



Executive Director Report – May 23, 2024

This report provides programmatic and administrative updates about key activities First 5 California (F5CA) staff have engaged in since the January 25, 2024, Commission Meeting. Program updates include relevant highlights, rather than a summary of all staff work, and are framed by the [Strategic Priority Areas](#) and [Theory of Change System Levers](#).

Please note: Items that will be presented as Action or Information Items during the May 23, 2024, Commission Meeting will not be included in the report below.

Research

Priority Area: Child Development, Child Health, Family Support

Lever: Catalyst, Convener

California Health Interview Survey (CHIS): A quarterly contract meeting was held in April and the most recent quarterly report was delivered on time and approved. Outlines of two research memos – behavioral health and childcare – also were received and approved in April for data information and potential policy advocacy. Staff are working with the CHIS team to revise the child questionnaire for future survey cycles.

Program

Priority Area: Child Development, Child Health, Family Support

Lever: Catalyst, Convener

Refugee Family Support (RFS)

- Between September 1, 2022, and August 31, 2023, the RFS grantees served 1088 families. Included are 3,602 individuals. Of those, 1648 are children ages 0 – 5 years, and 112 pregnant women. Refugees served are from 18 different countries and speak 12 different home languages. Seventy-seven percent of the families served are from Afghanistan, followed by 11% from Haiti, and 5% from Ukraine.
- Closeout Meeting: On April 17, First 5 California staff conducted the fourth and final RFS quarterly network meeting. Attendees included RFS grantees and their partners, the First 5 California RFS team, and staff from the California Department of Social Services Office of Immigrant Youth.

Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA)

- Updates on Process: First 5 California staff are working with the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) counties to extend the grant for an additional year into FY 2024–25, consistent with Commission funding approval.

IMPACT Legacy – As staff and grantees enter the fourth quarter of the first year of implementation, First 5 California staff are finalizing approval of Q3 invoices and have begun the process for budget revisions for fiscal year (FY) rollover from FY 2023–24 to 2024–25. Based on the Request For Application, IMPACT Legacy FY 2025–26 to 2026–27 is contingent on F5CA fund balances and is currently under consideration.

- WestEd IMPACT/QCC support contract – The deliverables are being concluded for this contract, including the release of quality training modules for professionals.
- Data landscape field research – study will take place in May/June with findings reported at the end of June.
- Building Equitable Early Learning Systems (BEELS) contract began and includes the start of focus groups and advisory groups built by local implementers to explore equity across California's early learning and care system. The BEELS contract includes support for F5CA in the development of our next strategic plan.

Shared Services Alliance (SSA) pilot will be sunsetting on June 30, 2024. The evaluation for the pilot has utilized a “real-time” approach that has allowed us to see the progress, strengths, and barriers throughout the pilot and provide ongoing TA. While final findings will not be available until the pilot has concluded some key trends to highlight for SSA include:

- 94% of ELC settings that participated across the 7 counties are Family Childcare Homes
- Nearly 80% of professional development and support provided focused on business and technology.
- Over 75% of trainings were delivered in Spanish
- 160 provider sites served, including nearly 1500 children
 - 100% women-owned businesses
 - Over 80% of the 1500 children are reported as MLL
- Of the 7 participating pilot counties all 7 have a plan for sustaining SSA in part or in full. Five of the seven have secured alternative funds for two or more years post-SSA pilot.

Home Visiting Coordination (HVC)

- Phase 1 HVC Survey results indicated HVC funding allowed for the expansion and strengthening of home visiting programs, leading to improved services for families impacted by COVID-19. Collaborative efforts resulted in shared visions, mission statements, and streamlined referral pathways among home visiting programs and family support services. The HVC funding supported the identification of target populations and strategies to engage and support them. The HVC funding facilitated the development of communication strategies, websites, and referral tools to improve awareness and access to home visiting services.
 - Phase two of the Home Visiting Coordination Grants focuses on regional coordination and has awarded 9 regions approximately \$14 million from July 2023 to June 2025. Reporting portal access is complete, and budget reviews and adjustments for the 2024–25 year are underway.

Kit for New Parents

- In FY 23–24, approximately 129,000 kits have been distributed. Build projections indicate sufficient products on hand to fulfill orders through the remainder of the contract, which expires on June 30, 2024.
- The current *Kit* contents show high parent satisfaction. Key considerations moving forward will include increased digital features, expanded age range, corresponding app, broader outreach, additional information on developmental milestones, and virtual training/curriculum to connect items in the *Kit* with action.
- A timeline is underway and a RFO is expected to be released in June 2024.

Personnel Update

Jorge De La Cruz has been hired as the next Deputy Director of the External and Governmental Affairs Office as of April 8, 2024. Jorge brings a wealth of expertise and dedication to the field of public service and governmental relations. With a diverse background spanning over a decade in strategic communications, government affairs, and community engagement, Jorge has consistently demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of Californians, particularly children and families.

First 5 California Commission Calendar

As requested by the Commission, the proposed Commission Calendar will help with the planning and cadence for each Commission meeting each year. Typically, the calendar will be brought forward in January of each year, but as the initial draft, it is being shared at the May meeting in this report for feedback.

January

- Review Annual Commission Calendar (*will review at May meeting in 2024*)
- Annual Report Adoption
- Vice Chair Election
- Advisory Committee Assignments
- Governor's Budget Financial Update
- Update on Governor's January Budget Proposal
- Annual Executive Director Evaluation (Closed Session)
- FPPC Training – Form 700 Filing

May

- Approval of Annual Report Guidelines
- Budget Study Session
- Update on Governor's May Revise

August

- Program Dashboard
- Financial Update
- Mid-Year Executive Director Evaluation (Closed Session)
- Evaluate Commission and Advisory Committee Meeting Cadence/Scope

October

- Program Review Continued
- Year End Financial Update
- Approve 2025 Commission Meeting Dates
- Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Training