

**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**April 20, 2022 – 3:00-5:00pm**  
**3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590**

Pursuant to the State of California Proclamation of a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic issued March 4, 2020 by Governor Newsom, and under the statutory requirements established by AB 361 (Open Meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences), **public access to the First 5 Solano Commission Meeting will be limited.**

Commissioners and public may attend via remote meeting using the following options:

**Join livestream via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5922775330>

**Join via Phone:**

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 592 277 5330

**Public Comments:**

Public Comment may be provided: During the meeting via the phone/computer audio when the Chair calls for Public Comment on an item; or submitting written public comments to First 5 Solano via email at [cfcsolano@solanocounty.com](mailto:cfcsolano@solanocounty.com) by 2:00pm on the day of the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**I. Public Comment**

**Information**

*This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.*

**II. Consent Calendar (5 min)**

**Action**

- A. Approve the April 20, 2022 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the [March 16, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. Adopt [Resolution 2022-05](#) authorizing remote teleconference meetings under the State of California Proclaimed State of Emergency issued March 4, 2020, and pursuant to AB 361 requirements, for a term of April 20, 2022 to May 20, 2022

**III. April Children's Month Resolutions (5 min)**

**Action**

Adopt resolutions recognizing [April 2022](#) as Children's Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month  
*Juanita Morales, Program Manager; Zoila Sanchez Child Abuse Prevention Council Coordinator*

**IV. Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Resolution (5 min)**

**Action**

Adopt a resolution recognizing May 6, 2022 as [Child Care Provider Appreciation Day](#)  
*Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager; Kathy Lago, Executive Director, Solano Family and Children's Services*

**V. Fairfield First 5 Center Allocation of Funding (10 min)**

**Action**

Consider an allocation of \$2 million to City of Fairfield toward construction of the North Texas Street Recreational Facility, future home to the [Fairfield First 5 Center](#) (Source of Funding: CA State Budget/First 5 California)  
*Michele Harris, Executive Director*

**VI. Policy and Oversight Committee (25 min)**

**Action**

Consider approving a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee of the following actions to provide funding for renovations to implement an [Early Learning Center \(ELC\)](#) in Vallejo:

- a. Increase the First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Approved Budget by \$2,130,000 to incorporate funding for the ELC renovations
- b. Allocate up to \$2,130,000 to Vallejo City Unified School District to execute the renovations (*Sources of \$4,000,000 total project funding: \$1,870,000 ARPA (held in separate budget unit); \$1,885,000 from First 5 Solano, \$230,000 from Child Start, Inc., \$30,000 from the Solano County Office of Education*)
- c. Obligate up to \$1,870,000 from reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending outstanding funding requests (*Source of Funding: First 5 Solano Reserve*)

*Megan Richards, Deputy Director*

**VII. Community Indicators of Child Well-Being and Dimensions of Equity (60 min)**

**Information/  
Discussion**

Review the Commission's data on common indicators of [child well-being and discuss areas of focus of equity](#)

*Michele Harris, Executive Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research*

**VIII. Executive Director's Report (10 min)**

**Information**

**IX. Commissioner Remarks (5 min)**

**X. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

**Information**

The next Commission meeting will be held on May 18, 2022 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Long-Term Financial Plan, First 5 CA Annual Report

**ADJOURN**

**Vision:** All Solano County children are healthy, eager to learn, and nurtured by strong families in safe and inclusive communities.

**Mission:** First 5 Solano is a catalyst that strategically advances innovative, prevention-focused approaches across systems that improve the lives of young children and their families.

*The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784-1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 3375 Sonoma Blvd Ste 30, Vallejo CA during normal business hours.*

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission  
Commission Meeting**

March 16, 2022, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

**Minutes**

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Chair Erin Hannigan, Vice Chair Tyffany Wanberg, Jennifer Barton, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Amy Fabi, Jerry Huber, Tiffanee Jones, Nimat Shakoor-Grantham, Marla Stuart

Chair Hannigan called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM

**I. Public Comment**

No public comment

**II. Consent Calendar**

***Motion:***

***A. Approve the March 16, 2022 Commission Meeting Agenda.***

***B. Approve the January 19, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes.***

***C. Adopt Resolution 2022-04 authorizing remote teleconference meetings under the State of California Proclaimed State of Emergency issued March 4, 2020 and pursuant to AB361 requirements, for a term of March 16, 2022 to April 16, 2022.***

***D. Approve the FY2022/23 Commission Meeting Schedule***

**Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Jones; Seconded by Commissioner Huber**

**Approved 9-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**III. First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget**

First 5 Solano Deputy Director Megan Richards presented the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Fiscal Year 2022/23 proposed budget. Deputy Director Richards explained the budget process, budget assumptions, and budget components. Total projected revenue for FY2022/23 is \$4,525,324, which is an increase of \$292,486 from FY2021/22. Ms. Richards advised that Proposition 10, the tobacco tax, has decreased over time but has remained stable in recent years. FY2022/23 projected expenditures increased, compared to FY2021/22, by \$1,053,852 and totals \$5,676,973. Deputy Director

Richards also explained the Systems Change Budget, which includes staffing and operations costs.

Deputy Director Richards proposed allocations to various entities, including Bay Area Community Resources (BACR), who runs the First 5 Center, Pre-Kindergarten Academy providers throughout Solano County, and Solano Shared Services Alliance Network, specifically Solano County Office of Education and Solano Family & Children's Services.

***Motion A: Consider approval of the First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Proposed Budget***

**First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget, Motion A moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Jones**

**Approved 9-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

***Motion B: Delegate authority to the Executive Director to incorporate additional grant funds in the FY2022/23 budget***

**First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget, Motion B moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg**

**Approved 9-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

***Motion C: Consider approval of an allocation of \$620,700 to Bay Area Community Resources for the Vallejo First 5 Center for FY2022/23 (Source of funds: 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan and Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Funds)***

**First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget, Motion C moved by Commissioner Stuart; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg**

**Approved 9-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

***Commissioner Estrella-Henderson recused herself***

***Motion D: Consider approval of up to \$160,000 allocation of funding to the following Pre-Kindergarten Academy providers for Summer 2022:***

- a. Up to \$10,000 to Benicia Unified School District***
- b. Up to \$20,000 to Dixon Unified School District***
- c. Up to \$50,000 to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District***
- d. Up to \$10,000 to Fairfield-Suisun Adult School***
- e. Up to \$10,000 to River Delta Unified School District***
- f. Up to \$30,000 to Vacaville Unified School District***
- g. Up to \$20,000 to Vallejo City Unified School District***
- h. Up to \$10,000 to Solano County Office of Education***

The Commission discussed the lack of pre-k academies happening with the Vallejo City Unified School District. After discussing, Commissioner Tiffanee Jones stated she would reach out to the Vallejo City Unified School District to advocate that they increase the number of pre-k academies offered in the city.

**First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget, Motion D as amended: to add up to \$40,000 to Vallejo City Unified School District, should the District have the capacity to use the funds for additional pre-k academies for this summer AMENDED\*) moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Huber**

**Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

***Motion E: Consider approval of up to \$250,000 in allocations of funding for the Solano Shared Services Alliance Network for the period of April 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 to the following agencies (source of funds: First 5 California):***

- a. Up to \$229,453 to Solano County Office of Education***
- b. Up to \$20,547 to Solano Family and Children's Services***

**First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Budget, Motion E moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Jones**

**Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Shakoor-Grantham, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

***Commissioner Estrella-Henderson rejoined meeting***

#### **IV. Community Indicators of Child Well-Being**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until the next Commission meeting, scheduled for April 20, 2022.

## **V. Policy and Oversight Committee**

No action items to report.

## **VI. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Harris reported that she, along with Commissioner Lisette Estrella-Henderson, presented to the Solano County Board of Supervisors earlier this month on the proposed renovation of the Beverly Hills School in Vallejo to an early learning site for approximately \$4 million. First 5 Solano received an allocation of \$1.87M to be used towards renovations at the Beverly Hills Early Learning Center site. In addition, City Council member Pippin Dew offered to advocate to Vallejo City Council to allocate \$500,000 to the Beverly Hills Early Learning Site.

Also, Executive Director Harris advised that there is a great deal of legislative advocacy currently. In particular is a legislative ask put forward by Triple P America on behalf of a coalition of First 5 Commissions that support Triple P Parent Education, of which First 5 Solano is included, that would result in First 5 Solano receiving a one time allocation of \$800,000 every year for 3 years.

## **VII. Commissioner Remarks**

Commission Chair Erin Hannigan recognized outgoing Commissioner Marla Stuart, as Commissioner Stuart (upon confirmation) will be leaving Solano County to take a position with Contra Costa County. Commissioner Jerry Huber and Commissioner Lisette Estrella-Henderson also recognized Commissioner Stuart and thanked her for her service to both the Commission and Solano County.

## **VIII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next commission meeting will be held on April 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Long-Term Financial Plan, First 5 CA Annual Report.

## **Adjourn**

Chair Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 5:01 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

# *Resolution No. 2022-05*

## **A RESOLUTION OF FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 20, 2022 TO MAY 20, 2022 AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the “Brown Act”), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and,

**WHEREAS**, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 that clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act, and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (“Brown Act”) may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

**WHEREAS**, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that variants of COVID-19 are more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

**WHEREAS**, Solano County currently has a Community Transmission metric of “medium” which is still cause for concern; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION deems it necessary to find that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing provided that all teleconferenced meetings are conducted in such a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before this legislative body.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION finds that meeting in person

would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees and therefore, shall conduct its meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and all other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) May 20, 2022, or such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Erin Hannigan, Chair  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

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Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

# *Resolution No. 2022-06*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2022 AS “CHILDREN’S MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Solano County is committed to the improvement of health and wellness of all those who live and work in our community and acknowledges the health, safety and well-being of young children in Solano County as critical components of the First 5 Solano strategic plan; and

**WHEREAS**, each year since 2006 First 5 Solano has celebrated and observed the multiple children’s events recognizing April as “Children’s Month”; and

**WHEREAS**, many community partners join together to expand awareness of young children’s issues by promoting “April Children’s Month” through public education and events; and

**WHEREAS**, 95% of a child’s brain develops by the age of 5, laying a foundation for critical early learning and future success; and

**WHEREAS**, Solano County recognizes April as Autism Acceptance Month and April 2 as Autism Acceptance Day in recognition of people with autism and those who love and support them; and

**WHEREAS**, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Quality Counts Solano and Solano County Office of Education recognize April 2-8, 2022 as Week of the Young Child celebrating early learning, young children, their caregivers and teachers, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Solano County Library, in conjunction with the American Library Association and public libraries across the country, celebrates April 3-9, 2022 as National Library Week and April 30, 2022 as “El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros” (Children’s Day/Children’s Book Day); and

**WHEREAS**, Month of the Military Child allows us to pay tribute to military children, across the country and in our local military community at Travis Air Force Base, for their ability to take on unique challenges and adapt to present and future changes that other youth their age never experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including learning loss and social emotional deficits in our children, require that we provide our support now more than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, these observances focus on the need to give children in our community and around the country a better chance for safe and positive futures and supportive environments in which to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, many local organizations have dedicated their efforts to ensuring that all Solano children receive the care, support and services crucial to their growth and development, to build better futures for everyone in Solano County and should be recognized for the work that occurs year-round.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaims the month of April 2022 as “Children’s Month” in Solano County, and encourages all residents to work to support the health, safety and well-being of children and youth in Solano County.

Dated this 20th day of April 2022

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Erin Hannigan, Chair  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

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Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

# *Resolution No. 2022-07*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2022 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Solano County is committed to the improvement of health and wellness of all those who live and work in our community and acknowledges the health, safety and well-being of young children in Solano County as critical components of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission strategic plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council is sponsoring the Blue-Ribbon Campaign in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month to promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children, and the resources available to strengthen and support families; and

**WHEREAS**, across America, National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association and its local member organizations set aside a day in April as Children’s Light of Hope Day to recognize and acknowledge the CASA volunteers, foster and adoptive parents who have opened their hearts and homes to abused and neglected children in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Children’s Memorial Flag Day is recognized in the United States by the Child Welfare League of America on the fourth Friday of April as a way of memorializing the thousands of children who die each year, and as a day to raise awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects and are serious problems affecting every segment of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, finding solutions requires input and action from everyone as our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Solano County; and

**WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

**WHEREAS**, we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased isolation for children and families, increasing the risks of child abuse and neglect for families without adequate support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaims the month of April 2022 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Solano County and urges all citizens to recognize this month by improving the quality of life for all children and families in Solano County.

Dated this 20th day of April 2022

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Erin Hannigan, Chair  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

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Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

# *Resolution No. 2022-08*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCLAIMING MAY 6, 2022 AS CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY**

**WHEREAS**, high quality child care and early education play a crucial role in child development, health and nutrition, child abuse prevention, and social-emotional outcomes that result in enhanced school readiness, and successful K-12 educational and higher education experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, child care providers include teachers and caregivers in child care centers, family child care homes, extended family, friends, and neighbors, all of whom are essential to supporting working parents; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 500 licensed child care providers, over 690 license-exempt child care providers, and countless other community members in Solano County who provide this essential service which supports the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 pandemic child care providers have continued to respond to the needs of frontline and essential workers by providing safe and consistent care for their children; and

**WHEREAS**, child care providers have made difficult decisions and critical adjustments in order to reopen or continue serving families in a clean, safe environment while meeting the developmental and social-emotional needs of children in their care; and

**WHEREAS**, Solano Family & Children's Services in partnership with other early childhood community partners continues to engage in a child care provider recruitment campaign with the goal of expanding the availability of licensed child care settings to serve families in Solano County to aid in the recovery stage of the pandemic and to support growth in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, Solano Family & Children's Services, the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, the Local Child Care Planning Council, along with advocacy organizations across the United States will be increasing awareness of the importance of child care providers on May 6, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim May 6, 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in Solano County.

Dated this 20th day of April 2022

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Erin Hannigan, Chair  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

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Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

**DATE:** April 13, 2022

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Michele Harris, Executive Director

**SUBJ:** **Fairfield First 5 Center Allocation of Funding**

**Motion:** Consider an allocation of \$2 million to City of Fairfield toward construction of the North Texas Street Recreational Facility, future home to the Fairfield First 5 Center (*Source of Funding: CA State Budget/First 5 California*)

In July 2021, First 5 Solano received notification that \$2 million was allocated in the California state budget toward the opening of a First 5 Center in Fairfield. In August 2021, the First 5 Solano Commission approved the incorporation of the allocation in the First 5 Solano budget and staff began a search for a location following the same process that was used to find the Vallejo First 5 Center location based on risk factors and disparities for child well-being. On December 8, 2021, many members of the City of Fairfield leadership team, including the Interim City Manager, the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor, a City Council Member, the Police Chief, the incoming Fire Chief, and the Recreation Director, came to tour the Vallejo First 5 Center and discuss the potential of a Fairfield First 5 Center, including potential locations and how the City could be involved.

Subsequently, the Interim City Manager reached out to First 5 Solano to discuss the opportunity to put the new Fairfield First 5 Center at its new North Texas Recreation Facility on the corner of North Texas Street and East Tabor Avenue. The Commission heard about the opportunity at its January 2022 Commission meeting and directed staff to explore the opportunity further.

Since that time, staff have met with the City of Fairfield staff to confirm joint interests and develop an agreement which includes First 5 Solano providing \$2 million in funding to the City of Fairfield for the construction of the building. A use agreement will subsequently be developed which will allow First 5 Solano to utilize the building for a minimum of 10 years for a First 5 Center for only the cost of utilities and operations. The City of Fairfield is scheduled to bring the agreement to the Fairfield City Council by early May. \$1 million toward this effort is already included in the First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Budget. The remaining \$1 million will be payable in the FY2023/24 fiscal year.

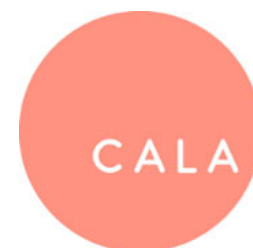
In addition to meeting with City of Fairfield staff, First 5 Solano staff have been meeting with the City's architects to ensure the facility will meet the needs of a First 5 Center. The architecture team has been exceptional in modifying their previous designs to meet the needs of a First 5 Center, including providing creative opportunities for young children.

This item brings forward a motion to allocate the \$2 million received from the California State Budget which is being executed through First 5 California to the City of Fairfield for this effort.

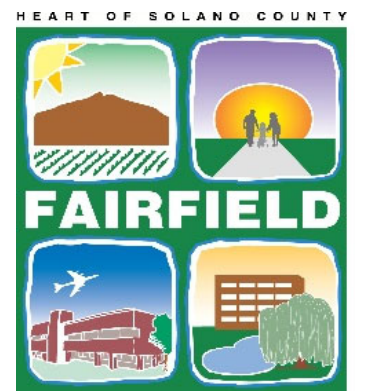
[Attachment A: City of Fairfield North Texas Recreation Facility Schematics](#)



# City of Fairfield North Texas Recreation Facility

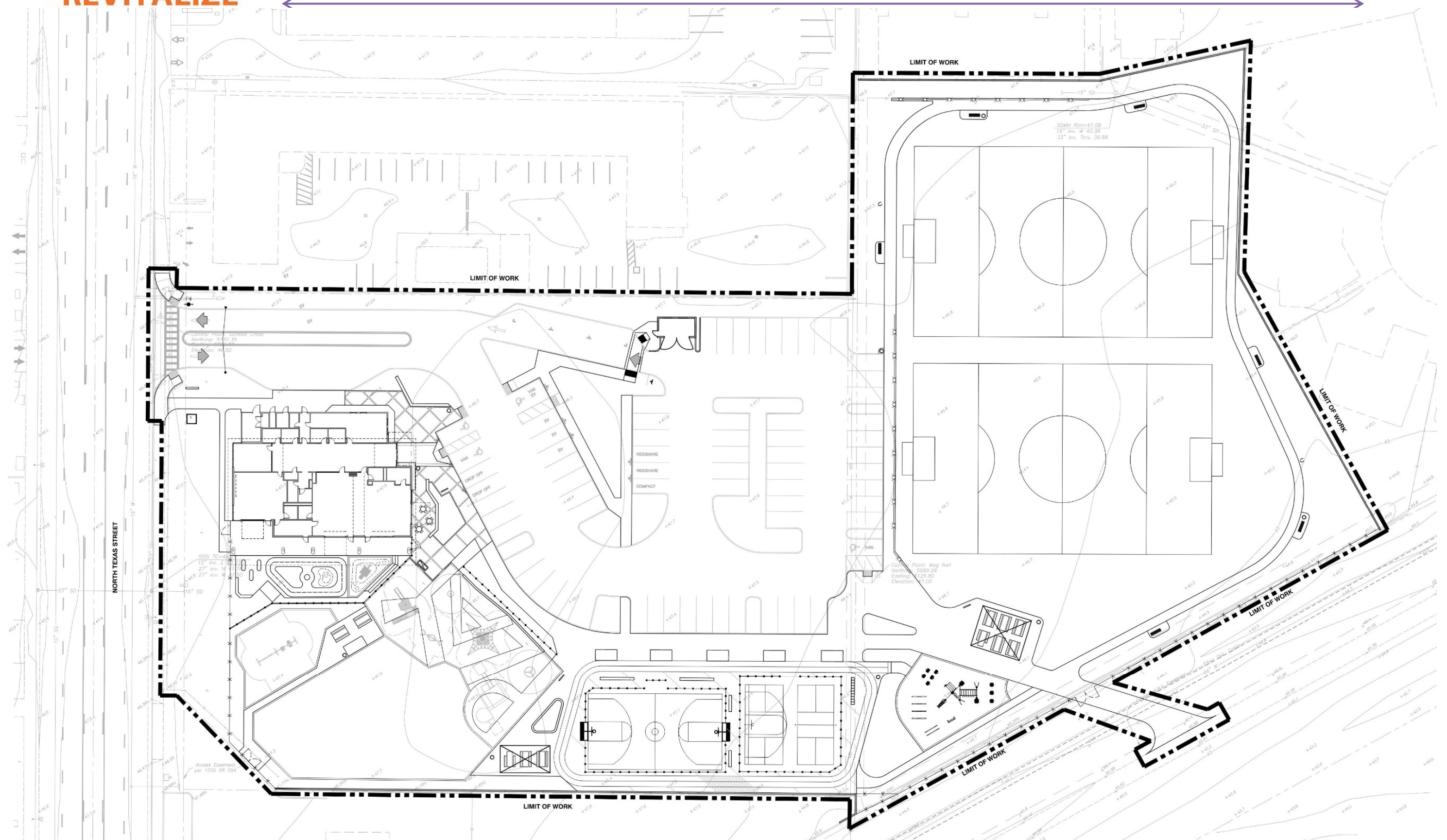


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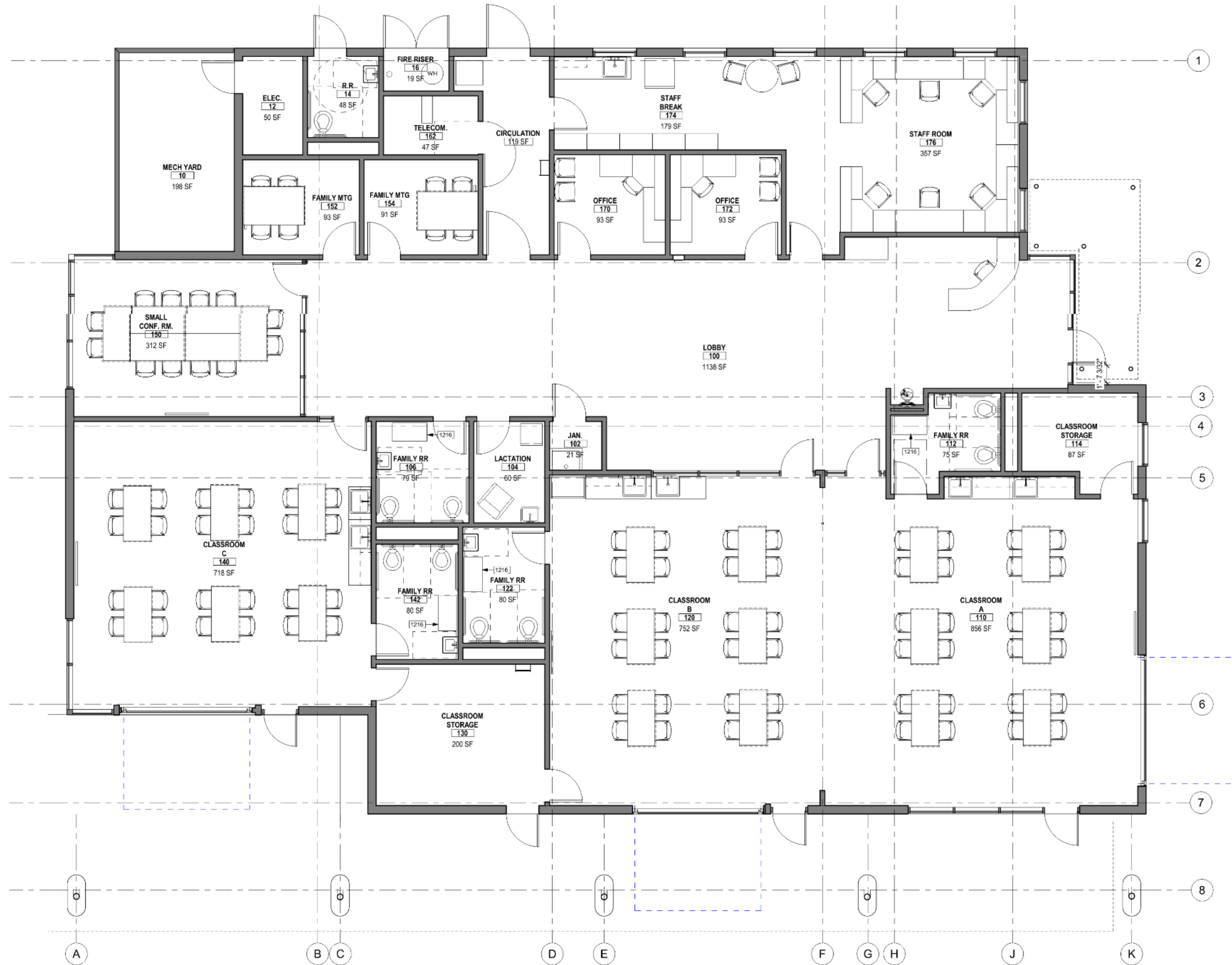




# Overall Site Plan

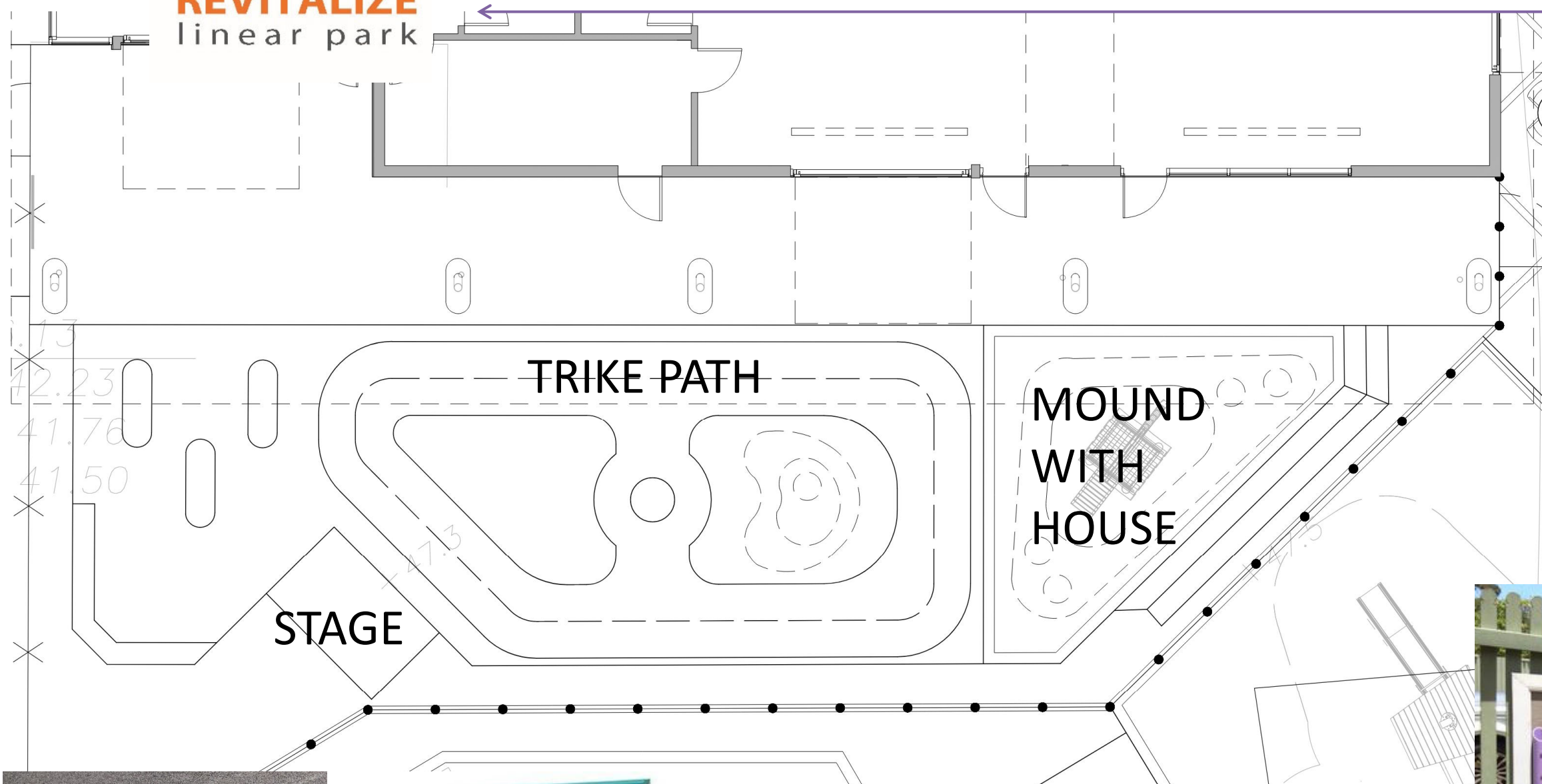


# Floor Plan



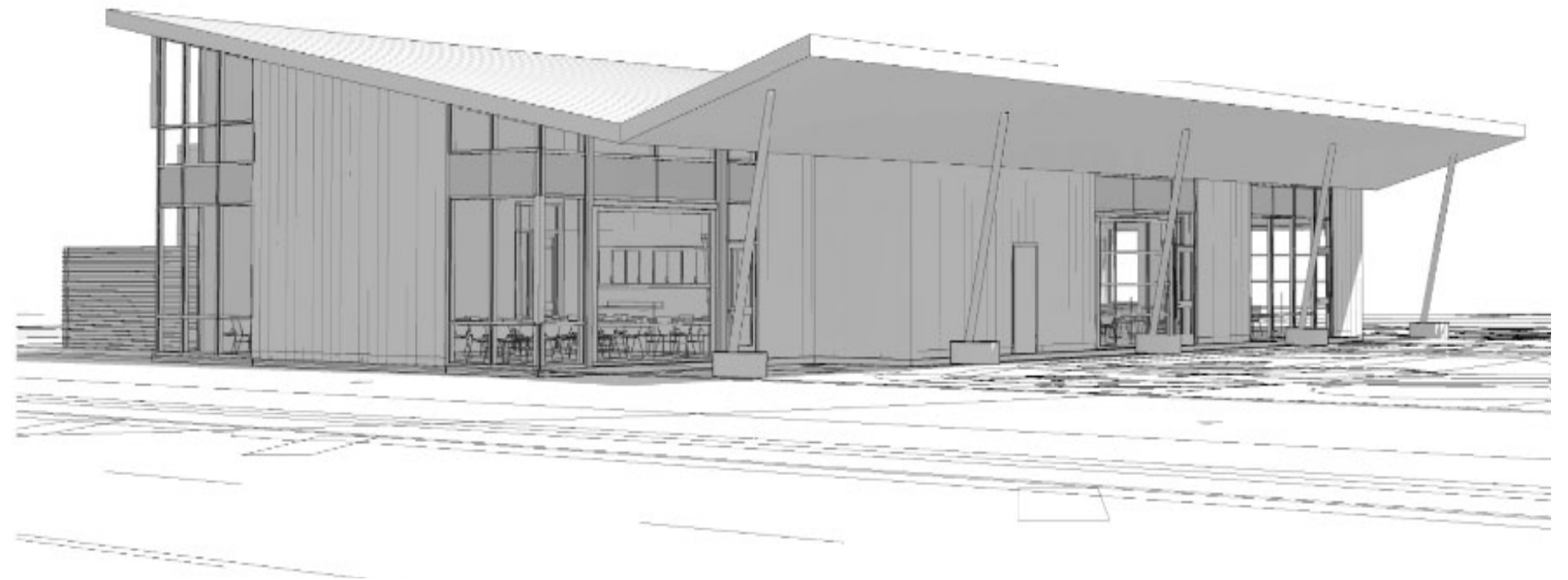
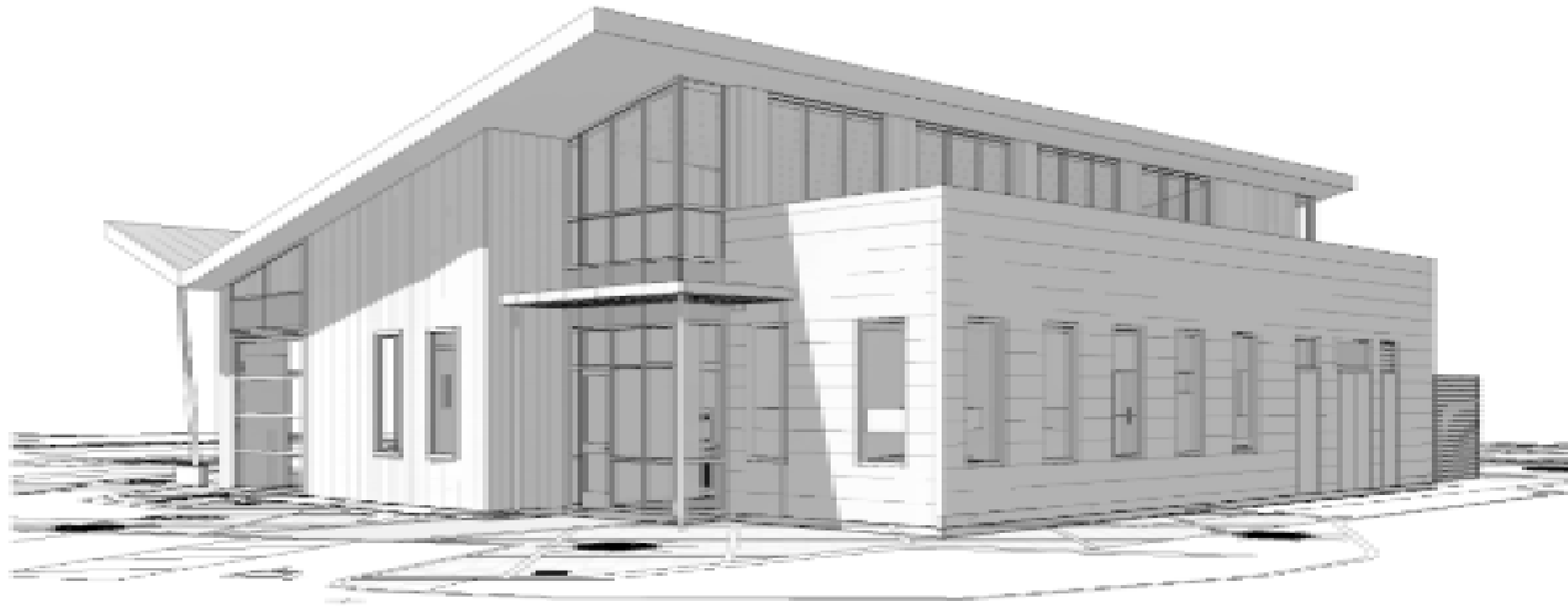


# Outdoor Site Plan



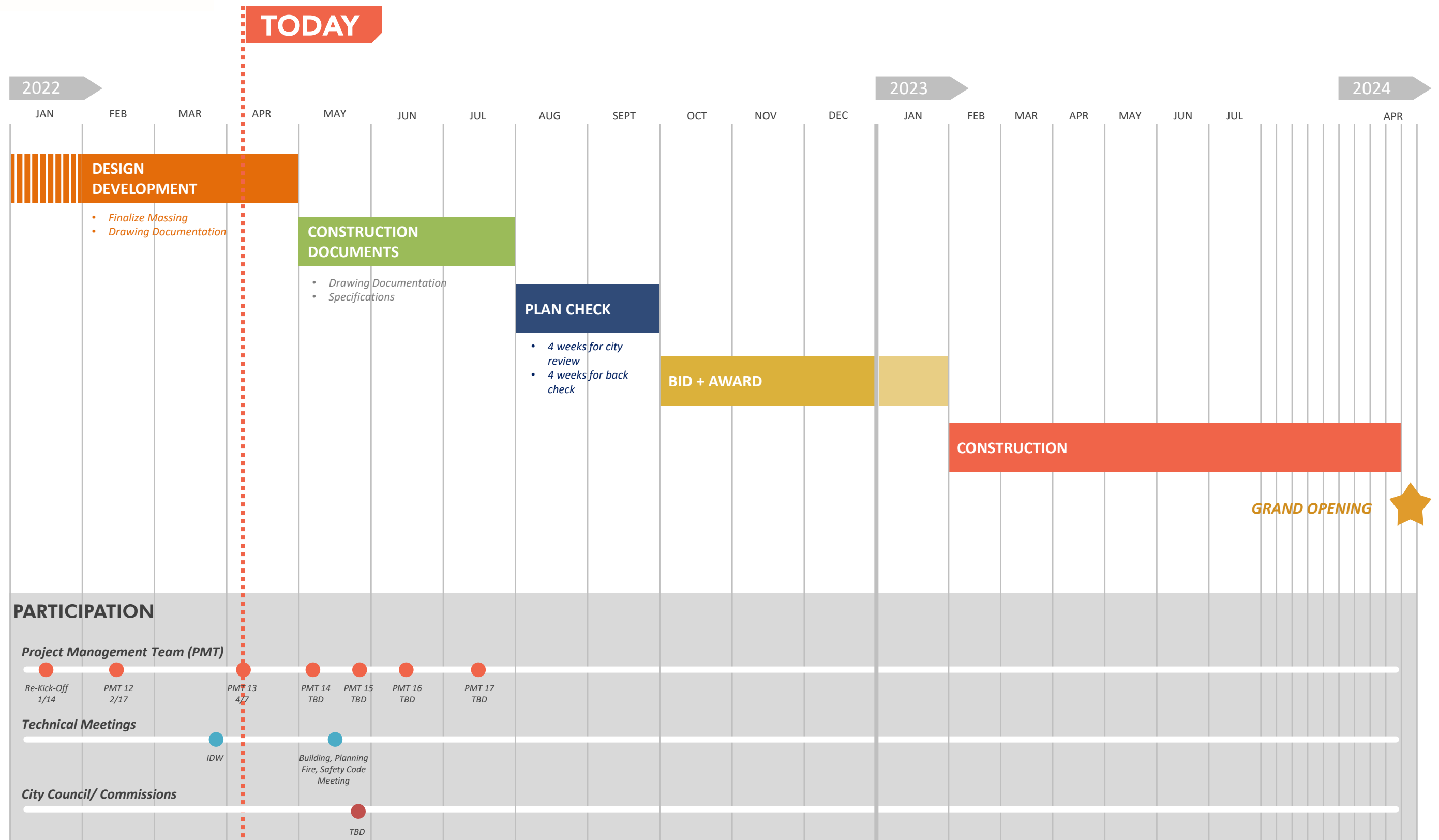


# Exterior Elevations





# Project Schedule



**DATE:** April 13, 2022

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Megan Richards, Deputy Director

**SUBJ:** **Vallejo Early Learning Center Funding**

**Motion:** Consider approving a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee of the following actions to provide funding for renovations to implement an Early Learning Center (ELC) in Vallejo:

- a. Increase the First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Approved Budget by \$2,130,000 to incorporate funding for the ELC renovations
- b. Allocate up to \$2,130,000 to Vallejo City Unified School District to execute the renovations (*Sources of \$4,000,000 total project funding: \$1,870,000 ARPA (held in separate budget unit); \$1,885,000 from First 5 Solano, \$230,000 from Child Start, Inc., \$30,000 from the Solano County Office of Education*)
- c. Obligate up to \$1,870,000 from reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending outstanding funding requests (*Source of Funding: First 5 Solano Reserve*)

First 5 Solano has been working with community partners in Vallejo, including Vallejo Unified School District (VCUSD), Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), and Child Start, Inc., to work toward establishing an Early Learning Center (ELC) at the Beverly Hills Elementary School site in Vallejo. The ELC is described in detail in the attached Project Briefing ([Attachment A](#)).

In March 2022, the Solano County Board of Supervisor's approved a request for \$1.87 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to be provided toward the renovations needed to convert the elementary school into a high quality ELC. In addition, Child Start and SCOE have committed funding toward the spaces they will occupy for a total secured funding amount of \$2,130,000.

The initial renovation budget in the Project Briefing prepared for the ARPA funding request was \$3.2 million. Since the ARPA funding request was made, conversations have taken place with California Child Care Licensing which identified the need for additional toilets located within classrooms, increasing the total projected budget of the initial renovations to an estimated \$4 million. The final scope of the project and budget is still evolving, and an architect is currently being secured to do a complete design of the renovations needed and more accurately estimate the costs which is projected to be completed by August 2023.

In addition, it has been identified that during the projected 20-year term of use, the school may need roof and HVAC replacement which is estimated at \$5 million. As these are large cost items, they are included in the fundraising efforts and any funds raised beyond the initial renovations will be dedicated toward these efforts.

First 5 Solano is currently in negotiations with VCUSD on an agreement to implement the initial necessary renovations. VCUSD is requesting guaranteed funding of up to \$4 million so they know the project will be able to be brought to completion. The motion presented today recommends putting the necessary funds in the First 5 Solano budget as well as allocating the funding to VCUSD who will be responsible for securing the architect, contractor, and managing the overall renovations. In addition, to ensure the project can move forward while in the process of securing

the total funding, part of the motion is to obligate funds from reserve to cover the amount needed in pending requests as the payor of last resort. Staff will continue to seek funding from alternate sources toward this purpose; however, should the full amount not be fully secured the remaining gap in funds will be used from the Commission reserve which currently sits at \$10,795,044.

The following tables provide the details regarding both the committed funding and the fundraising plan which is in progress.

<b>Committed Funding</b>			
Source of Funding	Amount in First 5 Solano Budget	Amount in Other Budget	Total
Child Start, Inc	230,000		230,000
Solano County Office of Education	30,000		30,000
Solano County American Rescue Plan Act		1,870,000	1,870,000
<b>Total Committed Funding</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>1,870,000</b>	<b>2,130,000</b>
Gap—Fundraising/Reserve	1,870,000		1,870,000
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$2,130,000</b>	<b>\$1,870,000</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

<b>In Process Funding Requests (Submitted and Pending Submissions)</b>			
Sources of Funding	Amount	Purpose	Status
City of Vallejo	500,000	Outdoor learning spaces	Submitted – considered in May
CA Dept of Social Services Early Learning Facilities Grant	1,340,000	General renovations	RFP not yet available
Lead Abatement Grant	30,000	Lead abatement/paint	RFP not yet available
<b>Total in process for Initial Renovations</b>	<b>1,885,000</b>		
State of California via Senator Bill Dodd	5,000,000	HVAC/Roof	Submitted
Federal Earmark via Congressman Mike Thompson	5,000,000	HVAC/Roof	Submitted
<b>Total In Progress for All Renovations</b>	<b>\$11,885,000</b>		

Staff will provide updates and an overall account of funding, including the revised cost estimate from the architect as well as the final amount from other sources.

[Attachment A: Vallejo Early Learning Center Project Briefing](#)

[Attachment B: ELC Funding Presentation](#)

# **Vallejo Early Learning Center Project Briefing**



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## Summary/Introduction

In partnership with the Vallejo City Unified School District, the Solano Office of Education, Child Start, Inc., and other early care and education providers, the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano) is working towards establishing an Early Learning Center (ELC) at the Beverly Hills Elementary school site in Vallejo and is requesting \$1.87 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) toward the total project budget of \$3.17 million.

The ELC is a dual-pronged approach—providing high quality early learning opportunities for children, as well as safe and consistent child care for working families. The ELC would provide a variety of early care and education opportunities for infants through preschoolers and families of all income levels will be served. The site will be renovated to meet the needs of young children and their families.

The ELC meets multiple community needs that have been identified both prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Expands facilities for early care and education for infants through transitional kindergarten for a total capacity of 298 slots directly addressing facilities as a primary barrier to expansion for child care providers.
- Transitions two Child Start preschool classrooms on the Virginia street site to a new location, freeing up a county building on a congested campus; Allows Child Start to expand to provide two Early Head Start classrooms in addition to the two preschool classrooms, providing much needed infant and toddler care for low-income families.
- Provides a continuum of care and early educational opportunities for young children from infants through age 5, as well as a continuum for families of all income levels.

## Background

A large body of research has demonstrated a multitude of short-term and long-term benefits of quality early learning programs for children; however, a primary barrier to expanding child care is the lack of physical locations to provide early childhood education and child care. Providers struggle to find suitable buildings with classrooms equipped to serve young children (e.g., small bathrooms, outdoor play space, and safe places for parents to pick up and drop off their children) and the cost of renovating facilities in addition to the high cost of real estate is prohibitive for most providers. Due to the lack of facilities and other challenges, many children are left out of a quality early care and education experience.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having adequate child care to support working parents. While the number of open licensed child care providers has returned to pre-pandemic levels, many of them are operating at reduced capacity, limiting the number of children that are served. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, only one out of four



children in Solano County who needed child care had access to a licensed child care slot (2019 California Resources and Referral Network Child Care Portfolio) and less than half of 3 to 4-year-olds had a preschool experience (US Census, American Community Survey, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates), so with an already limited child care system in Solano, it is imperative that systemic changes are made to increase capacity of child care for working parents.

In addition to the overall challenge of facilities for early care and education, the opening of an ELC in Vallejo resolves a longstanding challenge at Solano County's Vallejo Campus. Child Start, Inc has been operating two Head Start preschool classrooms in a county owned facility on Virginia St in Vallejo. The facility is in need of major renovations and is located in a crowded campus. The County has requested that Child Start relocate, but Child Start has not been able to identify an alternate location to provide services in Vallejo despite looking for the past 6 years. When seeking a location for the Vallejo First 5 Center, First 5 Solano partnered with Child Start to seek a location that would meet both agency's needs. While the search for a co-located site was not fruitful, First 5 Solano continued to explore alternate sites for Child Start as they arose.

After many conversations with local stakeholders, the City of Vallejo, Solano County Office of Education and Vallejo City Unified School District, the closed Beverly Hills Elementary School has been identified as a site that could be used as an Early Learning Center. The site would not only relocate the two Head Start preschool classrooms but expand to add two additional Early Head Start classrooms as well as multiple private providers for ages 0-5 and transitional kindergarten.

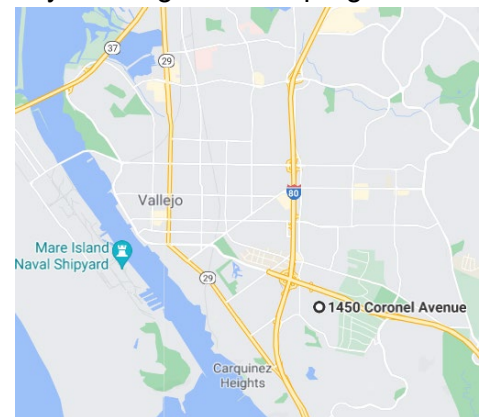
## Project Description

The Beverly Hills Elementary School is an elementary school that was closed in 2020 and consists of 18 permanent classrooms, 4 portable classrooms, a multipurpose room, kitchen, and outdoor play areas that could accommodate multiple early learning and care programs.

The site is located in Southeast Vallejo, adjacent to multiple freeways. In school year 2019-20 (the last year the site was utilized as an elementary school), 91% of kids who attended qualified for free and reduced lunch indicating a high need in the community for options for low-income families.

The site would support parent choice in early care and education programs as well as provide services for families of different income-levels, including:

- Head Start and Early Head Start for infants/toddlers (ages 0-2) and Pre-K (ages 3-5) (including relocating the 2 Head Start Pre-K classrooms currently on Virginia Street in Vallejo)
- Private child care and early learning opportunities for infants/toddlers (ages 0-2) and Pre-K (ages 3-5), utilizing a variety of curriculums, including Montessori, and taking both private pay families and families who are receiving a voucher to subsidize the cost of child care
- Transitional kindergarten through the Vallejo City Unified School District
- Solano Office of Education Quality Counts coaching staff supporting child care providers in quality early childhood education



The facility has many assets including:

- 18 permanent classrooms. Each classroom is approximately 900 sf with access to water. One classroom is set up as a preschool classroom and includes bathrooms.
- 4 portable classrooms
- 4 shared bathrooms
- 1 multipurpose room with adjacent kitchen
- 3 play structures
- Large blacktop
- Large grass area
- Staff parking
- Easy drop-off/pick up zone

Renovations are needed to refresh the site and convert the site from an elementary school to an age-appropriate site for early learning.



Highlights of the renovations include:

- Minor cosmetic updates to permanent classrooms, including paint, refinish floors, replace window coverings, lower sinks, etc.
- Increase access to bathroom facilities for preschool classrooms. Depending on the location of the toilets to specific classrooms, this includes creating a doorway from existing bathrooms to classrooms or creating additional bathrooms within classrooms.
- Replace play structures to age-appropriate structures that meet current safety guidelines.
- Seal/repair blacktop and repositioning fencing for appropriate outdoor play and safety.
- Update shared spaces, such as the kitchen, to meet the needs of multiple early learning providers.
- Replace portable classrooms which are nearing the end of their useful life.
- Ensure site meets compliance with ADA and other appropriate code as indicated.

## Partners

Several partners have a long-term commitment to ensuring the success of the ELC. These partners and their roles are as follows.

- **Vallejo City Unified School District** – Agreed to lease the facility for the purpose of creating an ELC. Will lead coordination of renovations utilizing School District contractors. Will provide 2 transitional kindergarten classrooms to create a continuum of care options for birth-TK. (See letter of Support-Attachment A)
- **Child Start, Inc.** – Will be the primary leaseholder and sublease to other early care and education providers. Will occupy 5 classrooms, including moving 2 preschool

classrooms from Virginia St. All children served by Child Start will be provided care free of charge and must meet income eligibility requirements.

- **First 5 Solano** – Will secure funding for tenant improvements and work with VCUSD to implement the renovations. In partnership with Child Start, will provide coordination for the partners at the Early Learning Center Site.
- **Solano County Office of Education** – Will provide quality supports for providers, including coaching, professional development, child behavioral/mental health support, etc.
- **Private Child Care and Early Learning Providers** – Approximately four child care and early learning providers will occupy the remaining classrooms providing a variety of care options for infants through preschool age children. Providers will accept private pay or vouchers for families receiving subsidies.

## Timeline

The current plan and timeline include a phased approach:

Phase 1: Make improvements to 2 classrooms and a play structure to allow Child Start to relocate its Virginia Street classrooms as quickly as possible. This is targeted for fall/winter 2022 completion.

Phase 2: Make improvements to the remainder of the school, including 16 permanent classrooms, 4 portable classrooms, shared multipurpose room/kitchen, and the remaining outdoor space. This is targeted for fall 2023 completion.

Meeting the timelines for both phases is dependent upon multiple factors, including securing adequate funding, the timelines for the approval process for Division of the State Architect (required for improvements to school sites), and the availability of construction contractors and materials which is currently significantly impacted nationally. Should these or other factors impact plans, the timeline will be adjusted accordingly.



# Funding Request/Budget

## One-time Renovations

First 5 Solano is requesting one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$1.87 million to support the cost of renovating the facilities and supporting age-appropriate outdoor play structures/grounds at the Beverly Hills Elementary School site. This will be coordinated with funding from Child Start, Inc., Solano County Office of Education, and potential grant funding for a total of approximately \$3.17 million for full renovation.

The current tenant improvement budget is as follows:

ITEM	Unit Cost	Number Needed	Total
Classroom updates	10,000	18	180,000
Play structure replacement	100,000	2	200,000
Bathroom renovation	45,000	4	180,000
Bathroom in classroom	150,000	3	450,000
Door from bathroom to classroom	20,000	3	60,000
Shared kitchen			75,000
Laundry			25,000
Multipurpose room			25,000
Blacktop--replacement			25,000
Blacktop--sealing			35,000
Shade Structure			25,000
Paint--exterior			60,000
Paint--interior			28,000
Fencing			70,000
Staff room			15,000
ADA updates			100,000
Replace portables	200,000	4	800,000
Run water to portables			200,000
Construction Subtotal			2,553,000
Contingency (10% of construction)			255,300
Architect			85,000
Project management			40,000
Permitting/DSA Approval			15,000
Furniture, fixtures, equipment			150,000
IT/AV			50,000
Signage			25,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>\$3,173,300</b>

It should be noted that budget amounts are estimates based on recent constructions projects by Vallejo City Unified School District, initial review by Solano County General Services, and

reasonable construction estimates. Budget amounts are under review by Vallejo City Unified School District's architect and will be updated accordingly. Should estimate come in significantly higher than budgeted, modifications to plans and revenue sources will be adjusted accordingly.

The funding sources for the \$3.17 million in tenant improvements is shown in the table below:

<b>Proposed Revenue</b>	
Child Start, Inc.	215,000
Solano County Office of Education	30,000
Lead Abatement Grant (pending)	30,000
CA Dept of Social Services Early Learning Facilities Grant (pending)	1,028,300
American Rescue Plan Act (pending)	1,870,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,173,300</b>

Should one of the pending funding sources not be secured, alternate funding will be sought or plans will be adjusted according to amount secured.

### On-Going Operations

The ELC will have 22 classrooms which will be occupied by up to six early care and education providers. The providers will share the cost of ongoing operations based on the number of classrooms each provider occupies. The initial operating budget is estimated using actual costs provided by the Vallejo Unified School District based on the last full year of school operation and projected out:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
Utilities (water, sewer, garbage)	85,000
Landscaping	15,000
Custodial	30,000
Front office/reception	50,000
Minor repairs/ongoing site improvements	40,000
Insurance	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>

As the providers occupying the space will share the cost of operations, there is no ongoing cost to the County. Responsibility for major and minor repairs/ maintenance will be negotiated and defined in the contract for ongoing use of the site.

## Due Diligence

First 5 Solano has worked with the following partners to review the project and ensure the project meets requirements for feasibility to move forward, as well as recommendations for future action.

- Vallejo City Unified School District has done a full review of their school locations and the impacts of transitioning the Beverly Hills Elementary School into an ELC. The Superintendent has committed his full support and has provided a Letter of Support for the project (Attachment A).
- Solano County General Services has completed a site visit and due diligence review of the site. General Services has provided a letter of review which states “With appropriate renovations, the Beverly Hills School can be a viable facility for implementation of an Early Learning Center providing childcare and early learning opportunities for young children in Vallejo and Solano County.” The letter and considerations is included as Attachment B.

## Conclusion

First 5 Solano and Solano County have a once in a lifetime opportunity to create an Early Learning Center in Vallejo which has the ability to transform the lives of young children and their families for years to come. A one-time investment of ARPA funds can be used to create a sustainable solution to adding much needed child care slots to a fragile system, as well as relocate 2 preschool classrooms from a county building, freeing up much needed space.





December 21, 2021

Submitted via email to Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Re: Early Learning Center at Beverly Hills Elementary School Site in South Vallejo

Dear Ms. Harris:

On behalf of the Vallejo City Unified School District, I strongly support the effort to secure funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through Solano County to convert the Beverly Hills Elementary School Site in South Vallejo to an Early Learning Center (ELC).

This concept for an ELC came to our District through a partnership between the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, the Solano County Office of Education and Child Start, Inc. the local Head Start provider. This collaborative has been looking for appropriate space to offer early childhood services and reached out to our District. The group cited the longstanding barrier to childcare expansion in Solano County, which is the lack of facilities to expand childcare and early learning services.

We know that a child's brain develops 95% by age five, providing a critical window of opportunity to support strong beginnings. Research shows that challenges children face early in life can lead to life-long negative outcomes and high-community cost, including school drop-out, incarceration, chronic health problems, and isolation within the community. We see the beginnings of these results in our K-12 system. A recent *Issue Brief on The Impact of High-Quality Pre-K on K-12 Education* reported,

*“In looking at dozens of high-quality programs across the US, researchers have identified three primary benefits to K-12 systems based on children's participation in pre-k: reduced need for special education services, reduced grade repetition and better performance and fewer behavioral problems in school.”*

This ELC will provide programs and services that can support these outcomes by laying a strong foundation to develop lifelong learners.

From our District's perspective, the conversion of one of our unused facilities to an early learning site makes a lot of sense for several reasons that span beyond the reasons above:

1. **Location:** The site is located in an area of South Vallejo with a high need for services and supports.
2. **Access:** The site is easily accessible, with on/off access to Highway 80, supporting those families that commute out of county to access convenient childcare and early learning opportunities for their young children. An Adult Education Center is also only three blocks away from the school site, providing resources for those parents that also need support.

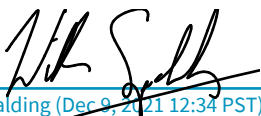
3. **Enrollment:** Establishing an ELC would not only support Vallejo's children, but would provide positive experiences at a school site for incoming students, thereby potentially increasing enrollment in the District.
4. **Exploration:** The ELC could be used as a way to explore which model of service delivery best aligns with our local learners as we begin to plan for the implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten, such as the Head Start model, Montessori early learning, etc. This also aligns with and supports parents in choosing what style of learning they want for their child.
5. **Best Use:** While the District did consider the sale of this property to support the payback of its loan to the State of California, this investment in early learning is the best pathway to success that supports our student population and helps to spark excitement in our incoming student body.
6. **Long-Term Viability:** Through discussions of terms, the partners to this ELC have identified an accountability structure that supports the long-term use of this facility as an ELC that requires minimal investment from VCUSD to keep the site owned by the District.

For these reasons, the ELC is a great investment in the long-term health of Solano County. This multi-pronged approach of service delivery become a model for other districts, thereby improving their outcomes as well.

While the ongoing cost for the space and operation expenses is fully covered by the providers occupying classrooms at the site, funding is needed to support the tenant improvements necessary to convert the K-12 site to an early learning site and make the space child friendly for our youngest constituents. I appreciate you giving this request your consideration. If I can answer any questions or provide further information, please let me know.

As the Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District, I am in full support of the conversion of the Beverly Hills Elementary Site to an Early Learning Center and will continue to partner with these agencies to ensure this facility provides safe, high-quality early learning and childcare services to the children and families in our community. I can also say that our district Board of Trustees are also very excited about this project and this partnership for the reasons stated above. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

---

William Spalding (Dec 9, 2021 12:34 PST)

William Spalding  
Superintendent  
Vallejo City Unified School District

MEGAN M. GREVE  
Director  
MMGreve@solanocounty.com  
(707) 784-7902

DUSTIN D. LENO, MBA, A.A.E.  
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DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



SOLANO  
COUNTY

Attachment B

675 Texas Street, Suite 2500  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342  
Main (707) 784-7900  
www.solanocounty.com

January 10, 2022

Michele D. Harris  
Executive Director, First 5 Solano  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Early Learning Center at Beverly Hills Elementary School Site in South Vallejo

Dear Ms. Harris:

Solano County General Services was asked to conduct a due diligence facility review regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the use of the Beverly Hills Elementary School as an Early Learning Center for children ages 0-5.

The school, located at 1450 Coronel Avenue, is part of the Vallejo City Unified School District. It is described generally as follows:

- Opened as an elementary school in 1949 and closed by the school district in June 2020.
- The primary school building contains 18 classrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 multipurpose room, 1 staff bathroom and 4 boys' and girls' bathrooms.
- There are 4 portable classrooms on the back portion of the school blacktop.
- The outside playground areas consist of 1 large blacktop area, 3 play structures that vary by age group, and a large grassy area.
- Off-street parking is available for staff and visitors.

Solano County General Services conducted a site visit on December 17, 2021, and noted:

- Overall: the site appears to be in generally good condition and with the proposed renovations should serve a useful life of the proposed lease term of at least 20 years, with appropriate maintenance. ADA accessibility compliance needs to be verified along the entirety of Path of Travel.
- Classrooms: appear properly maintained and in good condition; only in need of superficial updates. Adding supplemental access to the existing bathrooms and the addition of two new bathrooms that would serve four classrooms could prove to be cost prohibitive. An inspection of the sewage line and grading/fall will need to be performed to give a proper appraisal of the feasibility of new bathroom additions.

- Portables: at or close to the end of their useful life. If intended for use, they should be replaced with new units. Water-stained ceiling tiles were observed along with some buckling of flooring, both suggesting moisture intrusion.
- Playground: 2 playground structures need replacement with age-appropriate structures, the blacktop needs resurfacing and internal fencing should be replaced to look less like an institution.
- Overall: ADA compliance needs to be verified relative to all features; any required architectural modifications to accommodate pre-school age children must also be verified.

Items to consider while negotiating the lease are:

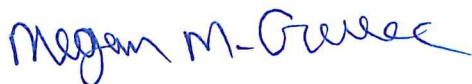
- The long-term infrastructure maintenance/ownership cost, such as for HVAC and roofing.
  - They may need to be repaired/replaced during the lease.
- Significant grounds care, both initial and ongoing, is required for the large site and should be accounted for within the operations maintenance budget.
- Negotiated lease should be long-term with adequate protections for lessee to realize the significant investment of ARPA funds.

The proposed renovations encompass necessary modifications to address the needs of young children, including age-appropriate bathroom facilities and age-appropriate playground structures. The site and facility may need additional upgrades to bring elements up to current code, including ADA accessibility, upgrade of fire/sprinkler system, upgrade of electrical power in kitchen, etc. These should be considered during the planning for renovation and be appropriately cost-estimated, prioritized and budgeted for. A full site and facility assessment, including preliminary renovation plans and cost estimates prepared by qualified professionals, will identify necessary upgrades and help clarify funding requirements. General Services staff will be happy to assist with finding the appropriate consultant/contractors to accomplish the needed renovations and review any/all submittals as needed. Additionally, Real Estate staff is available to review and assist with lease terms and conditions.

***With appropriate renovations, the Beverly Hills School can be a viable facility for implementation of an Early Learning Center providing childcare and early learning opportunities for young children in Vallejo and Solano County.***

Please feel free to contact me at 707-784-7900 or [mmgreve@solanocounty.com](mailto:mmgreve@solanocounty.com), should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Megan M Greve, Director  
General Services Department

CC: Dustin Leno, Assistant Director General Services  
Jason Alvarez, Facilities Operations Manager  
Mark Hummel, Capital Projects Manager  
Megan Richards, Deputy Director, First 5 Solano

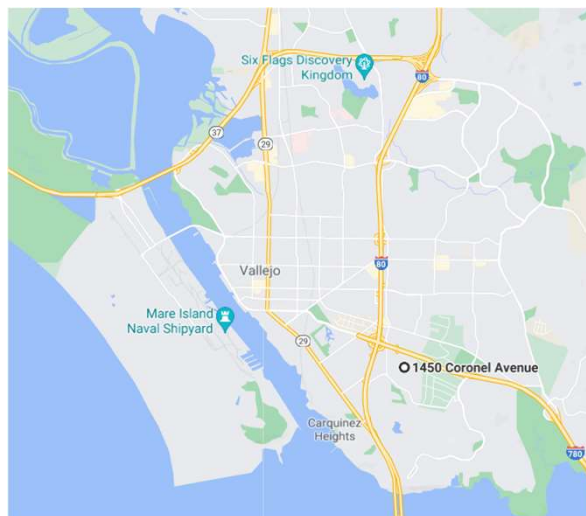
## Vallejo Early Learning Center Funding

First 5 Solano  
Commission Meeting  
April 20, 2022



1

## Beverly Hills Elementary School Stats



- Rooted in a well-established community in Southeast Vallejo
- In 2019-20, 91% of kids qualified for free and reduced lunch

2

2

## Beverly Hills Elementary School Stats

- Opened in 1949
- Closed in 2020
- 18 large classrooms (~ 900sf)
- 4 Portables



- Playground/outdoor space
- Service kitchen
- Multipurpose room

3

3

## Partners



- Provide lease for the facility for the purpose of creating an Early Learning Center (ELC)
- Manage renovations
- Provide onsite TK



- Provide Head Start/Early Head Start in 4 classrooms
- Master Leaseholder; sublease with private child care providers

4

4

## Partners



- Raise funding for renovations
- Work with VCUSD and partners to implement renovations
- Assist Child Start with coordination for the private child care providers



- Provide quality supports for providers
- Assist with coordination for implementation

5

5

## Plans for the Facility –Early Learning Center

- Phase I Improvement: Convert the K-5 site to an Early Learning Center
  - Refresh the exterior and interior of the school
  - Refresh the interior of all classrooms, including new furniture
  - Replace K-12 playgrounds with age-appropriate play areas
  - Resurface blacktop
  - Add toilets to classrooms



6

6

## Plans for the Facility –Early Learning Center

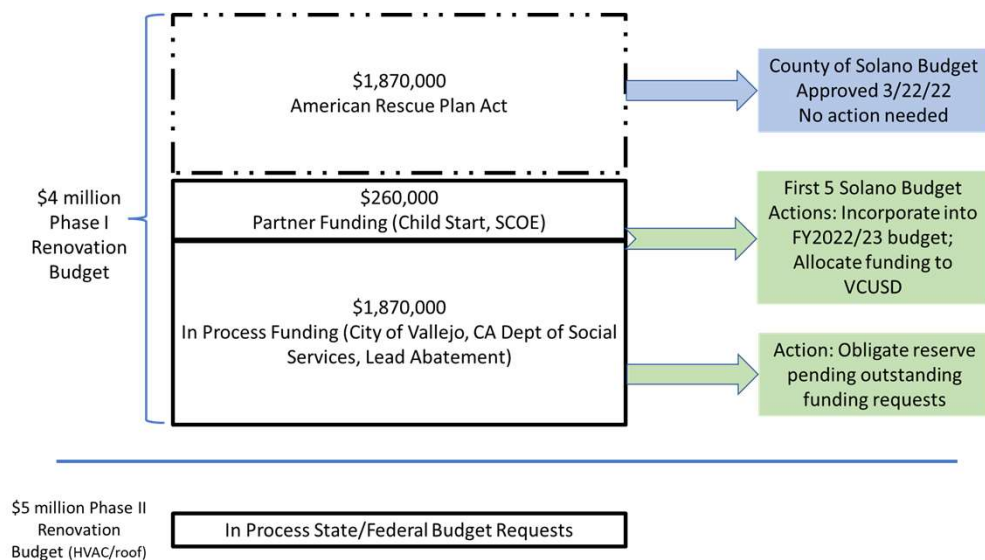
- Phase II Improvement: Not needed now, but will need over course of lease
  - Replace roof
  - Replace HVAC



7

7

## Funding for the Early Learning Center



8

8

## Next Steps

- Execute agreements with VCUSD for renovations and lease
- Begin working with architect on design drawings
- Continue submitting funding proposals
- Fall 2022 Head Start relocates 2 classrooms to site
- Construction and improvements occur during 2022-2023 school year
- Fall 2023 full launch

9

9

## Motion:

Consider approving a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee of the following actions to provide funding for renovations to implement an Early Learning Center (ELC) in Vallejo:

- a. Increase the First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Approved Budget by \$2,130,000 to incorporate funding for the ELC renovations
- b. Allocate up to \$2,130,000 to Vallejo City Unified School District to execute the renovations (*Sources of \$4,000,000 total project funding: \$1,870,000 ARPA [held in separate budget unit]; \$1,870,000 from First 5 Solano, \$230,000 from Child Start, Inc., \$30,000 from the Solano County Office of Education*)
- c. Obligate up to \$1,870,000 from reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending outstanding funding requests (*Source of Funding: First 5 Solano Reserve*)

10

**DATE:** April 13, 2022

**TO:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

**FROM:** Michele Harris, Executive Director

**SUBJ:** **Community Indicators and Dimensions of Equity**

In support of the implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan, the Commission receives an annual update on the standing of common community indicators regarding the status of young children and their families. Staff is pleased to be able to share the community indicators via the First 5 Solano website, which will allow anyone to access the data, as well as update the data as new data becomes available (a minimum of twice a year). The community indicator data can be accessed at: [http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/community\\_indicator\\_data.asp](http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/community_indicator_data.asp).

In addition, the presentation today will discuss disparity data the dimensions of equity in which First 5 Solano may choose to focus its attention.

In 2022, First 5 Solano adopted a new Strategic Plan and Systems Change Action Plan that underscored its commitment to centering equity in its work. These updated plans included a new result in First 5 Solano's Systems Change priority area: Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families. To achieve this result, First 5 Solano is following a systematic method adapted from the Government Alliance on Race Equity's Racial Equity Tool. The steps in the process include: defining First 5 Solano's vision for equity, examining data on disparities, partnering with the community, preparing a concrete plan to promote equity, implementing the plan, and evaluating the effectiveness of the plan.

In January 2022, First 5 Solano completed the first step, defining its vision, through a comprehensive, inclusive strategic planning process that culminated in its 2022 Strategic Plan Update and Systems Change Action Plan Update. The next step is to examine data on disparities in the community which can be found in the attached report on Solano Disparities in Child and Family Well Being Indicators ([Attachment A](#)). The purpose of today's discussion and presentation ([Attachment B](#)) is to identify where disparities occur in health, education, socioeconomic, and safety outcomes, to inform and focus First 5 Solano's efforts to achieve more equitable access, experiences, and outcomes for young children and families.

[Attachment A](#): Solano Disparities in Child and Family Well Being Indicators  
[Attachment B](#): Presentation

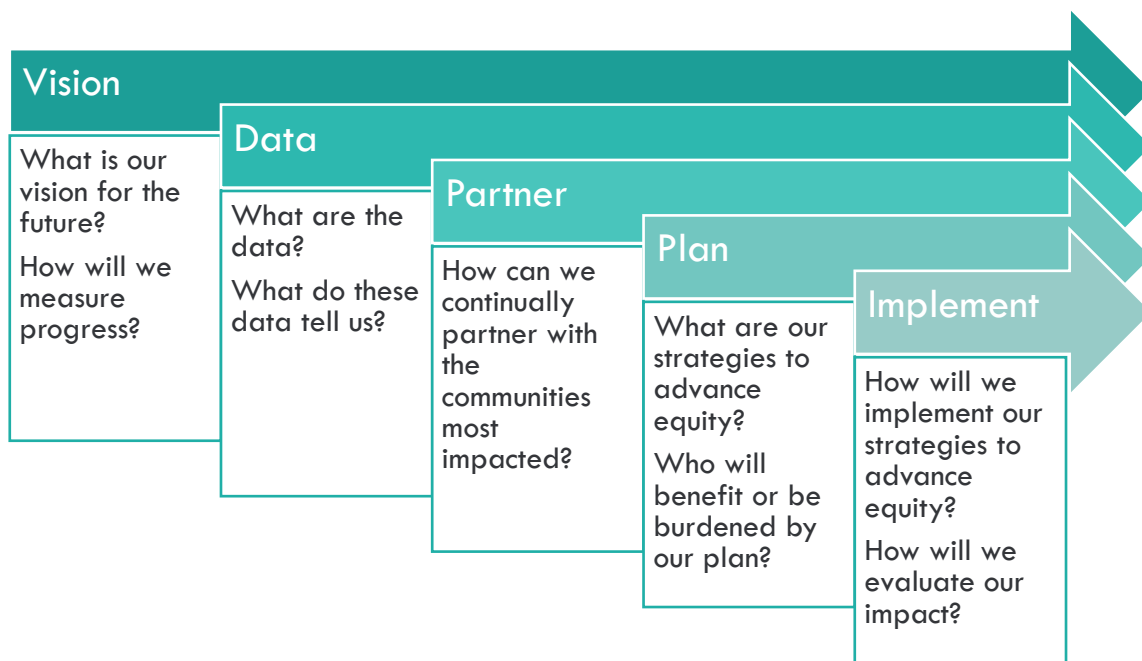
# Achieving Equity in Solano County

## Examining Disparities in Child and Family Well-Being Across Dimensions of Diversity and Identity

### INTRODUCTION AND KEY FINDINGS

In 2022, First 5 Solano adopted a new Strategic Plan and Systems Change Action Plan that underscore its commitment to centering equity in its work. These updated plans included a new result in First 5 Solano's Systems Change priority area: ***Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families.*** To achieve this result, First 5 Solano is following a systematic method adapted from the Government Alliance on Race Equity's Racial Equity Tool (see graphic below). The steps in the process include: defining First 5 Solano's vision for equity, examining data on disparities, partnering with the community, preparing a concrete plan to promote equity, implementing the plan, and evaluating the effectiveness of the plan. The tool also includes sample questions to consider at each stage.

**Figure 1. Steps for Achieving Equity**



Source: Adapted from the Government Alliance on Racial Equity's Racial Equity Tool

In FY2021/22, First 5 Solano completed the first step, defining its vision, through a comprehensive, inclusive strategic planning process that culminated in its updated Strategic Plan and Systems Change Action Plan. The next step is to examine data on disparities in the community. The purpose of this document is to identify where disparities occur in health, education, socioeconomic, and safety outcomes, to inform and focus First 5 Solano's efforts to achieve more equitable access, experiences, and outcomes for young children and families.

### What Do the Data Tell Us about Disparities in the Community?

Disparities in outcomes can be found across multiple dimensions of diversity and identity, such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, language, immigration status, and ability/disability. Disparities can also occur within a community depending on where a person lives. To explore the degree to which outcomes for young children and families are equitable across geography and dimensions of identity, we considered data for 10 different indicators of child and family well-being across seven different dimensions using the following criteria:

- Indicator data show that **disparities are present**
- A **significant number of people are affected** by observed disparities

Considering these criteria, we found that disparities based on geography, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity have the greatest effect on children and families in the community.

Dimension	Affected Group(s)	Outcomes with Disparities
Geography	Children and families living in certain ZIP Codes, especially 94590 in Vallejo and 94533 in Fairfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Birth outcomes &amp; prenatal care</li> <li>– Preschool attendance</li> <li>– Third grade proficiency</li> <li>– Child poverty</li> <li>– Unemployment</li> <li>– Child maltreatment</li> </ul>
Socioeconomic status	Lower-income children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Prenatal care</li> <li>– Well-child visits</li> <li>– Preschool attendance</li> <li>– Third grade proficiency</li> <li>– Child poverty</li> <li>– Food insecurity</li> <li>– Unemployment</li> <li>– Child maltreatment</li> </ul>
Race/ethnicity	Children and families of color, especially those who identify as Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Birth outcomes &amp; prenatal care</li> <li>– Well-child visits</li> <li>– Preschool attendance</li> <li>– Third grade proficiency</li> <li>– Child poverty</li> <li>– Food insecurity</li> <li>– Child maltreatment</li> </ul>

### Recommendation

The available data on disparities suggest that, to have the greatest impact with its limited resources, **First 5 Solano should pursue strategies and partnerships that aim to reduce disparities within the dimensions of geography, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity.** It may choose to support efforts to address disparities within other dimensions, while focusing its work on achieving equity in these three areas. The remainder of the document provides additional details supporting this recommendation.

## DISPARITIES

The table below indicates whether there are significant gaps between groups on each community indicator examined (i.e., at least 5 percentage points and/or statistically significant differences between groups).

### Are there disparities between groups?

Indicator	Ability/disability	Geography	Socioeconomic status	Race/ethnicity	Language	Immigration status	Gender
Child health insurance	No	No	No*	No	No	No	No
Low birth weight / preterm	Yes*	Yes	No	Yes	No*	No	No
Timely prenatal care	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Not applicable
Well-child visits	Yes*	Unavailable	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	No*
Preschool attendance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Third grade proficiency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Inconclusive	Yes
Child poverty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Food insecurity	Yes*	Unavailable	Yes	Yes	Yes*	No*	No*
Unemployment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Child maltreatment	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Unavailable	No*	No
Percent of indicators with disparities	<b>90%</b> (9/10)	<b>88%</b> (7/8)	<b>80%</b> (8/10)	<b>80%</b> (8/10)	<b>56%</b> (5/9)	<b>33%</b> (3/9)	<b>11%</b> (1/9)

\*Data from California or national samples (Solano data unavailable)

## NUMBER AFFECTED

The table below indicates whether the disparities between groups on each community indicator negatively impacts a group or groups that make up at least 10% of the population.

### Are many people affected by disparities between groups?

Indicator	Ability/disability	Geography	Socioeconomic status	Race/ethnicity	Language	Immigration status	Gender
Child health insurance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Low birth weight / preterm	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Timely prenatal care	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not applicable
Well-child visits	No	Unavailable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Preschool attendance	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Third grade proficiency	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Inconclusive	Yes
Child poverty	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Food insecurity	No	Unavailable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Unemployment	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Child maltreatment	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unavailable	No	No
Percent of indicators with disparities AND affected group represents 10% or more of the population	<b>0%</b> (0/10)	<b>88%</b> (7/8)	<b>80%</b> (8/10)	<b>80%</b> (8/10)	<b>56%</b> (5/9)	<b>11%</b> (1/9)	<b>11%</b> (1/9)

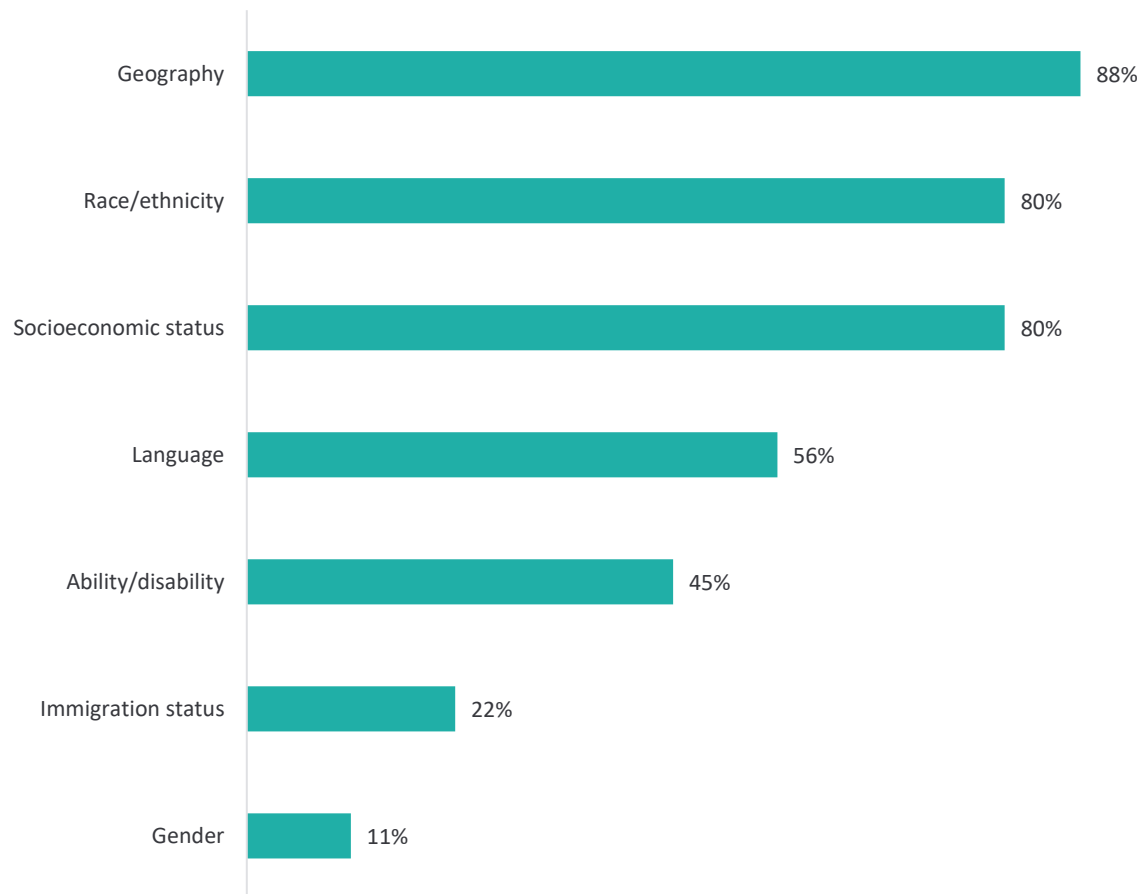
## SUMMARY

The table below indicates how many of the criteria apply for each community indicator and dimension of diversity and identity (2 = disparities AND number affected; 1 = disparities OR number affected; 0 = neither criteria).

### How many criteria were met?

Indicator	Ability/disability	Geography	Socioeconomic status	Race/ethnicity	Language	Immigration status	Gender
Child health insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low birth weight / preterm	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Timely prenatal care	1	2	2	2	2	2	Not applicable
Well-child visits	1	Unavailable	2	2	2	1	0
Preschool attendance	1	2	2	2	2	1	0
Third grade proficiency	1	2	2	2	2	Inconclusive	2
Child poverty	1	2	2	2	0	0	0
Food insecurity	1	Unavailable	2	2	2	0	0
Unemployment	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Child maltreatment	1	2	2	2	Unavailable	0	0
Percent of criteria met	<b>45%</b> (9/20)	<b>88%</b> (14/16)	<b>80%</b> (16/20)	<b>80%</b> (16/20)	<b>56%</b> (10/18)	<b>22%</b> (4/18)	<b>11%</b> (2/18)

The chart that follows summarizes the percent of criteria that were met for each dimension of diversity and identity

**Figure 2. Percent of Criteria Met, by Dimension of Diversity and Identity**

Note: Indicators include child health insurance, birth outcomes, prenatal care, well-child visits, preschool attendance, third grade proficiency, child poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, and child maltreatment.

## DATA SOURCES

### Child Health Insurance

California Health Interview Survey, 2019-20

U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

### Child Maltreatment

California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2020

Dettlaff, A. J., & Johnson, M. A. (2011). Child maltreatment dynamics among immigrant and US born Latino children: Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(6), 936-944.

Eckenrode, J., Smith, E. G., McCarthy, M. E., & Dineen, M. (2014). Income inequality and child maltreatment in the United States. *Pediatrics*, 133(3), 454-461.

Jones, L., Bellis, M. A., Wood, S., Hughes, K., McCoy, E., Eckley, L., . . . Officer, A. (2012). Prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Lancet*, 380, 899–907. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(12)60692-8

Sedlak, A. J., Mettenburg, J., Basena, M., Petta, I., McPherson, K., Greene, A., & Li, S. (2010). Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS–4): Report to Congress.

Solano County Child Welfare Services, 2020

### Child Poverty

U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

### Low Birth Weight / Preterm

Akobirshoev, I., Parish, S. L., Mitra, M., & Rosenthal, E. (2017). Birth outcomes among US women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Disability and health journal*, 10(3), 406-412.

CDC WONDER Database, 2020

Gould, J. B., Madan, A., Qin, C., & Chavez, G. (2003). Perinatal outcomes in two dissimilar immigrant populations in the United States: a dual epidemiologic paradox. *Pediatrics*, 111(6), e676-e682.

Morton, C., Le, J. T., Shahbandar, L., Hammond, C., Murphy, E. A., & Kirschner, K. L. (2013). Pregnancy outcomes of women with physical disabilities: a matched cohort study. *PM&R*, 5(2), 90-98.

Pope, C. (2005). Addressing limited English proficiency and disparities for Hispanic postpartum women. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*, 34(4), 512-520.

Solano County Public Health, 2020

### Food Insecurity

Adams, E. J., Hoffmann, L. M., Rosenberg, K. D., Peters, D., & Pennise, M. (2015). Increased food insecurity among mothers of 2 year olds with special health care needs. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 19(10), 2206-2214.

California Department of Public Health, Maternal Infant Health Assessment, 2013-15

California Health Interview Survey, 2020

Chilton, M., Black, M. M., Berkowitz, C., Casey, P. H., Cook, J., Cutts, D., ... & Frank, D. A. (2009). Food insecurity and risk of poor health among US-born children of immigrants. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99(3), 556-562.

Cook, J. (2013). Risk and protective factors associated with prevalence of VLFS in children among children of foreign-born mothers. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research Discussion Paper Series, DP2013-09.

Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2019

Feeding America. (n.d.). Hunger hits Black communities harder. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/african-american>

Feeding America. (n.d.). Latino communities experience hunger at a much higher rate. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/latino-hunger-facts>

Ma, C., Ho, S. K., Singh, S., & Choi, M. Y. (2021). Gender disparities in food security, dietary intake, and nutritional health in the United States. *Official Journal of the American College of Gastroenterology*, 116(3), 584-592.

Sonik, R., Parish, S. L., Ghosh, S., & Igdalsky, L. (2016). Food insecurity in US households that include children with disabilities. *Exceptional Children*, 83(1), 42-57.

### **Preschool Attendance**

U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

### **Third Grade Proficiency**

California Department of Education, California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, 2018-19

De Feyter, J. J., Parada, M. D., Hartman, S. C., Curby, T. W., & Winsler, A. (2020). The early academic resilience of children from low-income, immigrant families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 51, 446-461.

OECD. (2015). *Helping immigrant students to succeed at school—and beyond*. Paris: Author.

### **Timely Prenatal Care**

Boerleider, A. W., Wiegers, T. A., Manniën, J., Francke, A. L., & Devillé, W. L. (2013). Factors affecting the use of prenatal care by non-western women in industrialized western countries: a systematic review. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 13(1), 1-11.

CDC WONDER Database, 2020

California Department of Public Health, Maternal Infant Health Assessment, 2013-15

Horner-Johnson, W., Biel, F. M., Caughey, A. B., & Darney, B. G. (2019). Differences in prenatal care by presence and type of maternal disability. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 56(3), 376-382.

Solano County Public Health, 2020

### **Unemployment**

U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates

### **Well-Child Visits**

California Health Interview Survey, 2016-20

National Survey of Children's Health, 2019-20



# ACHIEVING EQUITY IN SOLANO COUNTY

Community Indicators and Dimensions of Equity



April 20, 2022



1

## First 5 Solano Systems Change Goal and Results

- First 5 Solano's new Systems Change Goal and Results underscore its commitment to centering equity in its work

**Goal 7:**  
Early childhood systems are strong, integrated,  
sufficiently resourced, and equitable



**Result 12:**  
Systems are strengthened with the increased capacity of providers

**Result 13:**  
Systems are integrated with cross-sector partnerships and aligned goals, services, and outcomes

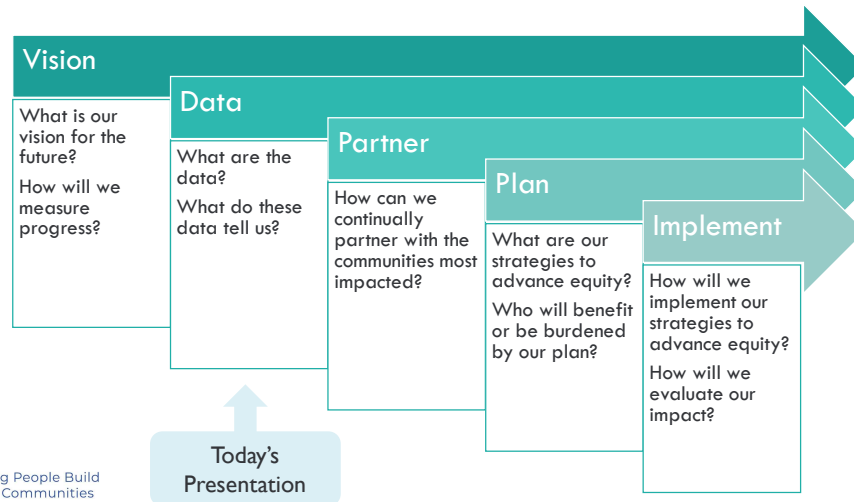
**Result 14:**  
Systems are expanded and sustained with financial resources and legislative or policy changes

**Result 15:**  
Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families

2

## Steps for Achieving Equity

- To achieve equity, First 5 Solano is following a systematic method adapted from the Government Alliance on Race Equity's Racial Equity Tool



3

## Disparities Across Dimensions of Diversity and Identity

- Disparities in outcomes can be found across multiple **dimensions** of diversity and identity, such as:
  - Gender identity
  - Immigration status
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Race/ethnicity
  - Abilities/ disabilities
  - Language
  - Geography
- Disparities may also be found across multiple **indicators** important to First 5 Solano, such as:
  - Child health insurance
  - Low birth weight / preterm
  - Timely prenatal care
  - Well-child visits
  - Preschool attendance
  - Third grade proficiency
  - Child poverty
  - Food insecurity
  - Unemployment
  - Child maltreatment

4

## Analyzing Data on Disparities

- Data were examined for 10 indicators across 7 dimensions considering the following criteria:
  - Indicator data show that disparities are present
  - A significant number of people are affected by observed disparities



5

## Solano Community Indicators

- Full results of the analysis in your packet
- Charts illustrating some of these disparities on the Solano Community Indicator dashboard, available from F5 Solano's website:

[https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/community\\_data.asp](https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/community_data.asp)

### SOLANO COUNTY Community Indicators for Young Children



#### FIRST 5 SOLANO COMMUNITY IMPACT

Click here to learn more about how First 5 Solano impacts the community in these priority areas



##### Demographics

- Number of births and children 0-5 in Solano County
- Birth rate per 1000 residents in Solano County
- Percent of children 0-5 in Solano County over time by race/ethnicity
- Percent of children by race/ethnicity and county



##### PRIORITY AREA 1:

##### Health and Well-being

- Percent of children with health insurance
- Percent of babies born low birth weight
- Percent of babies born in Solano County with risk factors
- Percent of low-income (Medi-Cal) children attending well child visits



##### PRIORITY AREA 2:

##### Early Childhood Learning and Development

- Availability of licensed childcare and TK
- Percent of third graders proficient in reading/math



##### PRIORITY AREA 3:

##### Family Support and Parent Education

- Poverty rate
- Percent of children in food insecure households
- Unemployment rate
- Rate of substantiated maltreatment
- Percent of children without a recurrence of substantiated maltreatment



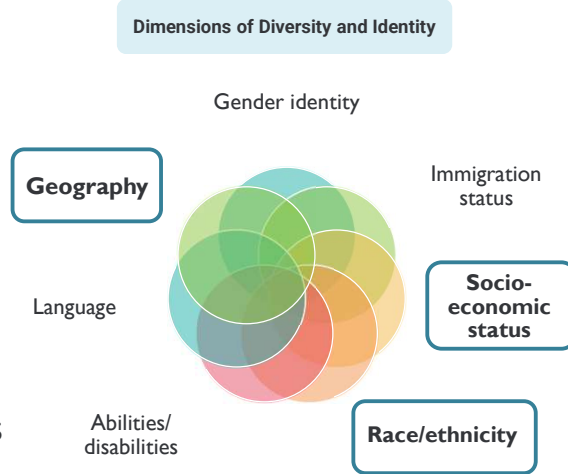
##### Disparities in Child and Family Well-Being

- Disparities by Zip Code
- Solano County Indicators by Zip Code

6

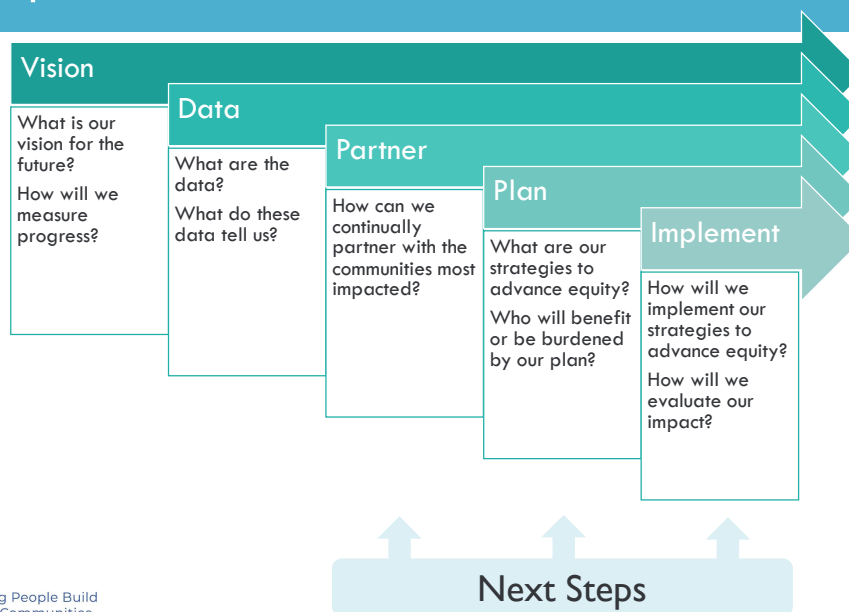
## What Do the Data Tell Us about Disparities in the Community?

- Disparities based on the following have the greatest effect on children and families in the community
  - Geography
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Race/ethnicity
- To have the greatest impact with limited resources, pursue strategies/partnerships to reduce disparities within these 3 dimensions



7

## Next Steps



8

## Questions/Discussion



**DATE:** April 14, 2022

**TO:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

**FROM:** Michele Harris, Executive Director

**SUBJ:** Executive Director's Report for April 2022

**Vallejo First 5 Center Presentation:** On Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, First 5 Solano Commissioner Erin Hannigan and staff member Lorraine Fernandez provided a presentation to the Vallejo City Council on the Vallejo First 5 Center 2021 Outcomes. The Council was pleased to learn about all of the activities, resources and services that are being provided for children and families at the Center.

**Legislative Asks:** First 5 Solano has submitted two legislative asks for a one-time request of \$5,000,000 in funding to support the renovation of the Beverly Hills Elementary school site to establish the Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC). A federal funding request for *Community Project Funding* (previously known as Earmarks) was submitted to Congressman Mike Thompson for and a *State Budget request* was submitted to Senator Bill Dodd. These funds would primarily be used for the replacement of the roof and installation of new HVAC systems.

**Letters of Support:**

- AB1944: On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a letter of support for *AB1944 (Lee) Local Government: Open and Public Meetings* was submitted to Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee, with cc's to Senator Dodd and Assemblymember Grayson. This bill will allow a legislative body to waive Brown Act requirements for publishing private addresses on meeting agendas and would provide remote participation options (See [Attachment A](#)).
- State Budget Ask to support Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH): On March 28<sup>th</sup> First 5 Solano signed on to an open letter from The Children's Movement to Governor Newsom and state legislators supporting IECMH services and provider training through a one-time \$250 million General Fund appropriation in the State Budget as part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (See [Attachment B](#)).

**Kaiser Community Benefit 2022 Grant Application:** On March 24<sup>th</sup> First 5 Solano submitted a grant request for \$25,000 to Kaiser through its 2022 Community Benefit program. The request is for funds to support the Vallejo First 5 Center Family Navigation Program in providing information/referrals and linkages to increase access to social non-medical services. If this grant request is approved this will be the third year that Kaiser has supported this program.

**Shared Services Alliance Network Progress:** Through a grant from First 5 California, First 5 Solano is working with Solano County Office of Education to implement a Shared Services Alliance Network (SSAN) of early learning and care providers in Solano County. The primary goal of the pilot program is to establish a Business Management System which can be used by child care providers to accomplish "back office" tasks, such as invoicing, attendance, parent communication, etc. The Local Child Care Planning Council formed an Ad Hoc workgroup to identify the needs of early learning and care providers in Solano and then to select a system that would meet those needs. Through surveys and potential BMS demonstrations, the Ad Hoc workgroup narrow the selection down from 20 potential systems and last month selected Hubbe

as the BMS system which will be implanted through the SSAN. The next step is to obtain a contract with Hubbe and customize to meet the needs of Solano providers, as well as recruit and select the initial 10 providers who will pilot the system.

**Solano County MHSA Innovation Program Planning:** First 5 Solano staff recently participated in a community stakeholder planning meeting hosted by Solano County Health and Social Services to provide input into developing new projects funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation funds.

MHSA Innovation funds are used to increase access to mental health services by funding new and innovative mental health practices and approaches that are expected to contribute to improved access to care for Solano County's underserved populations, address disparities, and to improve consumer outcomes. Meeting participants received a brief overview of MHSA, comprehensive information on the Innovation component, local data and information regarding previously identified gaps in the system of care impacting underserved communities, and participated in breakout sessions to brainstorm potential ideas that address specific needs in Solano.

**Child Haven Contract Update:** In March 2022, Child Haven, Inc. submitted a letter to terminate their contract to provide Triple P Level 4 Standard and Level 4 Group services. The 30-day notice adhered to the procedure outlined for County contracts and First 5 Solano has accepted the termination. First 5 Solano staff is currently considering solutions to fill this gap to provide Triple P services.

**Pre-K Academies:** At the March 16th Commission meeting the Commission was asked to consider approval for an allocation of funding for the Summer 2022 Pre-K Academies. A total of sixteen Pre-K Academy sessions in all seven cities in Solano County would be provided through this allocation for a total of \$160,000 in funding. The Commission discussed the lack of pre-k academies happening with the Vallejo City Unified School District. After discussing, Commissioner Tiffanee Jones stated she would reach out to the Vallejo City Unified School District to advocate that they increase the number of pre-k academies offered in the city. Through her discussions, it was confirmed that Vallejo City USD would continue to offer two sessions. However, Solano County Office of Education agreed to provide one additional session for a total of three sessions offered in Vallejo. Six sessions will be offered in Fairfield, three in Vacaville, two in Dixon, and one each in Benicia and Rio Vista. First 5 Solano Pre-K Academies will be offered beginning June 6-July 30, 2022. If interested in visiting a Pre-K Academy, contact Juanita Morales at [jsmorales@solanocounty.org](mailto:jsmorales@solanocounty.org) or 707-784-1339 to schedule a visit.

**Community Engagement Update:** First 5 Solano will participate in the 2022 Solano County Fair by hosting the "First 5 Family Zone". The "zone" is an area dedicated to the littlest of fair goers and their families. First 5 Solano partners with agencies such as the Solano County Office of Education, HMG Solano, and Child Start Head Start just to name a few, to offer activities for the little ones. Activities included puppet making, planting stations, yoga, and story times by First 5 Solano Commissioners. The Solano County Fair will be held in person on June 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> with this year's theme being "bales of fun". If you are interested in providing a story time or volunteering for an activity, please contact Juanita Morales at [jsmorales@solanocounty.org](mailto:jsmorales@solanocounty.org) or 707-784-1339.

**Home Visiting Coordination:** First 5 California funded a grant for Home Visiting Coordination to help counties create a sustainable, unified system that supports families with home visiting services and maximizes available funding to serve more families. First 5 Solano partnered with H&SS Public Health Division and was funded \$100,000 per year for two years to focus on integration and strengthen coordination of home visiting programs across the county. The funding for Home Visiting Coordination will conclude on June 30, 2022 and due to the significant under-expenditure of many counties' Home Visiting Coordination (HVC) budgets, First 5 CA offered the opportunity to move unencumbered funding from current HVC contracts into FY2022/23. First 5 Solano has requested an extension of up to an additional 12 months for the Public Health Division to continue Home Visiting Coordination work.

[Attachment A:](#) Letter of Support AB1944 (Lee)

[Attachment B:](#) Letter of Support State Budget Request IECMH



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

March 23, 2022

## COMMISSIONERS

Erin Hannigan

Chair

Jennifer Barton

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Amy Fabi

Erin Hannigan

Gerald Huber

Tiffanee Jones

Nimat Shakoor-Grantham

Marla Stuart

Tyffany Wanberg

## STAFF

Michele Harris

Executive Director

Megan Richards

Deputy Director

Juanita Morales

Program Manager

Gene Ibe

Program Manager

Lorraine Fernandez

Program Manager

Kwiana Algeré

Health Education Specialist

Caitlin Brakefield

Office Assistant III



First 5 Solano is a  
Division of the Solano  
County Administrator's  
Office

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee 1020 N St. Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: – SUPPORT, AB 1944 (Lee) Local Government: Open and Public Meetings

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, I write in support of AB 1944 (Lee), which will allow a legislative body to waive Brown Act requirements for publishing private addresses on meeting agendas and providing remote participation options.

In 2020 Governor Newsom issued executive orders waiving teleconference requirements and AB 361 allowed the continuance of this option until the end of the state of emergency until 2024. Brown Act bodies face certain requirements that require members who choose to teleconference to disclose their private addresses publicly. This requirement can make compliance difficult if a member cannot make known their private location to the public for a variety of reasons.

AB 1944 would allow legislative bodies to teleconference into a meeting without revealing their private address and also require live streams of these meetings if a member chooses to teleconference in. The bill would allow members of the public a call-in or video option to address their elected officials.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support AB 1944 (Lee) and ask that you vote aye when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

Michele Harris  
Executive Director, First 5 Solano  
(707) 784-1340  
mdharris@solanocounty.com

## CC:

Honorable Bill Dodd, Member, California State Senate  
Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly

March 28, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom and State Legislators:

Thank you for your leadership in addressing the mental health needs of children and youth. The recent investment of more than \$4 billion for the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is a strong down payment on the health and well-being of California's children and youth. The CYBHI offers the promise of transforming and vastly expanding children's mental health services.

However, without a clear plan or dedicated funding, CYBHI will miss serving the critical needs of infants and toddlers. We are requesting a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$250 million to support infant and early childhood mental health services and provider training.

We are at a critical moment, one that has the potential to be pivotal in the landscape of early childhood mental health in California. Conditions created by the pandemic, such as isolation, economic stress, and community trauma, are all proven to negatively impact a child's ability to thrive. It is vitally important that young children, their parents, and caregivers receive the interventions necessary to support their mental health during this time.

Young children under age 5 can — and do — suffer from mental health conditions. These conditions are difficult for providers to identify and address because young children handle emotional experiences and traumatic events differently from adults and older children. During these early years a child's brain is developing more rapidly than at any other point in their life. Very young children are also uniquely dependent on the adults in their lives to meet their social-emotional needs and bounce back from stressful experiences. Thus, interventions must focus on caregivers to provide a nurturing, loving relationship that encourages the child's social-emotional growth and supports the foundational brain development that will enable them to flourish.

In community-based programs, care and support are delivered in spaces that children and their families frequent and allow families to play an active role in their delivery. Community-based services are distinct from clinical mental health services, such as the new dyadic care Medi-Cal benefit, which, in addition to community-based services, are an essential part of the mental health system for young children. Services at the community level might look like facilitated playgroups, parenting support classes, and/or mental health consultation for early care and education providers, among others. These programs are uniquely designed to help families overcome barriers to mental health care access, and they can connect families and educators with more intensive health, mental health, or early intervention services as needed. Community-based programs are also most likely to reach families from historically marginalized communities, including immigrant families, low-income families, and families of color.

Children under age 5 comprise 23% of the young people ages 0 to 21 enrolled in Medi-Cal; yet, they do not receive a proportional share of health and mental health care. This is despite the evidence that 43% of young children have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience.

The undersigned call on you to prioritize very young kids in the upcoming 2022-23 State Budget by increasing funding to support existing crucial infant and early childhood programs and services.

Sincerely,  
[organizations]