



October 30, 2024

INFORMATION ACTION

SUBJECT: SMALL POPULATION COUNTY STABILIZATION FUNDING

Strategic Plan Priority Areas: Child Health, Child Development, Family Functioning, and System Change

Goal: All children birth through age five have the safe, stable, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness and ability to thrive.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Since the implementation of Proposition 10 in fiscal year (FY) 1999–2000, the First 5 California (F5CA) Commission has authorized stabilization funding for eligible small population counties. With this stabilization funding, local First 5 county commissions have used funds for essential services for prenatal through age five populations. In January 2021, the F5CA Commission approved an investment of up to \$20 million over 4.25 years, beginning April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025. During this funding cycle, Mendocino was added as the 21st small population county grantee.

F5CA will provide an update on the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) implementation efforts and discuss the next iteration of stabilization funding, as overall funds decrease across all fund accounts.

SPCFA HISTORY

Twenty-one small population counties¹ have received stabilization funding to support county commission activities needed to fulfill the statutory requirements and for Proposition 10 to be a statewide effort that promotes, supports, and improves the early development of children ages 0–5. Eligibility for SPCFA is based on 1,000 or fewer annual births between FY 2017–18 and FY 2018–19. The funding formula will be re-examined for the next funding cycle along with additional funding criteria to ensure counties receive this funding necessary to stabilize their First 5 programs locally and to help build local county capacity for long-term sustainability. This will be known as the Small Population County Stabilization program.

Small population counties are aligning local priorities with Quality Counts California, Help Me Grow, and other statewide efforts. In 2020, Child Trends summarized challenges and accomplishments of small population counties in a report titled [Small Population County Funding Augmentation: County Experiences](http://www.cafc.ca.gov/partners/investments.html), available at (<http://www.cafc.ca.gov/partners/investments.html>).

Equity and Impact Evaluation

Small Population County Stabilization aims to provide funding for equity, suitability, and capacity building for children and families in small population counties to receive essential services and resources. Small counties play an essential role in funding basic services where none existed before, and overcoming geographic, technological, and resource barriers to help families access necessary services. Small population counties play a crucial role as effective conveners with the ability to bring partners to the table quickly to respond to issues effecting families with children ages birth through 5 years. Each small population county approaches their role differently depending on geography, political influences, staffing, and deep-rooted community and population factors.

UPDATE

It is the current practice of F5CA to collaborate with small population counties and related partners on the development of proposed funding and program requirements for Small Population County funding. Meetings were held in Fall and Winter 2023 to present time to provide quality improvement and technical assistance with FY 2024–25 efforts. Staff will continue to engage small counties through listening sessions and technical assistance through the end of 2024 to help inform the next funding cycle recommendation planned for the January 2025 Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

ⁱ Twenty-One Small Counties: Alpine; Amador; Calaveras; Colusa; Del Norte; Glenn; Inyo; Lake; Lassen; Mariposa; Mendocino; Modoc; Mono; Nevada; Plumas; San Benito; Sierra; Siskiyou; Tehama; Trinity; Tuolumne.