



## First 5 County Emergency Stabilization Fund

Submitted May 15, 2024

### Proposal:

1. First 5 California (F5CA) creates a \$25 million emergency stabilization fund for First 5 County Commissions that need immediate support to maintain critical local services and infrastructure
2. F5CA works with the First 5 Association to codesign the application criteria and process for the fund that considers local contexts and needs, urgency for funding support, and reporting requirements

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### Background:

Due to recent economic conditions including the drastic reductions in Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenue, county First 5 Commissions have been, and will continue to, make hard choices in continuing community services for California’s children and families. Over the last two fiscal years alone, First 5 counties have experienced a \$68.3 million reduction in revenue. As a result, 60 percent of county First 5s, representing 90 percent of California’s 0-5 population, report that their communities will experience cuts to direct services and programs serving 0-5 children, their families, and providers this year and next year. Examples include:

- *Closing or reducing operations of Family Resource Centers*
- *Ending parent support programs serving local Latine families*
- *Ending support for Social-Emotional Development coaches and consultation in early learning settings*
- *Ending investments in Triple P – Positive Parenting Program*
- *Reducing investments in child care facilities*
- *Ending or reducing Infant Early Childhood Mental Health services (IECMH).*
- *Ending or reducing home visiting services*
- *Ending investments in 211 referral services*
- *Laying off First 5 County and other local nonprofit staff*
- *Inability to leverage Proposition 10 funding with other grants and funding sources*

### Activities by First 5 Association and First 5 Counties to Address Reductions:

1. Requested a funding allocation from First 5 California at January 25, 2024 Commission Meeting and via March 14, 2024 follow-up letter to Commission (attached).
2. Supporting a one-time \$100 million state budget investment for local First 5 counties.
3. Communicating with legislators to raise awareness of the challenges facing county First 5s
4. Ongoing conversations with CHHS’s Secretary Ghaly and staff around potential state program alignment and local implementation of aligned programs.
5. Sponsoring AB 2982 to create a statewide working group that establishes evidence-based and community-informed recommendations for a comprehensive, equity-focused prenatal-to-three system – including the First 5 Network and the role it should play in a prenatal-to-three system.

### Proposed timeline for Emergency Stabilization Fund:

- June – August: F5CA and First 5 Association staff codesign a draft criteria and process for the emergency stabilization fund. F5CA staff identify funding source(s).
- October 24, 2024: F5CA Commission considers necessary funding and/or process approvals for the emergency stabilization fund
- November 2024: First 5 counties submit applications to F5CA for emergency stabilization funds
- By January 31, 2025: Stabilization funds are released to First 5 counties

