# Item 8 – Public Relations Campaign

Commission Mtg August 22, 2024





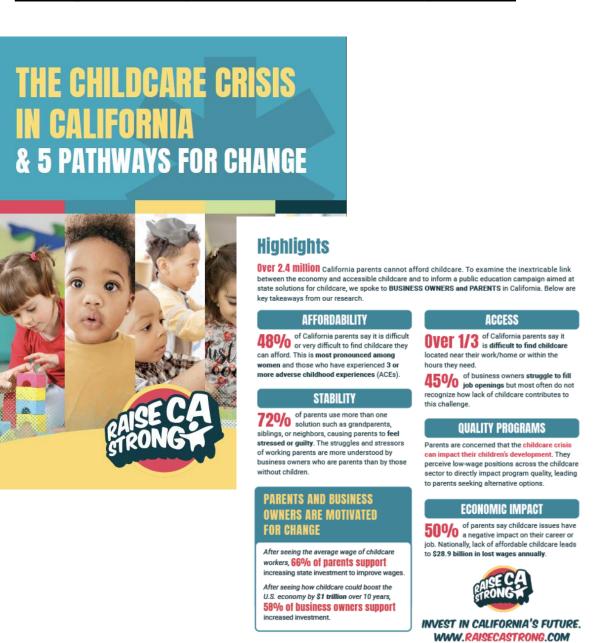
# **Snapshot of Progress to Date from Current PR Contract**



### Raise CA Strong

Build a movement to increase urgency to solve California's childcare crisis and improve how childcare works for families and businesses throughout CA through long-game investment in public education, PR, advocacy, and will-building.

#### **Insights Report & Advocacy Tool**



### **Partner Messaging Toolkit**



#### **Educational Website**



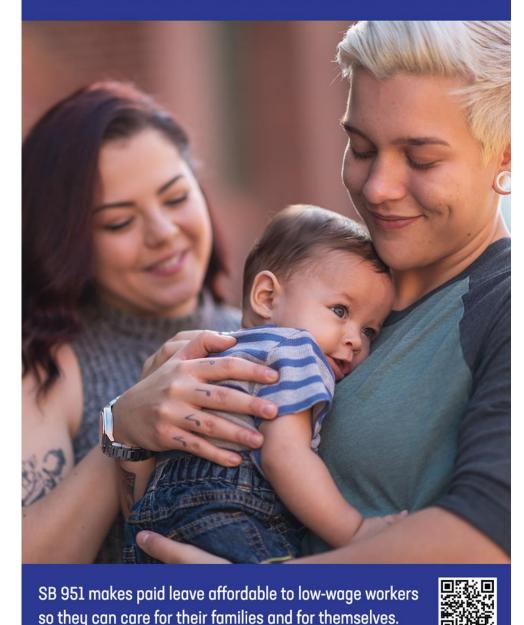




### **Paid Family Leave**

### STRONG LEAVE -STRONG FAMILIES

SB 951: Paid Leave for All



Using PR and media to uplift F5CA's policy agenda.

- **Goal**: Awareness around paid family leave to leverage support from the Legislature and Governor.
- **Tactics**: Geotargeting, Digital ad buys, print posters, social media, partner toolkits, issue briefs, coalition letter, educational website.
- Media Results: Ad Clicks: 7,594, Impressions: 584,051
- Outcome: SB 951 (Durazo) was signed on September 30, 2022— the final day for the Governor to act.

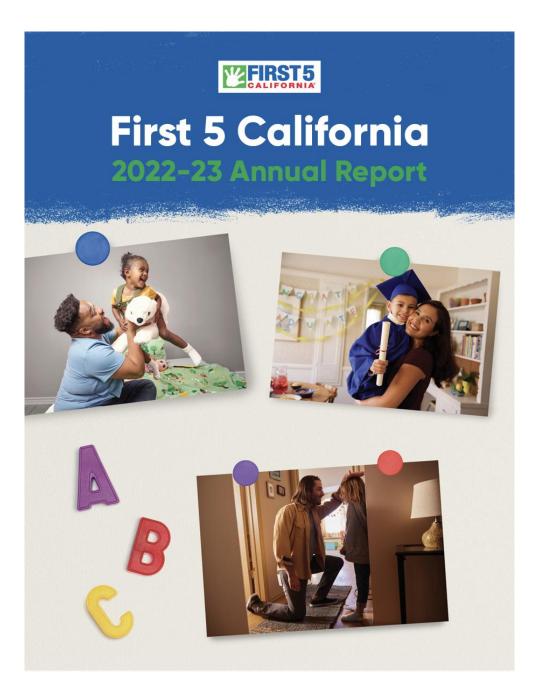




### **Brand Level Asset Creation**

Establishing consistent branding and messaging in how we communicate to partners and stakeholders.

### **Annual Reports**



#### **Organization Fact Sheets**



#### **Brand Guidelines**



### Uplifting F5CA's Profile

Through the use of a monthly e-newsletter, public radio airtime and article placements, First 5 California is securing its place as a key influencer in the early learning space as a resource for families.

#### **Monthly Newsletter**



We're passionately collaborating with leaders statewide to empower our partners, parents, and caregivers with the support they need to create a better future for all our children.



First 5 California Summit

I can hardly wait to meet many of you at First 5 California's biennial Child Health, Education, and Care Summit at the Oakland Marriott City Center on March 25-27, 2024. The Summit, celebrating its 25th anniversary, provides the ideal

#### Dragon So Stronge

#### **Reports to Date:**

- March 2024
- April 2024
- May 2024
- June 2024



Welcome Commissioner

#### Stronger Starts Campaign Updates

We're proud to share highlights from our ongoing Stronger Starts campaign, including our most recent collaboration with Doggyland for a remix of our Dragon Song.

#### **Stronger Starts News Coverage**

In collaboration with First 5 Kern County, we received coverage of our Stronger Starts campaign by ABC 23 News Bakersfield. We were pleased with the in-depth report by reporter Ruby Rivera and thank First 5 Kern for their partnership on Stronger Starts.

See Full News Coverage

Check out some of our recent event activations focused on creating a brighter future fo all Californians.

- 3/10: Sacramento Kings Slamson's Birthday, Sacramento County
- 3/16-3/17: Central Valley Sportsman's Boat and RV Show, Kern County
- 3/17: Stockton Kings Dunkson's Birthday, San Joaquin County
- 3/30: Bunny Hop, Los Angeles County
- 3/30: Charles M. Schulz Museum, Sonoma County

#### **Public Radio**



#### First 5 California



A little over two decades ago, California voters approved a proposition to benefit the state's children. In 1998, Prop 10 added a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes, and that money went to the creation of a California Children and Families Commission - more commonly known as First 5 California, which helps children from the womb through age 5 - including parents and caregivers. The person leading this state commission is also charting a new path. Executive Director Jackie Thu-Huong Wong is the first woman of color to lead the commission. Jackie explains how her childhood as a refugee following the fall of Saigon shapes her work today.

Jackie Wong discusses First 5 California during AAPI Heritage Month (May 30, 2024).

#### **Article Placements**

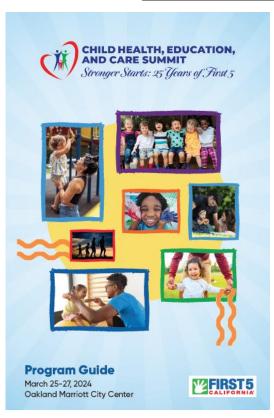


- Los Angeles Sentinel
- LAist
- Bold Journey
- Authority Magazine

### Advancing the ACEs Conversation

Through hosting and participating in convenings, meetings and summits, First 5 California continues to advance the national conversation about adverse childhood experiences and how we can work to ensure all children and families have the resources to prevent and buffer against toxic stress.

### **Summit Support**



25th Anniversary Video Production

**Summit Program Layout** 

Summit Signage

Summit Social Media Coverage

Summit Staff Support

Awards Reception Planning

Awards Reception Production & ROS

**Awards Reception Sponsorships** 

Manage Event Photographer

Manage Event Subcontractor

# Meeting with VP Harris Staff at White House

June 2024



### Federal Reserve Bank Early Childhood Design Group

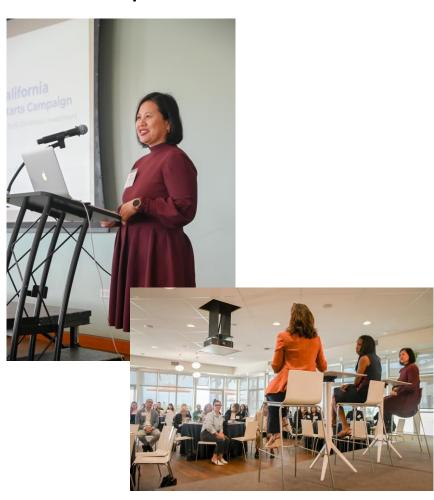
May 2024



The day included workshops, conversations, panels, and brainstorming, after which we collectively aligned on some big ideas to improve the future of health for our kids nationwide.

### **ECE Funders Convening**

April 2024



Before a room of philanthropic leaders and community-based organizations, our panel unpacked ways the state can reduce ACEs and toxic stress in children through local programs and healthcare.

### **Building Team & Organizational**

### **Staff and Commissioner Media Trainings**

**Goal:** Achieve PR coverage for campaigns and the organization by ensuring Commissioners and appropriate staff are strategically trained to speak with media on First 5 California topics and media campaigns.

### **Commissioner Trainings:**

Former Chair Giannina Perez

Vice Chair Shana Hazan

Commissioner Vivian Paz

Commissioner Elsa Jimenez

Collaborator Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

Chair, Katie Albright

### **Staff Trainings:**

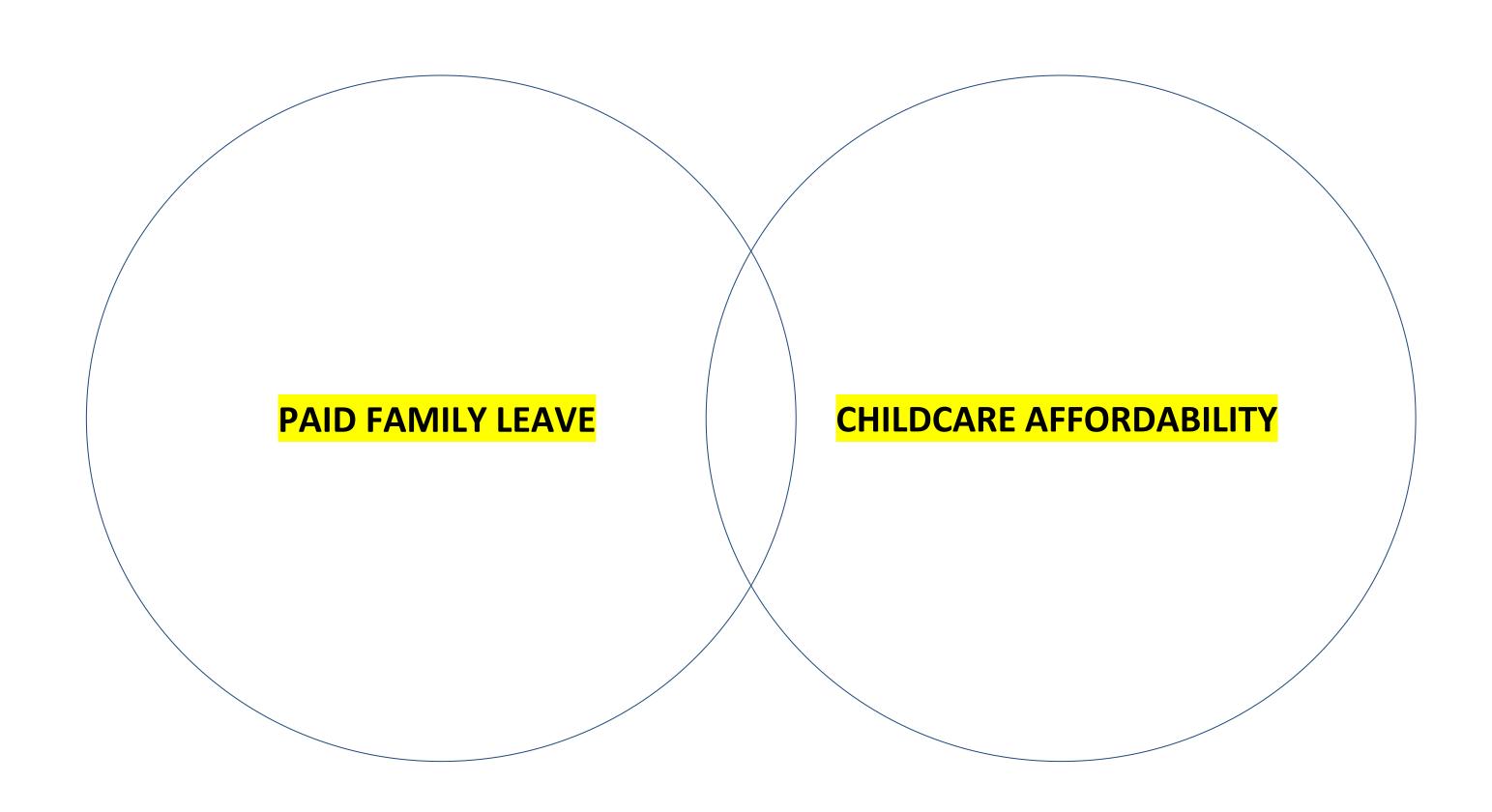
Jackie Wong

All Departments Media Training (included all F5CA staff)



### Recommendation for Public Relations Contract

### **Past Success = Future Focus**



### Communications Overview - PR and Media

### PR Campaigns For Stakeholders

Will-Building, Influence & Public Opinion

Organization-Level Communications F5CA Brand

Elevate awareness, visibility, and expand support



### Media Campaigns For Caregivers

Public Education & Parenting Resources

Topic-Based Campaigns (i.e. toxic stress)
Stronger Starts Brand

Engage caregivers to change knowledge, attitude, beliefs, and behaviors



### **Executive Summary**

Overview of the proposed funding request for an upcoming PR contract to enhance strategic communications and support early childhood development initiatives statewide. This initiative is critical to advance our strategic communications and public relations efforts, distinct from our media campaigns, to bolster our statewide influence and support for early childhood development.

- Proposed Budget for Commission Approval: Up to \$4,000,000.00
- Contract Term Length: 36 Months
- Justifications: (1) Traditionally: 1M for PR (ex. Paid Family Leave), (2) Childcare
   Affordability challenges and solutions require longer term commitment/campaign

   (3) Traditionally: Campaigns are a long-term commitment

### **Background and Rationale**

### Explanation of previous combined contracts and the necessity for distinct media and PR contracts to improve clarity and effectiveness

- Historically, F5CA has separated media and PR campaigns into separate contracts; however, for the most recent contract, these efforts were combined into a single contract for the first time. This structure provided operational flexibility during a critical period of strategic transitions under the new North Star direction.
- However, this amalgamation also led to challenges in distinguishing the specific roles and impacts of media versus PR activities. These challenges as well as the more established condition of F5CA's current media and PR operations have underscored the necessity for reverting back to separate contracts to enhance clarity and effectiveness. As such, the detailed recommendation that follows is designed to provide clarity on the purpose of the PR contract while also seeking Commission approval to authorize funds for the PR contract solicitation.

### Program Description, Goals & Focus

**Program Description -** Statewide public relations and strategic communications strategy that build upon the current and future work of F5CA including F5CA programs and evaluations, public relations media campaigns, scientific findings, government relationships, stakeholder partnerships, and other accomplishments.

**Program Goal -** The goal of F5CA's PR campaign(s) is to elevate awareness of F5CA brand, positions, and achievements as a source of influence to advance the North Star through systems change, policy change, will-building campaigns, and public opinion change.

**Program Focus** - Enhance access to early childhood environments for children from birth to five years old, supporting their development and enabling parents to participate in the workforce.

### Program Focus

### The Childcare Crisis in California & 5 Pathways for Change (Report Exective Summary):

The "Childcare Crisis in California & 5 Pathways for Change" report delves into the critical state of childcare in California, identifying key challenges and proposing actionable solutions. The aim is to enhance access to early learning environments for children from birth to five years old, supporting their development and enabling parents to participate in the workforce.

### **Key Challenges Identified:**

- Affordability: Over 2.4 million California parents struggle to afford childcare, with significant impacts on women and those with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
- Access: Over one-third of the parents find it difficult to locate childcare near their home or workplace.
- Stability: 72% of parents rely on multiple childcare solutions, leading to stress and instability.
- Quality Programs: There are concerns about how low wages in the childcare sector affect the quality of programs available.
- Economic Impact: Childcare issues negatively impact parents' careers and contribute to significant economic losses.

### Program Focus

### **5 Pathways for Change:**

- Affordability: Implement measures to make childcare more affordable for all families.
- Access: Increase the availability of childcare options that are conveniently located and meet the needs of working parents.
- Stability: Create stable and reliable childcare solutions to reduce stress on families.
- Quality Programs: Improve the quality of childcare programs by addressing wage issues and supporting professional development.
- **Economic Impact:** Recognize and address the broader economic implications of childcare challenges, advocating for increased investment.
- Research Methodology The research presented here is a testament to our collective resolve to improving access to childcare in California for families. By highlighting the five pathways for change—affordability, access, stability, quality programs, and economic impact—we not only address the immediate needs of our families but also lay the groundwork for long-term societal and economic benefits. The launch of the RAISE CA STRONG website, social media, and comprehensive communications toolkit for our partners underscores our commitment to fostering a statewide conversation and action towards a more inclusive, equitable, mixed-delivery childcare system.

### Program Focus

### **Call to Action:**

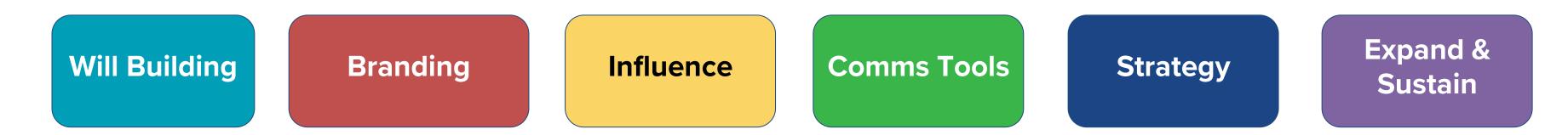
- Our ambition with this report is twofold: to catalyze systemic change and to empower every stakeholder
  within the early childhood education ecosystem to become a champion of this cause. The urgency of the
  childcare crisis in California demands bold, decisive action, and it is my hope that the insights garnered
  through our research will inspire policymakers, business leaders, and communities alike to rally behind the
  transformative potential of high-quality early learning environments for our children.
- This change should not be the burden of the parents and providers who face an under-resourced, fractured system each day, but it's the responsibility of every employer, every county, every business organization, and every citizen in the state who ultimately benefits from a system that educates our future generations while granting parents and caregivers the support and security they need to contribute to the economy as well.

### **Conclusion:**

Addressing the childcare crisis requires bold and decisive action. By following the proposed pathways, California can ensure that its youngest residents receive high-quality early education and that parents can contribute to the economy effectively. The report calls on every stakeholder to champion this cause and work towards a brighter future for all children and families in the state.

### Purpose and Strategy

**Strategy:** F5CA's PR campaign(s) will advance the North Star and Audacious goal by building influence, expanding support, increasing visibility and changing public opinion.



#### The purpose of F5CA's PR campaign(s) is to fulfill the following six areas of work:

- **1. Will-Building**: Advance public will-building campaigns and increase public and policy-maker support for F5CA priorities that benefit caregivers as well as other early childhood partner organizations.
- 2. Branding: Build the F5CA brand including content support across all brand assets and informational resources.
- **3. Influence**: Influence policy-makers and the public through media coverage, public appearances, recognition, publications, and special PR initiatives.
- 4. Communications Tools: Develop internal and external communication tools and equip stakeholders to advance the mission together.
- **5. Strategy**: Provide strategic communications support and consultation to F5CA staff and Commissioners for message development, advocacy, priority setting, spokesperson training, and other ongoing public relations activities.
- **6. Expand and Sustain**: Support organizational sustainability and mission continuity through expanded realms of influence, strengthening strategic partnerships, increasing visibility, deepening commitment to other early childhood partners, and identifying new funding sources including public-private partnerships over common purpose for California's children and families.

### Strategic Importance and Value-Add of PR

#### PR operations add tremendous value to F5CA in the following ways:

Strategic Relationship Building

**Professionalism** 

**Crisis Management** 

Feedback Loop **Enhanced Visibility** 

Cost Effectiveness

- 1. Strategic Relationship Building: PR helps to cultivate and maintain key relationships with influential stakeholders, including policymakers, educational leaders, and community organizations. These relationships are essential for advocacy and can aid in securing support, funding, and new opportunities for First 5 California's programs.
- 2. Professionalism: Expert PR support elevates the work of F5CA through enhanced branding, team training, improved internal and external communications tools, and experienced organization-level messaging consultation.
- 3. Crisis Management: In times of crisis or when facing public scrutiny, a dedicated PR team can manage the narrative, mitigate negative impacts, and communicate effectively with the public and stakeholders.
- **4. Feedback Loop**: PR provides a crucial channel for feedback from stakeholders and the public. This feedback is vital for shaping current and future programs and for demonstrating accountability and responsiveness.
- **5. Enhanced Visibility**: Through PR, First 5 California can gain placements in news articles, interviews, and public speaking opportunities that are not possible through traditional media campaigns alone. These opportunities are crucial for thought leadership and for influencing public and professional discourse on early childhood topics.
- **6. Cost-Effectiveness**: While media campaigns require significant funding for media buys, PR relies more on the expertise of skilled professionals to engage with media outlets and stakeholders, often resulting in lower overall costs for similar or enhanced reputation and relationship outcomes. However, it's important to note, that many PR initiatives and special projects related to the proposed PR campaign(s) do often benefit from paid media investments; albeit, these are smaller media budgets than the larger statewide caregiver-focused media campaign.

### Communications Overview - PR and Media

### PR Campaigns For Stakeholders

Will-Building, Influence & Public Opinion

Organization-Level Communications F5CA Brand

Elevate awareness, visibility, and expand support



### Media Campaigns For Caregivers

Public Education & Parenting Resources

Topic-Based Campaigns (i.e. toxic stress)
Stronger Starts Brand

Engage caregivers to change knowledge, attitude, beliefs, and behaviors



### Media Contract vs PR Contract

While both media campaigns and PR efforts aim to communicate important messages to the public, their approaches and outcomes are fundamentally different:

- ➤ **Media Campaigns** are primarily advertising efforts focused on wide-reaching communication through media channels. They are designed to inform and engage the general public on a broad scale, using paid placements to ensure visibility. In the context of F5CA's efforts, this means leveraging a significant investment in paid media resources to reach and engage caregivers with valuable education and resources.
- ➤ **Public Relations (PR)**, on the other hand, involves strategic communication processes that build mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their publics. PR is more about reputation management through earning public understanding and support. It involves engaging with the media, stakeholders, and community leaders to foster a positive image and proactive advocacy for First 5 California's initiatives.

### **Overview Comparison of Contracts**

|          | Public Relations Contract   | Media Contract  |
|----------|---|---|
|          | Mission-based, organization-level Strategic Communications  | Caregiver-focused Public Education Paid Media Campaigns   |
| Audience | F5CA Stakeholders: Commissioners, Partners, Press, Policymakers, Staff, Administration Leaders, Providers, Broader Public   | Parents and Caregivers: who have Children 0-5 in California, with focus on F5CA's equity-based priority populations   |
| Goal     | Elevate awareness of F5CA brand, positions, and achievements as a source of influence to advance the North Star through systems change, policy change, will-building campaigns, and public opinion change.  | Engage parents and caregivers with education and resources that spark changes in knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors as it relates to an understanding of toxic stress and providing SSNREs to children 0-5.  |
| Purpose  | <ol> <li>Advance will-building campaigns</li> <li>Build the F5CA brand</li> <li>Influence the public and policy-makers</li> <li>Develop communications tools</li> <li>Provide strategic communications to leadership</li> <li>Support organizational sustainability and mission continuity</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Develop and implement campaigns to support the north star and audacious goal</li> <li>Meaningfully engage caregivers with innovative, targeted media tactics</li> <li>Advance the science of ACEs &amp; Toxic Stress as it relates to caregiver communications</li> <li>Evaluate, optimize, and refine campaigns for impact</li> </ol> |

### Scope of Work Overview

#### 1. Strategic Communications

- a. Messaging Development
- b. Thought Leadership
- c. Annual Strategic Communications Plan
- d. Quarterly Strategic Alignment Workshops
- e. Weekly Strategic Counsel & Consultation

#### 2. Branding

- a. Brand & Logo Guidelines
- b. Branded Collateral
- c. State Website Content

#### 3. PR Activations

- a. Statewide Days of Action
- b. Book Reading Days Dia de Los Libros

#### 4. Media Relations

- a. Media Monitoring
- b. Press Materials
- c. Press Events
- d. Spokesperson Training
- e. Pitching and Outreach
- f. Storytelling
- g. Crisis Management (ex. COVID pandemic)

#### 5. Partner Communications

- a. Email System and List Management
- b. Executive Director Newsletter
- c. Annual Report
- d. Collaboration with the First 5 Association
- e. Technical Assistance to First 5 County Commissions
- f. Awards
- g. Summit Content Support

#### 6. Internal Communications

- a. PEO Committee and Commission Communications Support
- b. Team Trainings
- c. Monthly Internal Email Updates
- d. Leadership Consultations for Internal Communications

#### 7. Program Focus of PR Projects

a. Whole Child Campaigns - Raising CA Strong

### Request

#### Conclusion

➤ A dedicated PR contract will significantly enhance F5CA's ability to strategically manage its communications and public relations efforts, distinct from the broader advertising goals of media campaigns. This separation will clarify roles, streamline activities, and optimize the impact of each campaign, ensuring that F5CA continues to lead in advocating for the health and development of California's children.

#### **Call to Action**

➤ We request the Commission's approval for the proposed funding to ensure that F5CA can continue its vital work under the new strategic framework, effectively supporting California's children and families through enhanced public relations efforts. This funding will equip F5CA to more effectively advance its audacious goals and fulfill its mission in the generation to come.

#### **Next Steps**

> Commission approval F5CA staff will begin work on the PR solicitation and the solicitation process.

# Questions?





## Thank you!

