mobile “app” designed to encourage and improve reading for young children, was launched this year, giving EVERY child in San Bernardino County access to a reading improvement strategy at no cost. Additionally, the Launch of “Career Online High School” offers 100 parents of young children the opportunity to complete the requirements to earn a high school diploma online. Lastly, First 5 San Bernardino formally partnered with First 5 Riverside and Loma Linda University to develop Help Me Grow Inland Empire.

## **Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital**

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital (LLUCH) is the sole children’s hospital in the Inland Empire specializing in the care of children. LLUCH was founded in 1993 to meet the unique healthcare needs of children. A comprehensive, state-of-the-art medical facility located in the heart of San Bernardino County, LLUCH serves almost 1.3 million of California’s youth. With 343 beds, the American Board of Surgeons has designated LLUCH as a Level I Trauma Center, providing the highest level of trauma care within the Inland Empire four-county area. LLUCH is equipped and staffed to provide care for patients suffering from severe trauma injuries to minor injuries. Every year, more than 15,000 children are hospitalized, over 130,000 children receive ambulatory care services, and 1,100 significantly ill or injured children are transported to LLUCH from surrounding hospitals.

The hospital’s affiliation with Loma Linda University and its Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Allied Health Professions, places the hospital among the nation’s best healthcare teaching institutions. Because of its affiliation with a premier institution for medical research and academic exchange, many healthcare practitioners serve on LLUCH staff to educate the next generations of talented medical specialists – and ultimately, to deliver the finest care available to children.

With the offering of diverse units and care centers, LLUCH demonstrates a commitment to advance knowledge of pediatric medicine. As a result, children receiving treatment at

LLUCH benefit from knowledge and technological innovations surpassing the frontiers of medicine.

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital is a non-profit facility, offering to treat children regardless of their ability to pay. Along with providing the very best medical treatment, LLUCH also treats the whole family through a wide variety of family-based services. The LLUCH Foundation supports and promotes the philosophy and mission of LLUCH through fund raising efforts, assistance in the development of educational and community projects, and advocacy for children's issues.

## **Inland Empire Profile**

The Inland Empire is a metropolitan area in Southern California that is shared between Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and, with 4.2 million people residing in the region, boasts the 13<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area in the United States. There is a trend of lower educational attainment in the Inland Empire, which starts early. Only 37% of 3- and 4-year-olds in the region are enrolled in pre-school.

## **Two First 5 Riverside County Strategies That Contribute to Riverside County's Early Childhood System**

### **1. First 5 Riverside and San Bernardino's Participation in the Help Me Grow California Statewide Expansion: Help Me Grow Inland Empire's Innovative Early Identification and Intervention System**

The San Bernardino Community Indicators report (2015) stated, "Understanding that a community is a system of interconnected elements is increasingly important as the issues we face become more complex. The more we work collaboratively, and across boundaries, the more successful we will be in our efforts to sustain a high quality of life."

With this in mind, in 2017, First 5 Riverside and First 5 San Bernardino joined together to design and launch California's first regional Help Me Grow system, Help Me Grow Inland Empire, to effectively participate in the statewide expansion of First 5 Association's Help Me Grow California. Representatives from the commissions, as well as from their lead organization, Loma Linda University, will share how they have used local experiences to guide the development of an integrated early identification and intervention system that has been purposefully designed to address the local gaps and barriers impacting early childhood comprehensive health and development in the Inland Empire.

### **2. First 5 Riverside: Community Health Clinics and Other Health Partners: HealthySteps**

HealthySteps is a unique, evidence-based pediatric primary care program committed to healthy early childhood development and effective parenting so that all children are ready for kindergarten and success in life. A child development professional, known as a HealthySteps Specialist, connects with families during well-child visits as part of the primary care team. The HealthySteps Specialist offers screening and

support for common and complex concerns that physicians often lack time to address, including developmental milestones, feeding, behavior, sleep, attachment, depression, social determinants of health, and adapting to life with a baby or young child. Specialists are trained to provide families with parenting guidance, support between visits, referrals, and care coordination, all specific to their needs.

First 5 Riverside will share how they are partnering with HealthySteps as a strategy for addressing gaps in services in three local clinics.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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- A. First 5 Riverside PowerPoint Presentation
- B. First 5 Association 2018 Policy Agenda
- C. First 5 Association Developmental Screening Fact Sheet
- D. Help Me Grow Fact Sheet
- E. First 5 Association Proposal Narrative
- F. HealthySteps Logic Model



**First 5 California Commission:  
Help Me Grow Briefing  
October 25, 2018**

**FIRST**  **5**  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

# California is Failing Our Children



- Children with delays are not identified early enough to provide timely intervention
- When a delay is identified, families and providers struggle to navigate our complex early intervention system
- Special Education becomes the only support for children with late-diagnosed needs, impacting school district budgets
- Research shows late entry into Special Education impacts academic achievement and graduation rates

# First 5 and Help Me Grow CA

A successful, comprehensive, and accessible early identification and intervention **system**:

- promotes **universal early identification** of behavioral and developmental delay
- Fosters **timely linkage to intervention**, ensuring children achieve their greatest potential.





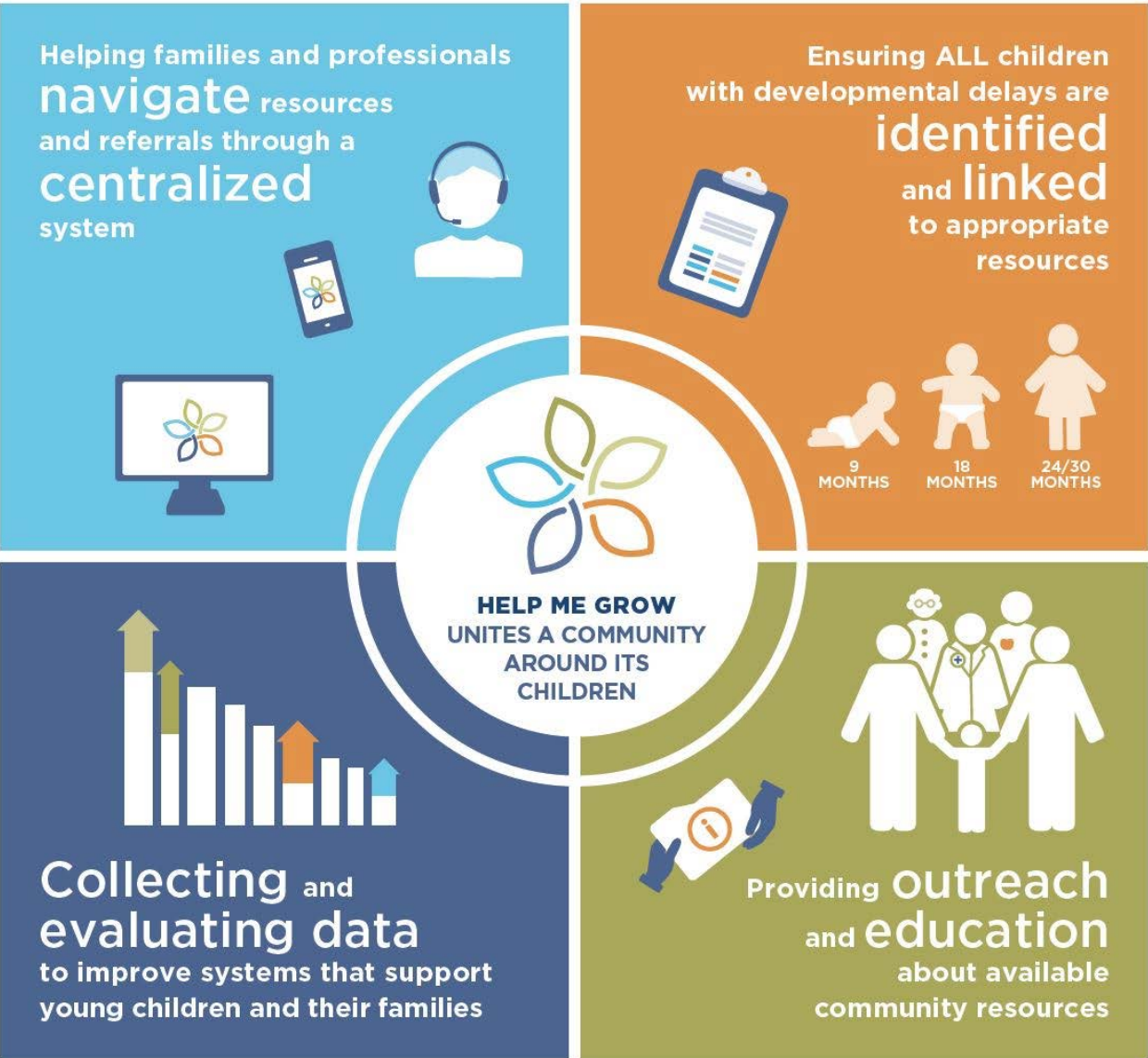
# Our Goal:



All children are supported by an accessible early intervention system that promotes kindergarten readiness.

The children/families that HMG systems are targeting are the *same* as those that F5CA is reaching through quality early learning investments, only HMG's goal is identifying them earlier, with a family-centered approach.

# Help Me Grow Supports Success for All Children by



# How First 5s Talk about HMG

- HMG is First 5's opportunity to elevate the conversation about local efforts that are successfully improving comprehensive early childhood development.
- We acknowledge the essential role of the core components within the utility of the broader early childhood system, and recognize the importance of local control in developing *how* they function.
- We advocate for HMG as a framework for rebuilding CA's early intervention system, not as a stand-alone initiative of First 5.
- We share how HMG will impact the early childhood system:
  - Earlier, quality referrals to Early Start
  - Increased kindergarten readiness
  - Fewer children in K-12 Special Education

# In Other Words

We want to strategically link state, county, and local programs and departments to create a **seamless system** that supports the long-term success young children and their families.

Example: HMG Inland Empire and the First 5 Riverside/First 5 San Bernardino/Loma Linda University Partnership





# Help Me Grow Inland Empire

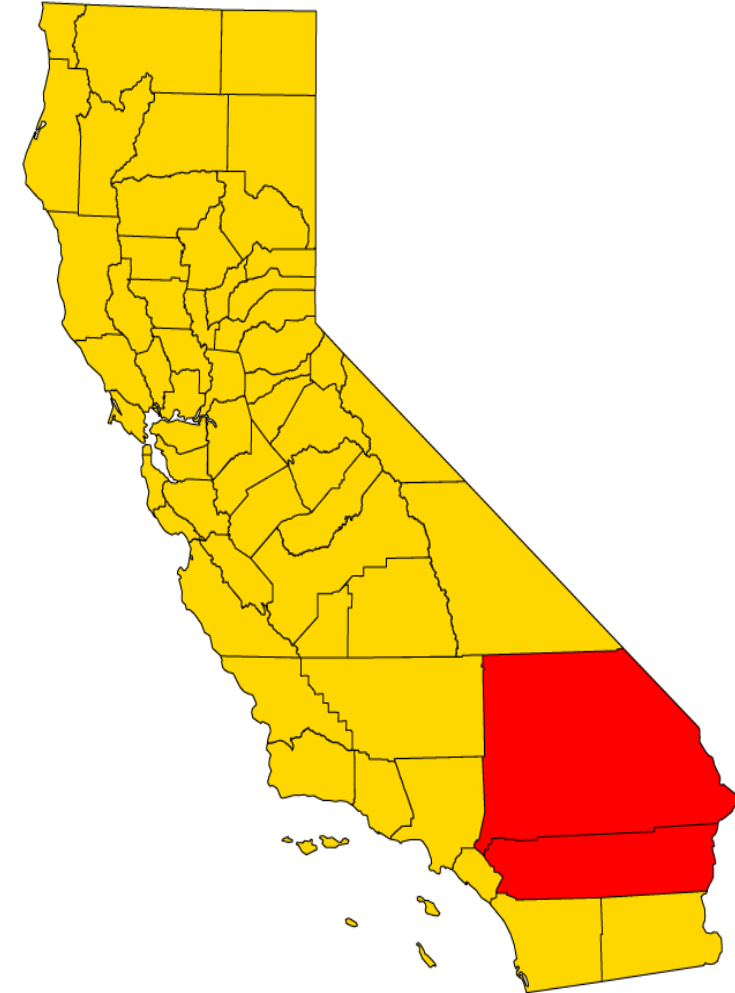
Karen Scott – Executive Director (F5SB)

Dr. Marti Baum, MD, FAAP, Assistant Professor Pediatrics (LLUCH)

Tammi Graham – Executive Director (F5R)

# Inland Empire Demographics

- Help Me Grow Inland Empire (HMGIE) is the first dual county approach in the HMG system and California
- Inland Empire: San Bernardino and Riverside counties are located in Southeastern California
- Includes 2 of the 15 most populated counties in the US
- Covers a geographic area of about 27,400 square miles with a population over 4 million people
- 3rd most populated metropolitan area in the State of California
- 13th most populated metropolitan area in the United States
- Limited amount of services and resources operating independently of each other



# The Regional Approach

- **Key Challenges to Current System**
  - **Rural and geographically isolated regions**
    - Transportation
    - Some rural areas have difficulty getting services in their area
  - **Availability of Early Intervention Resources**
    - Resources may be there, but people have a hard time knowing where to go to find them
    - Mental health resources are difficult to find
  - **No centralized agency that can provide information about intervention services, especially for those with less intensive needs**

# Help Me Grow Inland Empire Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
Economies of scale/shared costs for call center, leadership and data collection	Geographically dispersed team may hinder training and communication
Shared partners to build stronger network	Identifying a lead agency or finding an alternative home for <i>HMG</i>
Promote Inland Empire systems change approach/shared data reporting	Creating new business and operational infrastructure
Collaborative approach appealing to regional/statewide funders & policymakers	
Shared learning/CQI	
Regional “No Wrong Door” for families – strengthen cross-county referrals and information sharing	



# Collaboration & Leveraging of Shared Resources

- First 5 Riverside and San Bernardino History of Working Together
- Potential for Organizational Home that Already Serves the Region
- Existing Shared Resources within Inland Empire That Can Be Utilized
  - Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
  - Autism Assessment Center of Excellence
  - Inland Regional Center
  - Inland Empire Health Plan
  - Molina Healthcare
  - American Academy of Pediatrics - Chapter 2

# American Academy of Pediatrics



**Too often developmental delays go undetected. Developmental screening at AAP recommended well-child visits will catch delays earlier, making treatment more effective.**



PHYSICIAN CHAMPIONS ARE  
THE KEY FOR ENGAGEMENT  
AND ADVOCACY



# Why Help Me Grow?

## The HMG system

- provides communication linkage between programs
- bridges connections across systems of care– “1-800 Social Worker”
  - physician offices
  - preschool and early education services
  - child care services
  - Parents/families
- Facilitates connections to appropriate services utilizing data banks and resource portfolios
  - A. Social determinant screening identifying fragmentation of resources
  - B. ASQ Screening data and reports



# Planning – Year 2

- Marketing Development and Stakeholder/Parent Engagement
  - Coordinated messaging for stakeholders
  - Create partnership for best practices
  - Advance a “developmental safety net” with stakeholder input and output
- Development of Financing Model –short term and long term
  - Create a process towards obtaining self sufficiency as part of strategic planning
  - Linkages/alignment with current/developing local systems
  - Look for best practices in the area of fiscal

# Continued Planning – Year 2

- Information and Data

- Continue with creating a clear and transparent model for sharing of information
- Local, state, national Help Me Grow data growth will continue to emerge
- Help with local and state legislative process for supporting screening
- Embed into the decision process the input of stakeholders of all sectors including parents, education systems, clinicians, etc.

# Future Plans to Link Systems

## **There is no quick answer but there are opportunities**

- To ensure all IE stakeholders are involved at an advisory council level.
- To develop a Strategic Plan for HMG that interacts with Quality Start systems and other existing systems, and consideration of sustainability for linkage, referral, and care coordination.

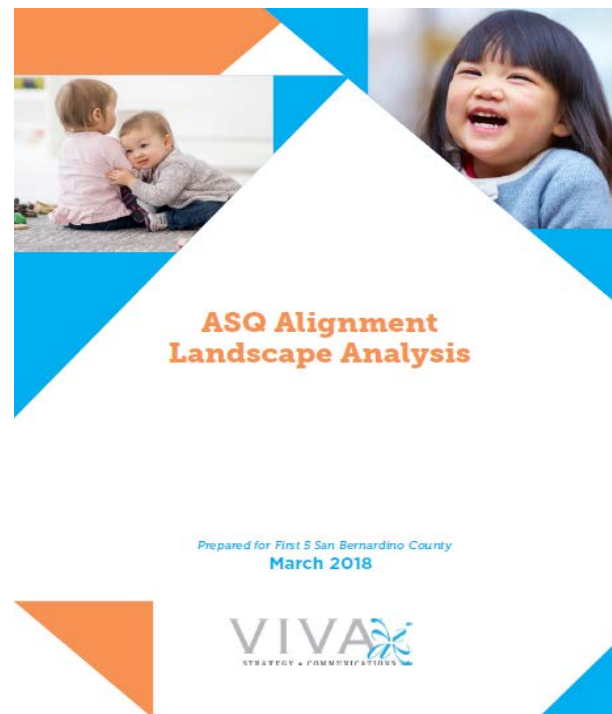


# Our Linkage Strategy

Through the QRIS strategic planning process the following systems goals were established to make this vision a reality:

## Goal 3:

Systems Alignment – Integrate and Collaborate with Systems that Impact the Education, Health and Well-Being of Young Children



# More Important Now Than Ever

2019 provides a key window of opportunity for California to create the early intervention system children and families need AND that Federal mandates require

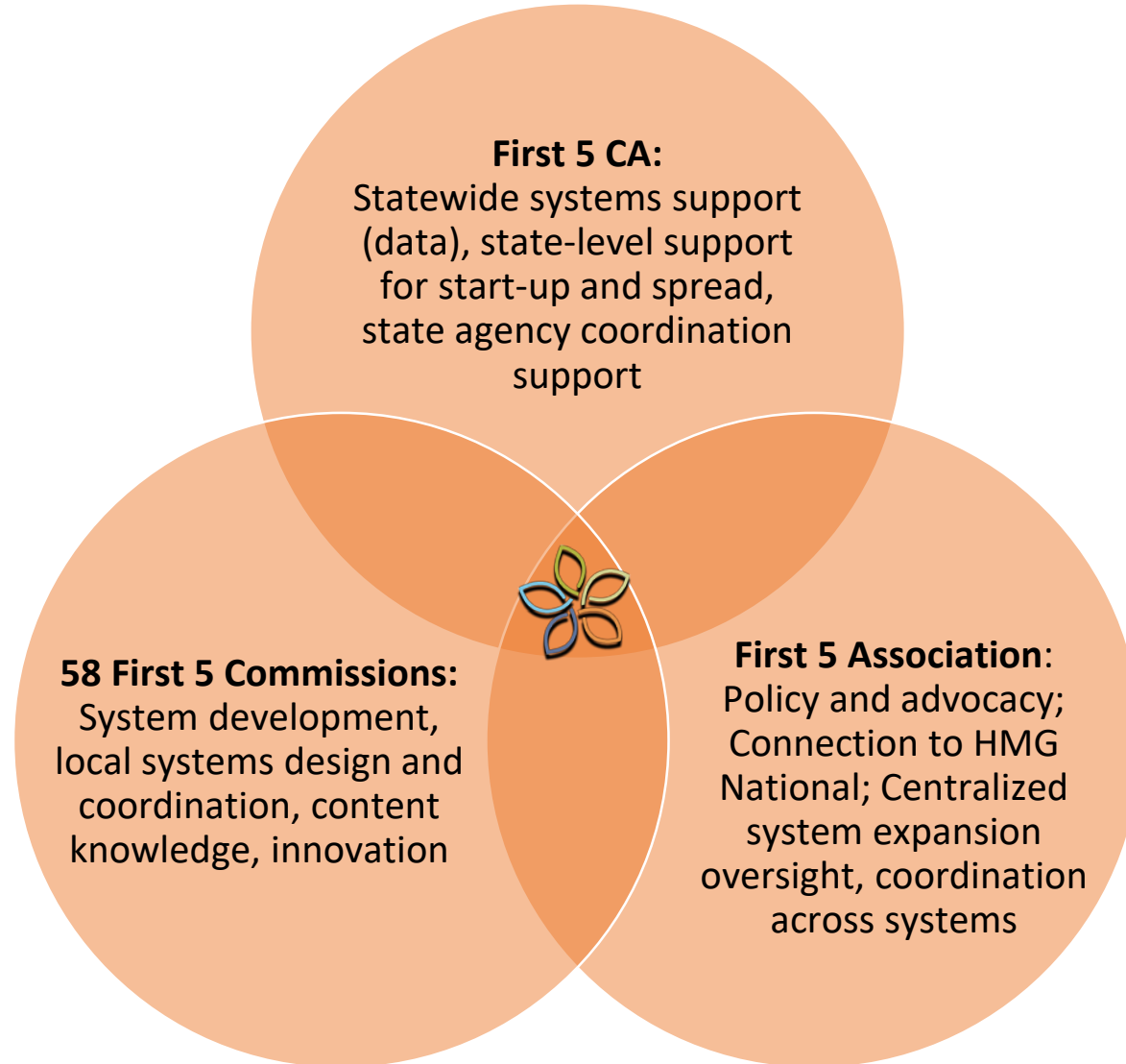
- AB 11 veto message from Governor Brown acknowledged the screening mandate
- Pritzker Children's Initiative provides support for needed policy development and coalition building
- New state administration signals opportunity to engage on key issues



# Partners in a Successful System



# HMG Roles of the First 5 Network



# Partnership Recommendations

## Statewide Infrastructure Support

- Statewide licensing agreement to streamline access to ASQ 3 and ASQ-SE
- Single County Data System
- Comprehensive media campaign and messaging strategies

## System Expansion and Development

- Planning grants to fill gaps or enhance existing system
- Incentives to pilot and share innovations to support overall system improvement

## State Level Coordination

- Co-Chair of HMG CA State Task Force

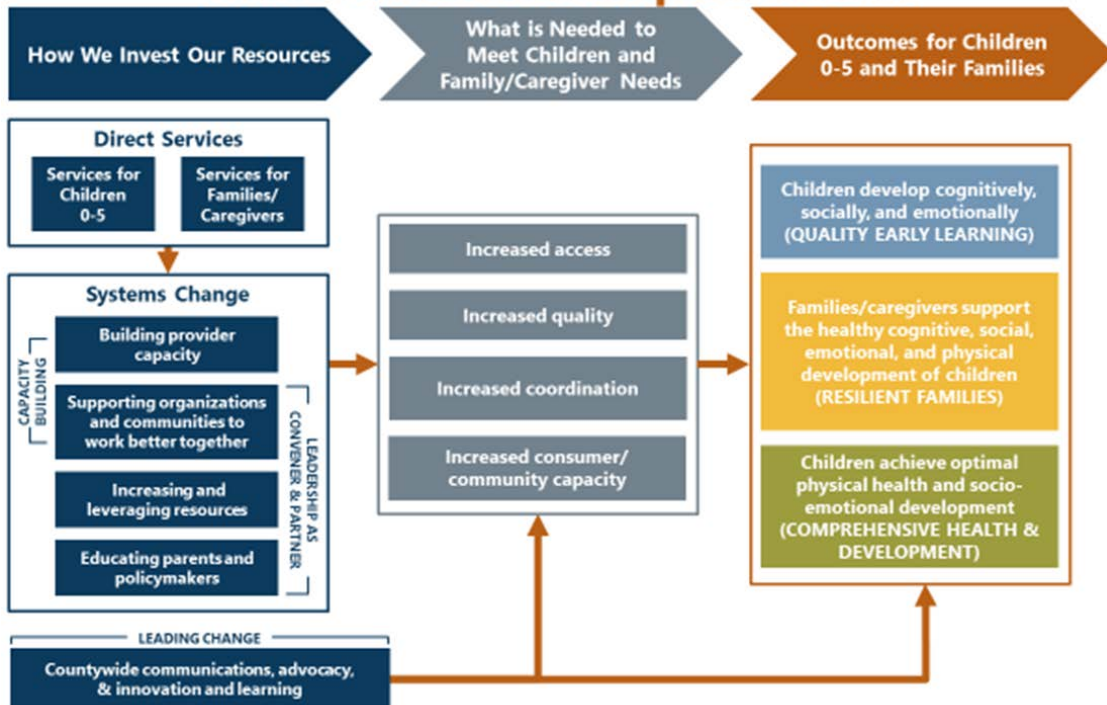


## Focus: Building Sustainable and Integrated Systems

- A state level infrastructure is critical to support the expansion and sustainability of local HMG systems.
- First 5's leadership role in Help Me Grow leverages existing local leadership and local funding to improve and expand systems of care
- First 5 Commissions serve the backbone/hub role for **integrated systems of care**
- Refocusing the system on **prevention** supports family well being
- Linkages to the health care system ensure long term funding streams and sustainability

# First 5 Riverside: Strategic Direction

## 2018-2021 Revised Strategic Framework: First 5 Riverside Impact Model



Targeted on expanding strategic partnerships to achieve greater capacity building and address sustainability, and strengthen and improve systems

Investments focus on  
 Quality Early Learning  
 Comprehensive Health & Development  
 Resilient Families  
 Countywide Impact

# HELP ME GROW: Embedded in First 5 Riverside, First 5 San Bernardino, & Loma Linda Children's Hospital

HMG

First 5 Riverside, First 5 San Bernardino, & Loma Linda Children's Hospital

HMG  
Delivered  
through  
LLUCH



QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

SCHOLARSHIPS (ACCESS) + TIERED REIMBURSEMENT  
QRIS

EARLY IDENTIFICATION & EARLY INTERVENTION

HOME VISITATION

HEALTHYSTEPS

Increase provider awareness regarding importance of early identification

Support organizations and communities to work better together

Continuous Quality Improvement

Referral to Other Services



Developmental Screenings

- Families
- Professionals
- Directory of Resources
- Systemic Connections and partnerships

Care Coordination

- Centralized access to:
- Developmental Screenings
  - Identified Needs and Proactive Linkages to Services
  - Outreach & Education
  - Collection & Evaluation of Data

Systems Change

- Leveraging investments
- Convener of stakeholders
- Design integrated systems

Children are more successful and healthy

Accessible Identification & Early Intervention System

# HealthySteps –



**Funded by First 5 Riverside**

Pediatric Clinics & Federally Qualified Health Clinics embedding HealthySteps Specialist through well child visits

**Pediatric Care**

**Supporting**

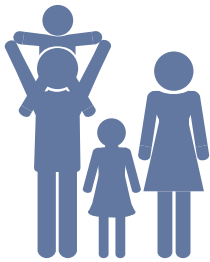
**Parenting**

# 2018 POLICY AGENDA



First 5 builds the early childhood systems and supports needed to ensure California's young children are healthy, safe, and ready to succeed in school. This is accomplished through:

## RESILIENT FAMILIES



### VISION:

Promote parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of crisis, and knowledge of parenting and child development.

### POLICY GOALS:

- Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including home visiting and parent education, to optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- Strengthen the social safety net to build family resiliency and promote self-sufficiency.
- Support community hubs for integrated services and crisis supports for children and families.
- Support parent engagement on child brain development, including *Talk. Read. Sing.*®

## COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



### VISION:

Build a family-centered health system that prioritizes prevention.

### POLICY GOALS:

- Increase coordination across systems of care to connect young children to screening and early intervention, including through the expansion of **Help Me Grow**.
- Increase use of essential Medi-Cal services, especially dental, mental health, and vision services.
- Ensure all pregnant mothers and children ages 0-5 have affordable and comprehensive health insurance.
- Expand availability and geographic spread of health care providers and professionals.

## QUALITY EARLY LEARNING



### VISION:

Ensure children are healthy and have the social-emotional and cognitive skills to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

### POLICY GOALS:

- Increase supply of high-quality early learning programs for children 0-5.
- Embed high-quality standards in all state-funded early learning programs and support state and local efforts to meet them.
- Promote affordability of early learning programs, while ensuring fair workforce compensation.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALE



### VISION:

Fulfill the voter-approved Proposition 10 mandate: *"To create a comprehensive and integrated delivery system of information and services to promote early childhood development."*

### POLICY GOALS:

- Explore and advance alternative revenue sources for children's services.
- Improve and integrate county data systems to track and evaluate children's outcomes.
- Regulate tobacco products.
- Mitigate public health risks that widely affect children's health and wellbeing.



## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING: STAYING ON TRACK



### When it comes to early identification and intervention, California is failing its kids.

Less than 30% of California's young children are properly screened for developmental delays. In fact, 70% of kids with delays aren't detected until kindergarten—when the window of the most robust brain development is rapidly closing. Conversely, when developmental delays are identified early, interventions are less expensive, more effective, and yield greater long-term outcomes.

Even when a delay is identified, families struggle to navigate California's complex early intervention system. Incomplete lists of resources, long delays to access services, and the "wait and see" approach leave too many kids without the timely support they need. First 5's Help Me Grow California strengthens ties between families, health providers, early educators, and social service partners, so kids are screened and referred to services quickly. Help Me Grow systems are being developed across California.



**90%**  
of a child's brain development happens before age 5



**1 in 4**  
children ages 0-5 are at risk for delay



Only **28.5%**  
of children receive timely developmental screenings



Every year, **12,000**  
three-year-olds are missing from CA's special education system

**First 5 is co-sponsoring AB 11**, which would ensure kids enrolled in Medi-Cal are **screened three times before age 3, using a validated screening tool** as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Early intervention supports children, reduces special education costs in K-12, and leads to better outcomes for kids.**

### What Happens in the First 5 Years Affects Us All

**A child's experience**

Access to well-coordinated screenings and care



**shapes the adult**

Healthier habits, healthier lives



**and the rest of society**

Healthier population, savings on social and medical costs



## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING UP CLOSE: JESSICA AND NINA'S STORIES



*"I love First 5; they are the second set of eyes for your kids."*

### Jessica

#### FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA

When Jessica's three-year-old son Connor stopped talking following a surgery, her pediatrician and relatives told her not to worry. But staff at the Delta First 5 Center took her concerns seriously, and offered a developmental screening. The results showed Connor was significantly delayed in his social skills, and staff immediately referred him for a more extensive developmental assessment. Soon after, Connor was diagnosed with autism.

Connor was enrolled in a specialized preschool program right away, and was talking again after four weeks. Three years later, he graduated from kindergarten. "My son would not have been diagnosed as early if not for First 5," Jessica says, "I love First 5; they are the second set of eyes for your kids."

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*Nina has begun the process of adopting her nephew Joaquin, whom she has fostered since infancy.*

### Nina

#### FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO

Joaquin was 16 months old, and his aunt Nina had been fostering him since infancy. She was concerned for him because he cried a great deal, which also caused Nina's five-year-old daughter distress. A WIC employee suggested Nina have Joaquin screened for developmental delays, and referred her to a First 5 Sacramento-funded program which provides developmental screenings and referrals for services as part of the Help Me Grow network.

An advocate screened Joaquin, which led to a formal evaluation at the regional center. Joaquin now receives weekly services to improve his gross motor skills and communication, and will soon receive Early Head Start services. The regional center taught Nina skills to help Joaquin communicate, which has led to a decrease in his crying. Nina also learned skills to help her daughter understand special needs. Nina has begun the process of adopting Joaquin, and is attending a weekly class that supports families who foster or adopt kin.



# EARLY IDENTIFICATION MATTERS



**1/4** children aged 0-5 are at risk for delay



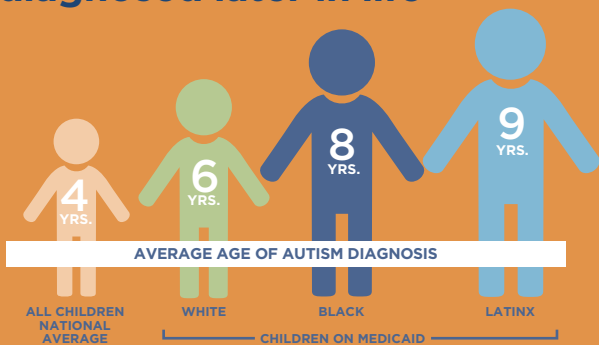
CALIFORNIA RANKS **30th** for screening infants and toddlers

Only **28.5%** of children receive timely developmental screenings

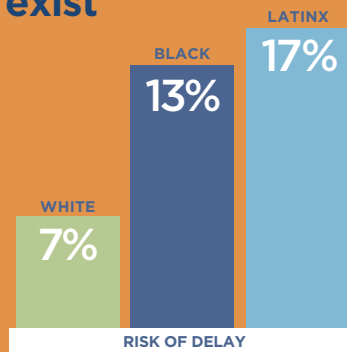


of children with delays go undetected until Kindergarten

**Low-income children are diagnosed later in life**



**Racial disparities exist**



**Every year,**

**12,000**

three-year-olds are missing from CA's special education system



**ABUSE, NEGLECT, POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS:** all contribute to a child's risk of developmental delay **47%** of California's children are living in or near poverty

## California's Children **deserve to succeed**

### THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS



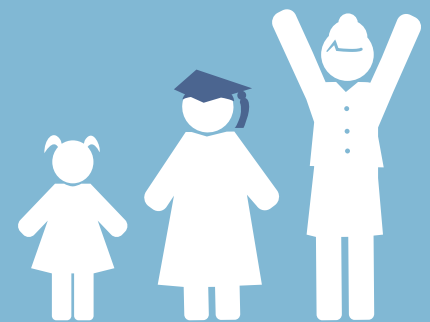
**Timely Screening**

THREE SCREENINGS BEFORE THIRD BIRTHDAY



**Early Intervention**

INFORMATION, LINKAGE, REFERRAL AND SUPPORT



**Successful Outcomes**

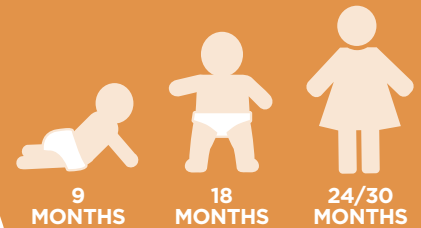
KINDERGARTEN READY TO INDEPENDENT ADULT

# Help Me Grow Supports Success for **All Children** by:

Helping families and professionals **navigate** resources and referrals through a **centralized** system

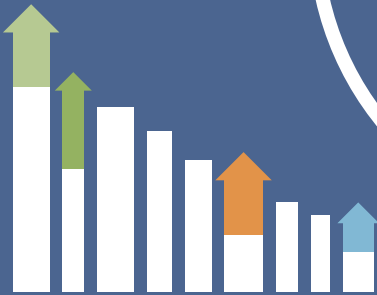


Ensuring ALL children with developmental delays are **identified** and **linked** to appropriate resources



**HELP ME GROW**  
UNITES A COMMUNITY  
AROUND ITS  
CHILDREN

**Collecting** and **evaluating data** to improve systems that support young children and their families



Providing **outreach** and **education** about available community resources



California must invest in **First 5's Help Me Grow** system to ensure all children reach their greatest potential.

### ***Proposal Narrative***

The goal of the Help Me Grow (HMG) CA Network, supported by the First 5 Association, is to transform the state's early identification and intervention systems through successful statewide coordination of community- and county-level resources and systems. HMG systems actively promote universal developmental screening practices so that every child with a concern is identified as early as possible and linked to the appropriate intervention to best meet their needs. In order to bolster this work, HMG provides a local, centralized access point to:

- Obtain information on child development;
- Assist providers and families with care coordination and resource and referral navigation to appropriate interventions that best meet family needs; and
- Provide warm hand-offs and follow-ups to ensure families are in fact connected with appropriate care.

Organized outreach and messaging increases awareness of the HMG system and ensures comprehensive understanding of available interventions. Ongoing data collection and analysis help identify gaps in services to promote system enhancement.

Starting with just three First 5 Commissions in 2011, First 5 Association has been working to replicate the HMG system across California counties and to establish HMG as an integral component of California's early identification and intervention efforts, ensuring our children have the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential.

### ***The Problem***

California's current early identification and intervention system is failing children by not identifying developmental and social-emotional concerns early enough to provide timely intervention. Even when a delay is identified, families and providers struggle to navigate our complex early intervention system. HMG strengthens ties between families, healthcare, early education, and social service partners by filling existing system gaps and providing the necessary assistance, care coordination, and feedback to ensure a child achieves their greatest potential. But more needs to be done to bring the HMG system to scale and maximize its effectiveness.

### ***Expanding HMG***

A state-level infrastructure is critical to support the expansion and sustainability of local HMG systems. As systems continue to emerge and develop in counties, the demand on HMG CA continues to increase. First 5 Association is actively seeking additional financial resources to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet the varying county-level needs, as well as to maintain state-level promotion of HMG as California's best solution for a *comprehensive and accessible* early identification and intervention system. We see our state-level HMG expansion best served through:

1. Support of a viable HMG CA infrastructure that is able to meet the growing and varying needs of the expanding system; and
2. Improvements and integration of the early identification and interventions across state systems of care.

The HMG CA network would benefit from state-level initiatives that would enhance and optimize overall efficiencies and impact in these three areas:

#### Network Infrastructure Support

- A statewide licensing agreement with Brookes Publishing to make screening tools more accessible and to maximize efficiencies.
- Technology to automate developmental screening, enable cross-system data sharing, to improve coordination and collaboration and better understand the unmet need.
- Comprehensive media campaigns and messaging strategies to ensure parents, providers, and community members are well-versed in HMG and know how to connect with the centralized access point.
- Accessible, shareable warehouse of resources and materials across systems to improve brand recognition and to ensure common language and messaging about brain development, developmental milestones, developmental screening, and school readiness.
- Communications platform to share, build, spread, and modify successful system innovations to other counties and states.

#### System Expansion and Development

- Planning grants to fill gaps or enhance existing system to ensure comprehensive system implementation.
- Incentives to pilot and share innovations around overall system improvement and integration.
- Grants to encourage regional systems, where necessary, to ensure cross-county and potentially cross-state sharing of resources.

#### Policy and Advocacy

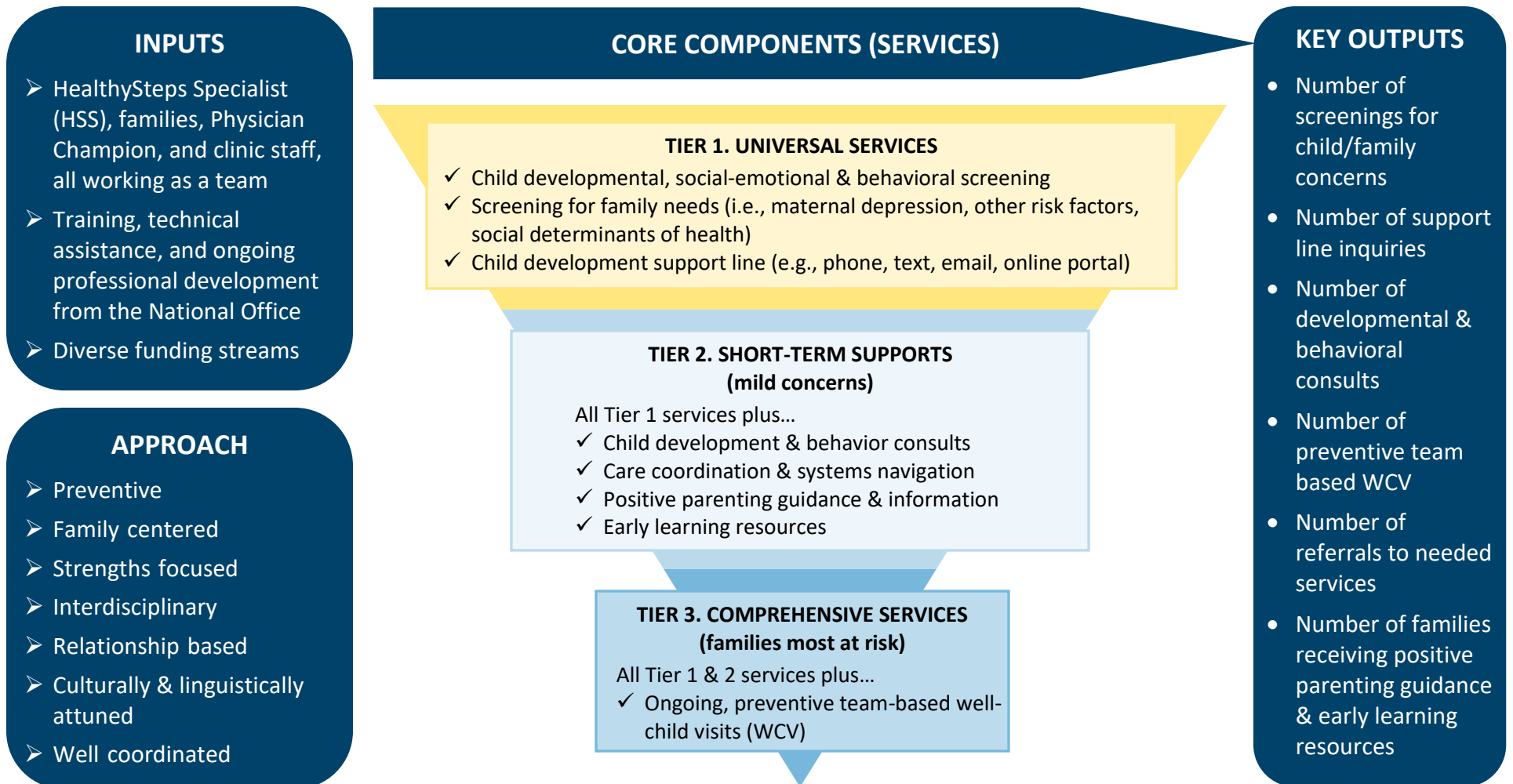
- Support early identification and intervention systems-improvement campaigns, including the promotion and adoption of best practices from successful system models.
- Care coordination and system-mapping to identify pathways of resource and referral and develop a more streamlined process for ensuring children have access to high-quality and appropriate services earlier.
- Support for long-term sustainability efforts including EPSDT, Medicaid leveraging (TCM/MAA), MHSAs.
- Identify state-level systems integration opportunities.



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## HealthySteps Logic Model

HealthySteps transforms the promise of pediatric care to improve the health and well-being of babies and young children so that they thrive in school and life. We set the standard by integrating a child development specialist into the primary care team to promote healthy relationships, foster positive parenting, strengthen early social and emotional development, and ensure access to services that address both child and family needs, with a particular emphasis on families living in low-income communities.





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## HealthySteps Logic Model

HealthySteps positively affects both children and their families. Many of the outcomes listed below were demonstrated in a large national evaluation, whereas others were indicated in local evaluations or other published research. The National Office continues to assess and refine our understanding of the model's outcomes today. To learn more, visit [HealthySteps.org](https://www.healthysteps.org).

