

COMMISSION MEETING
August 17, 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 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 August 17, 2022 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the [June 15, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. Adopt [Resolution 2022-12](#) 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 August 17, 2022 to September 16, 2022

III. Vacaville Play 4 All Park (forwarded from Policy and Oversight Committee) (20 min)

Action

Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to allocate up to \$400,000 to [Play 4 All Park](#) to complete Phase I of the Vacaville Play 4 All Park, supporting play for families of all abilities (Source of funding: First 5 Solano Reserve) Michele Harris, Executive Director; Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist

IV. Annual Grants Review (forwarded from Policy and Oversight Committee) (30 min)

Information

Receive the [Annual Grants Review Report](#), including recommendations from Policy and Oversight Committee Discussions
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Kim Gillette, Applied Survey Research

V. Universal Transitional Kindergarten Presentation (forwarded from Policy and Oversight Committee) (30 min)

Information

Receive a presentation from Solano County Office of Education on the roll out of [Transitional Kindergarten](#)
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Lisa Eckhoff, Solano County Office of Education

- VI. 2023 Program Investment Planning** (forwarded from Policy and Oversight Committee) (30 min) **Information/ Discussion**
Discuss Other Funding as part of the Commission's [Program Investment Plan](#), including recommendations from Policy and Oversight Committee Discussions
Michele Harris, Executive Director, Megan Richards, Deputy Director
- VII. Executive Director's Report** (10 min) **Information**
Michele Harris, Executive Director
- VIII. Commissioner Remarks** (5 min) **Information**
- IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** **Information**
The next Commission meeting will be held on October 19, 2022 at 3:00PM via teleconference. Support staff located at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Program Investment Planning, Annual Audit, Annual Report, Committee 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**

June 15, 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, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Amy Fabi, Jerry Huber (exited at 3:30 PM), Tiffanee Jones, Neely McElroy, Nimat Shakoor-Grantham (exited at 4:00 PM)

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

I. Public Comment

No public comment

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the June 15, 2022 Commission Meeting Agenda***
- B. Approve the May 18, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes***
- C. Adopt Resolution 2022-10 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 June 15, 2022 to July 14, 2022.***

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Tiffanee Jones

Approved 7-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Huber, Jones, McElroy, Shakoor-Grantham, Hannigan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Annual Grant Awards of Funding

Motion:

Consider approval of allocations of funding of up to \$159,832 for FY2022/23 Annual Grants in response to Request for Applications 32022-04 as follows:

- A. Up to \$20,000 to Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum to provide story time and books during children's programming and Literacy events at the museum***
- B. Up to \$20,000 to Loving care 4 Kids to provide a mobile book storyteller at family child care homes and provide new multicultural books to children in the homes***

- C. Up to \$20,000 to City of Suisun Recreation, Parks and Marina Department to provide a series of recreation programs for children 2-4 years old free of cost**
- D. Up to \$20,000 to Fairfield Adult School to provide an Early Transitional Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten class that includes a family/parent education component**
- E. Up to \$20,000 to Child Start Inc. to provide trauma-informed, mental health based, reflective practice and supervision to Solano County Child Start staff**
- F. Up to \$20,000 to Vacaville Unified School District to provide a parent engagement series for families of children ages 3-5**
- G. Up to \$19,832 to Jayda Learning Center to provide respite temporary care to families/caregivers of children aged 0-5 as a neighborhood-based family resource**
- H. Up to \$20,000 to Parenting After Trauma to provide ACEs and trauma awareness and increase access to trauma-informed approaches to parents of children 0-5**

First 5 Solano Program Manager Juanita Morales presented on the 5th annual cycle of grants aimed at filling gaps in the community, partnering with new community partners, or funding a novel idea or project. Grants of up to \$20,000 were made available in this request for applications funding cycle, with 11 applications submitted. It is recommended that up to \$159,832 in total for FY2022/23 be allocated to grantees. Should the Commission approve the recommended awards of funding, the next steps would include contract negotiations, approval of contracts with County Counsel and the County Administrator, with services to begin July 2022.

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Huber, Jones, McElroy, Shakoor-Grantham, Wanberg, Hannigan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Huber Departed

IV. 2023 Program Investment Planning

Deputy Director Megan Richards presented the plan to develop the First 5 Solano 2023-2028 Program Investment Plan (PIP). The purpose of this plan is to recommend how investment funds should be made and how to strategize appropriately. Its functions include reviewing recent allocations against Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) policies, directs program investment funds to initiatives shared with strategic priority areas, goals, and results and provides a timetable for funding. PIP has the following timetable: in May, LTFP decisions determine annual expenditure by category, in June PIP discussions on initiatives commence, August will see annual grant evaluation, Universal TK presentation, and discussion around gaps in services and potential strategies, October will see PIP strategies and funding finalized, and in December PIP and LTFP will be approved by Commission.

Commissioners discussed ongoing program recommendations and agreed that continuing the major strategies from 2016 was a good plan. The Commission also reviewed the

smaller strategies they have funded in the last cycle, considered the additions of possible strategies to add based upon the year-long Strategic Planning efforts, and agreed that the other programs list was comprehensive. Staff will bring back more in-depth information on each of these funding areas for Commission consideration at the August Meeting..

Commissioner Shakoor-Grantham Departed

V. First 5 Solano 2022 Community Update

Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, presented the brochure procured for First 5 Solano, which explains what First 5 Solano (F5S) is, what it does, what future projects are planned. In addition to sharing this brochure with community partners, Ms. Fernandez explained that a PowerPoint was made to accompany the brochure so a F5S staff member and Commissioner, or just a Commissioner, can go into the community and make a presentation about First 5 Solano.

VI. Policy and Oversight Committee

Nothing noteworthy to report.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michele Harris reported that F5S received a \$5,000 grant from Genentech to help fund Pre-K Academies.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Erin Hannigan noted that the Solano County Fair starts June 16th at 4 PM. F5S Program Manager Juanita Morales furthered this by adding that F5S will be hosting the Family Zone June 17th-June 19th and will be joined by 18 community partners, hosting activities for children. Commissioner Lisette Estrella-Henderson encouraged other Commission members to visit Pre-K Academy sites. Commissioner Tiffanee Jones thanked all for the warm wishes on her new position and noted that the Vallejo Juneteenth celebration is June 18th at Martin Luther King park. The Fairfield Juneteenth celebration will be held across from the County office. Commissioner Amy Fabi encouraged all to visit the Pista Sa Nasyon Festival on June 18th on Mare Island.

IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Commission meeting will be held on August 17, 2022 at 3:00 PM via teleconference. Support staff located at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Program Investment Planning, Annual Grant Evaluation, Pre-K Academies, Committee Report

Adjourn

Chair Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 4:38 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

Resolution No. 2022-12

A RESOLUTION OF FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 17, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 16, 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) August 17, 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 17th day of June 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Erin Hannigan, Chair
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

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

Date: August 10, 2022

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist

SUBJ: **Play 4 All Park Staff Report**

Motion: Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to allocate up to \$400,000 to Play 4 All Park to complete Phase I of the Vacaville Play 4 All Park, supporting play for families of all abilities (Source of Funding: *First 5 Solano Commission Reserve*)

Staff Report: The new Play 4 All Park is the first inclusive park and playground in Solano County and is located at 815 Elmira Road in Vacaville. The park was created to offer play and recreational resources that are inclusive for kids of all abilities with a focus on children with special needs. The play equipment and playground have many unique features to include all children no matter their ability or age such as:

- A cozy dome ideal for small children with autism or other sensory needs
- Several learning panels, including braille alphabet, musical instruments to play, and wheels with compasses
- Swings for small children or those with disabilities
- Rockers for small children
- Merry-go-round

Phillippi Engineering Inc. established and has led The Play 4 All Park Project and has received approximately \$3 million in cash and in-kind donations to support construction of this portion of the park. To finish and open the park to visitors, it will take \$400,000 and approximately two months. The remaining construction activities are to complete the splash pad, restrooms, picnic pavilions, and landscaping.

The investment of \$400,000 matches the contribution from the City of Vacaville, and positions First 5 Solano as a signature partner on this important park. The project aligns with the Commission's preferences for use of reserve dollars, as it is one time and can have a positive and impactful effect on a community. At the close of FY2021/22, the Commission's uncommitted reserve is at approximately \$11 million. Lastly, this investment directly targets the Commission's emphasis on equity strategies.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee heard from Tom Phillippi about the Play 4 All Park. The Committee agreed that this investment is consistent with the Commission's new focus on equity and recommended the item come before the Commission for consideration.

[Attachment A](#) – Play 4 All Park Presentation



1

What is the Play 4 All Park?

The Play 4 All Park is a park for children of all abilities and disabilities located in Vacaville on Elmira Road just east of Leisure Town Road.

It will be a free, safe and accessible place for families to go for fun, sports, picnics, entertainment and relaxation.



2

The Play 4 All Park Offers:

- **Accessible Play Areas**

Play areas need to welcome everyone, whether they walk, wheel, crawl or sit. They should encourage kids of all ages and abilities to have fun together, to imagine together, and to help each other at every turn.

- **People-friendly Surfaces**

Most playgrounds are built with tons of cement, asphalt, bark, sand and gravel. These might make areas more durable, but they can pose insurmountable barriers to those with mobility challenges. The Play 4 All Park will use a variety of surfaces.

- **Vaca Village**

Families will love strolling through this miniature town; letting their imaginations run wild as they take in the sight of shops and buildings named after their familiar Vacaville surroundings.

- **Easy Access 4 All**

With easy access off Leisure Town Road from I80 and quick in-town access, the Play 4 All Park's anticipated location will be a snap to get to. And, it will be adjacent to the new neighborhood park that is part of Vacaville's east of Leisure Town expansion project.



3

3

Cozy Dome



Merry Go Round



for small children

Swings seats for children or those with disabilities



Several learning panels. This one teaches the Braille Alphabet



4

4



5

Vacaville's Play 4 All park is a community effort and would not be possible without the generosity and support of community partners, such as:

- Hartford Land Management and S2 Investors
- City of Vacaville
- Phillippi Engineering, Inc.
- Teichert Construction
- All Phase Construction
- Vaca Valley Excavating
- Wasserman Family
- Kaiser Permanente
- A2R Architect
- Recology
- Rotary Club of Vacaville
- Swank Construction
- Comcast
- Murillo's Restaurant
- Sunrise Events Center
- Travis Credit Union
- Rich Alexander
- Steve Brown
- S&S Services
- Yin McDonald's
- Basalite Concrete



6

6

SUMMARY

For a park to be constructed with purpose in mind, the community and excellent collaborations were essential. Multiple community partners have come together to fund and help the Play 4 All Park come to life.

The Play 4 All Park will allow any child and their family to have fun regardless of their abilities. Everyone should be able to enjoy a park that is as accessible as possible. And that is exactly what Phillippi Engineering Inc. is doing with the Play 4 All Park.



7

Thank you

For more information About the Play 4 All Park visit the website:

<https://www.play4allvacaville.org/>

or

Contact Play 4 All Rotary Park Committee at
(707) 451- 6556

8

8

Date: August 10, 2022

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Annual Grants Review**

In the 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan, First 5 Solano allocated \$200,000 annually to an Annual Grants Program, which provides one-year grants of up to \$20,000 to pilot a new idea, fill a gap, or address a time-sensitive community need. Applied Survey Research (ASR), the Commission's evaluator, has prepared a review of the Annual Grants Program from the first 3 years of implementation data, including if the funded projects met the stated goals of the program, if the Commission was able to engage new partners, and if the grants built capacity within grantee organizations. The review concludes with recommendations on the process based on the review.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee appreciated the thorough review of the program and agreed with the recommendations in the report of:

- Further defining RFA criteria (innovation, fills a gap, time-sensitive needs)
- Allow up to 20% of grants to be a repeat project to continue success.

In addition, the Committee is recommending to slightly reduce the annual allocation in the next funding cycle to \$160,000 to bring the allocation more in line with actual expenditure.

[Attachment A: Annual Grant Review Presentation](#)



REVIEW OF FIRST 5 SOLANO ANNUAL GRANTS

FY2018/19 through FY2020/21



August 2022



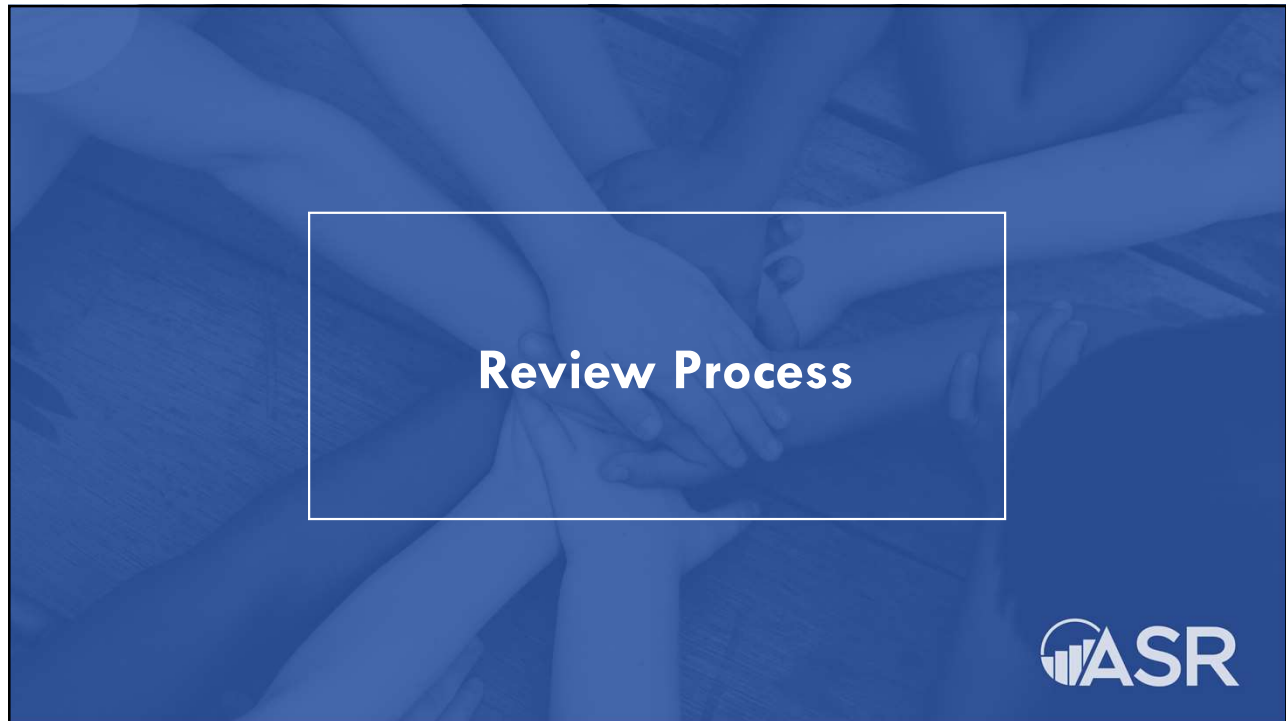
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Agenda

- Review Process
- Overview of Annual Grants
- Are the Annual Grants Meeting Expectations?
- Recommendations



2



3

Review Process

- Reviewed grant proposals, reports, and First 5 Solano staff presentations
- Interviewed grantees
- Interviewed First 5 Solano staff members
- Analyzed First 5 Solano financial investments related to Annual Grants
- Generated learnings

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, standing side-by-side and reading books. The girl on the left is wearing a black and white striped shirt and holding a yellow book. The boy on the right is wearing a yellow shirt and holding a blue book. They are both looking down at their books with concentration.The ASR logo is located in the bottom left corner, featuring a stylized bar chart icon followed by the letters "ASR". To the right of the logo, the tagline "Helping People Build Better Communities" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

4

4

Overview of Annual Grants



5

Annual Grant Expectations

Criteria Listed in RFA

- Fills a community gap
- Pilots a new or innovative idea
- Addresses a time-sensitive community need

Intentions as Described by First 5 Solano Staff

- Pilot innovation and create opportunities for smaller nonprofits and community partners to engage
- Attract a new set of providers and help build capacity in smaller nonprofits/community partners
- Create an opportunity for organizations to apply in between grant cycles
- Develop a process and increase access to smaller grant dollars

Emerging Expectations

- **PROJECTS** are innovative
 - Fill a need
 - Sustainable and grow
- **PARTNERS** are new
 - First 5 Solano will help build capacity
- **PROCESS** is accessible
 - Develop a process and increase access to smaller grants
 - Fund grants in between funding cycles

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Snapshot of Grants Awarded

	# of Grants	\$ Granted	Average Funding Amount	Proposed # of Children to be Served	Proposed # of Parents/ Caregivers to be Served
FY2018/19	7	\$119,861	\$17,123	550	101
FY2019/20	10	\$151,015	\$15,102	446	596
FY2020/21	7	\$140,000	\$20,000	258	313
TOTAL	24	\$410,876	\$17,120	1,254	1,010



Key Takeaway:

\$181 per person
(children and
parent/caregiver)
served

7

**Are the Annual Grants
Meeting Expectations?**

8

Are the Projects Innovative?

The projects are innovative:

- ✓ At the programmatic level
- ⊖ Not at the systemic level

It is a valuable program and gives these smaller organizations a head start on new and innovative projects.
- First 5 Solano Staff

We haven't seen true innovation that will change our systems.
- First 5 Solano Staff



Is There a Direct Impact on Families?



1,150 children
out of proposed 1,254
were served directly

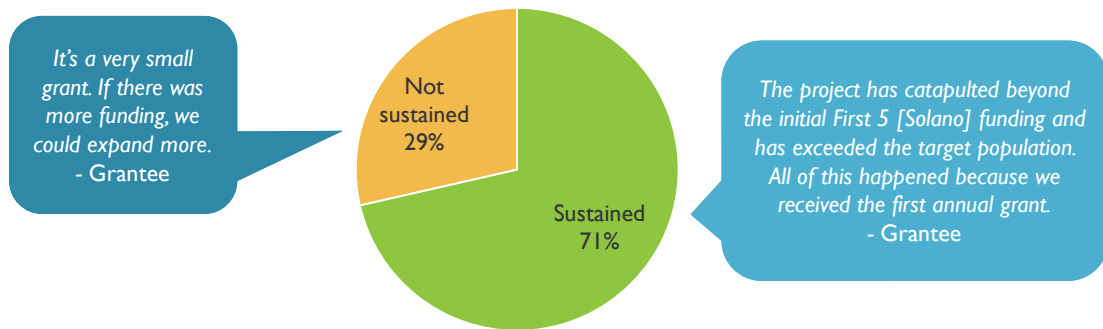


1,091 caregivers
out of proposed 1,010
were served directly

Key Takeaways:
2,241 out of proposed 2,264 (99%) families were served
↓
19 out of 24 (79%) grantees came close to, met or exceeded proposed #s

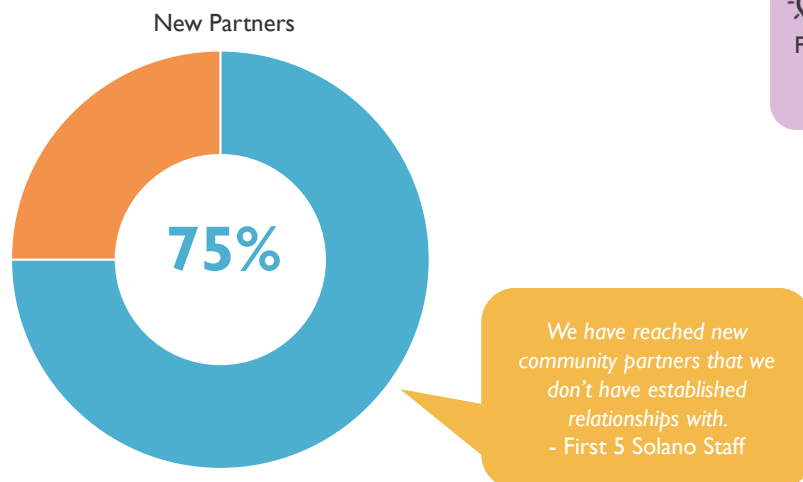
Were the Projects Sustained?

Projects From FY2018/19 and FY2019/20
Sustained After Grant Ended



11

Did First 5 Solano Engage with New Partners?



Key Takeaway:
From FY2018/19-FY2020/21,
18 of the 24 grants were
with new partners

12

Did First 5 Solano Help Build the Partner's Capacity? ... via Development Sessions

- Starting with RFA's for FY2020/21, all potential applicants attend a mandatory one-on-one with First 5 Solano staff to assist applicants in thinking through their grant ideas.



Key Takeaway:

Staff and grantees agree the development sessions are helpful

The basic information we provide them are like a turn the curve moment for agencies. They realize they don't have to change the world.

- First 5 Solano Staff



It helped me better understand what they [funders] are looking for.

- Grantee

13

What are the Opportunities and Challenges with Capacity Building?

- Many grantees are new to data collection, tracking, and reporting
- Grantees often underestimate what is required for outreach and recruitment
- Grantees do not always prioritize responding to First 5 Solano staff ... or ASR staff

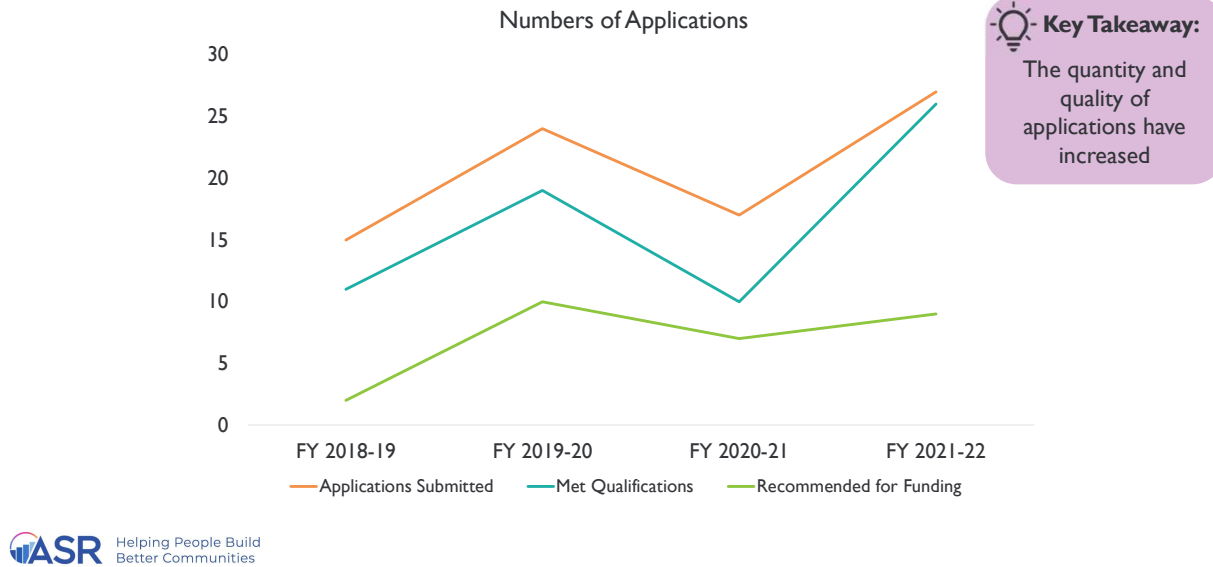
They aren't used to collecting data. They don't want to do it, they just want to give food or read to the kids.

- First 5 Solano Staff



14

What is the Quantity and Quality of the Applications? ... Indication the Process is Accessible



15

What Do the Grantees Think Could be Improved About the Process?

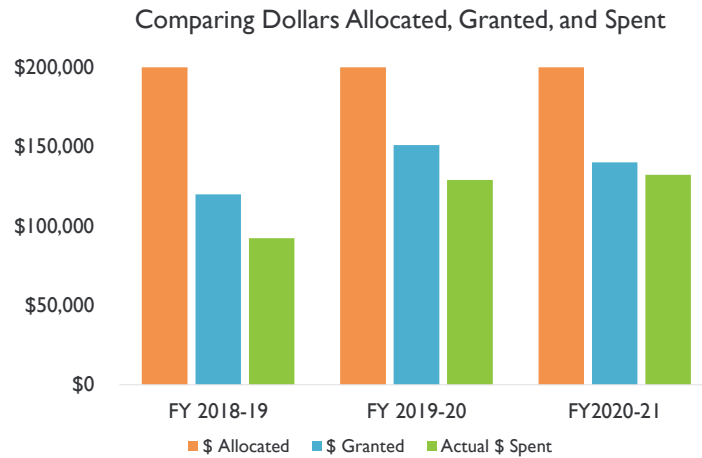
- Many of the grantees wished the contract would last more than one year
- Some wished they could reapply for funding to continue the momentum

It is unfortunate that we can only apply one time.
- Grantee

If they're trying to fund new ideas, innovation, they should expand it beyond 1 year. Some planning time could have been helpful.
- Grantee

16

How Much of the Allocated Funding Was Spent?



Key Takeaway:
On average only about 60% of the amount allocated was spent

17

Recommendations

18

What are Some Recommendations for the Annual Grants?

Further define RFA criteria (innovation, fills a gap, time-sensitive needs)

Allow up to 20% of grants to be a repeat project to continue success

Allocation Option	Continue allocating \$200,000 per year	POC RECOMMENDED Reduce allocation to \$160,000 per year to match past amount granted	Reduce allocation to \$100,000 per year to prioritize highest needs
# of Grantees	Allows for up to 10 grantees	Allows for up to 8 grantees	Allows for up to 5 grantees

19

Thank you!

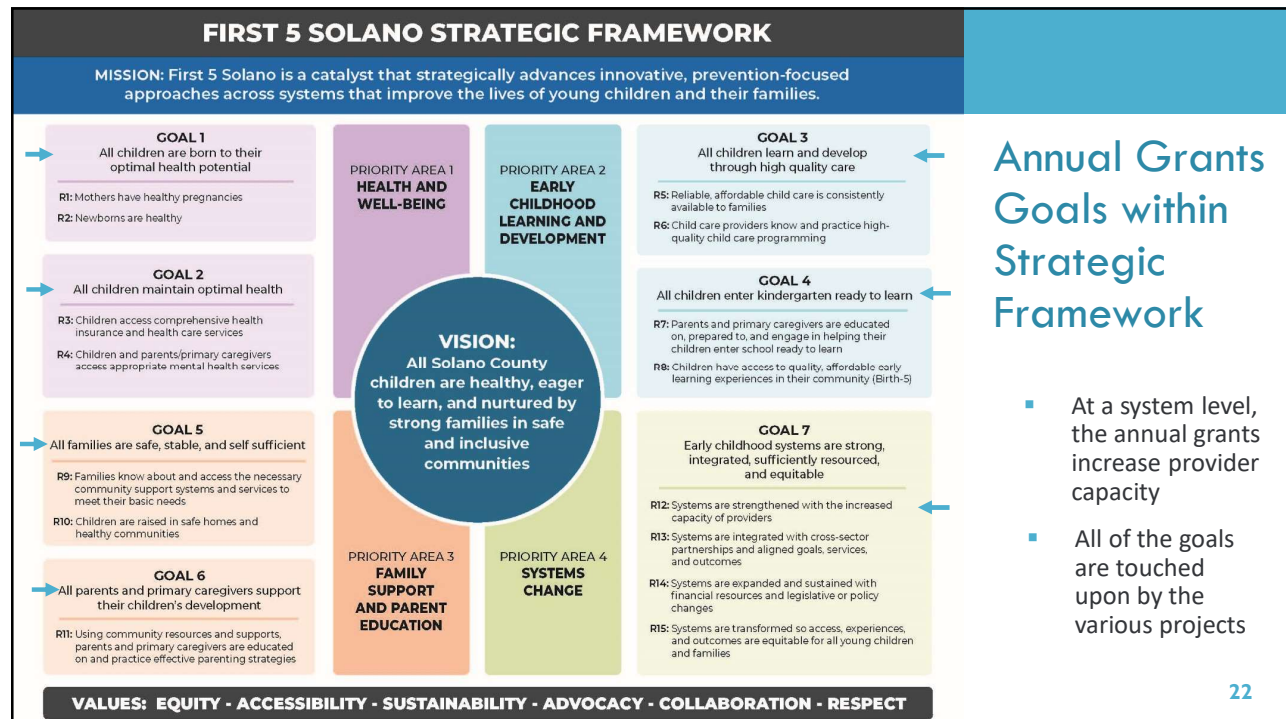
Questions?

20

Additional Slides



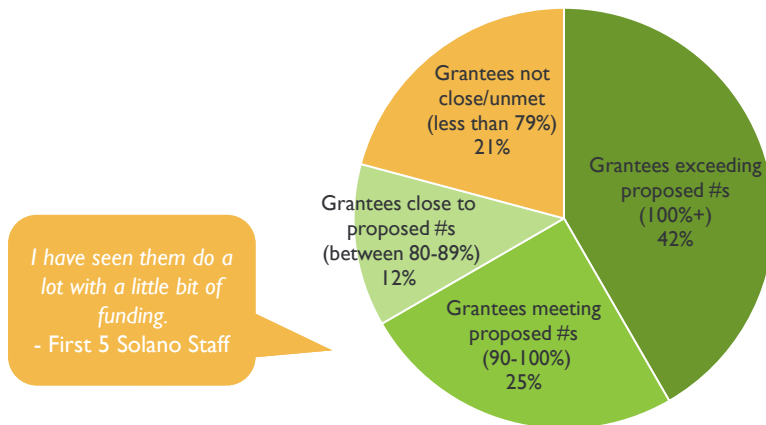
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22

How Successful are Annual Grant Partners?

Grantees Meeting Proposed Numbers

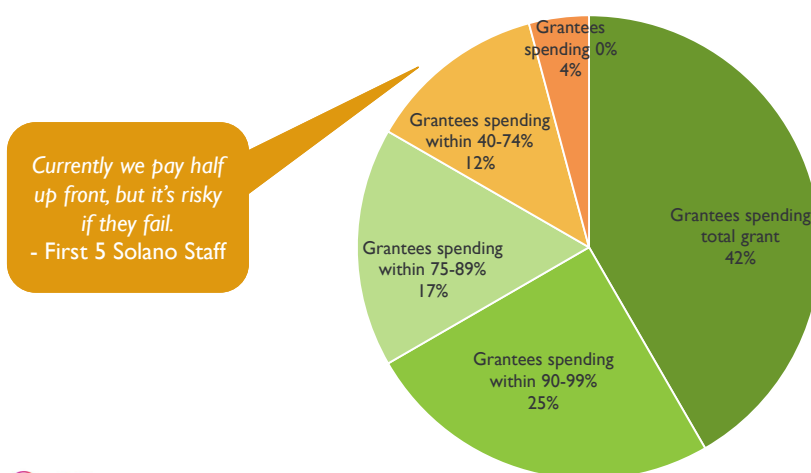


Key Takeaway:
19 out of 24 (79%)
grantees came close
to, met or exceeded
proposed #s

23

Did the Grantees Spend the Funds?

Grantee Expenditures of Funds



Key Takeaway:
\$353,501 out of
\$410,876 granted
(86%) were spent

24

How Were the Partners Impacted by COVID?

- COVID provided added challenges, but many grantees were able to creatively problem solve, with the support of First 5 Solano staff

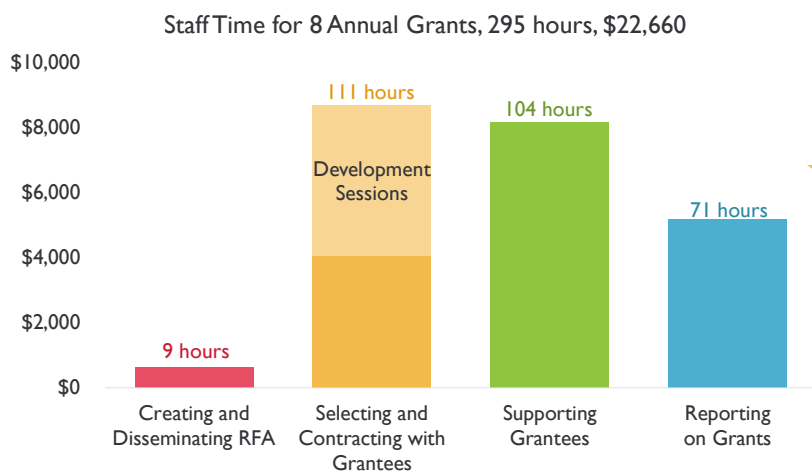
We almost had to return the money...[we pivoted] ...We were able to serve more people.
- Grantee

We survived the pandemic, and we are still doing [the project] and I think that is huge for the success of what they sought to do.
- Grantee



25

How Much Staff Time is Invested in the Annual Grants Process?



It takes a lot of [First 5 Solano] staff time, but a lot more families are served in different areas (such as food, housing, education).
- First 5 Solano Staff

26

Date: August 10, 2022

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director

SUBJ: **Universal Transitional Kindergarten**

Transitional Kindergarten is part of a 2-year Kindergarten program and has been available since 2012 to children who turn 5 during the fall months. In 2021, the state passed legislation to expand Transitional Kindergarten to all 4-year-olds by school year 2025-26. This provides an opportunity for all 4-year-olds to have a free early learning experience. This presentation will provide the Commission with an overview of expansion of Transitional Kindergarten, including the opportunities for children and families and the impacts for consideration on the landscape of early care and education providers.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee appreciated the information in the presentation to consider in making decisions about the Commission's upcoming Program Investment Plan.

[Attachment A:](#) Universal Transitional Kindergarten Presentation



Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

*Linking Early Learning & Care Programs
with TK-12 School Systems*

August 2022

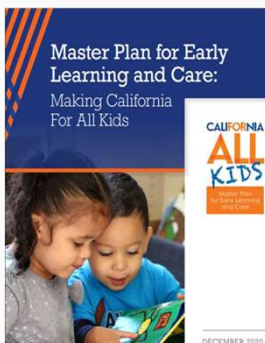


Lisa Eckhoff, Senior Director, Early Learning

Bronwyn Kennedy, Early Learning Liaison, Childcare Policy & Planning

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Master Plan for Early Learning and Care Making California for All Kids



All California children thrive physically, emotionally, and educationally in their early years, through access to high-quality early learning and care resources, equitable opportunities for the workforce that advance equitable outcomes for children.

- 1) Expand access to paid family leave
- 2) Consolidate child care programs, streamline eligibility and enrollment, and strengthen workforce quality and sustainability
- 3) Provide 3- and 4-year-olds with access to high-quality preschool
- 4) Eliminate bias and ensure equitable treatment for all children and families

2

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

- Align standards for State Preschool Program and Transitional Kindergarten programs (3- and 4-year olds)
- Universal Preschool for all 4-year olds
- Preschool for all 3-year olds in income-eligible families
- Expand inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities
- Funding support for Early Learning workforce development



3

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

- TK - the first year of a two-year kinder program
- Implementing developmentally appropriate and high quality practices
- Free educational programming available to all families regardless of income

2022-23

- TK offered to four-year-olds whose 5th birthday occurs between **September 2-February 2**.

2023-24

- TK offered to four-year-olds whose 5th birthday occurs between **September 2 - April 2**.

2024-25

- TK offered to four-year-olds whose 5th birthday occurs between **September 2-June 2**.

2025-26

- Offer TK to three year olds whose 4th birthday occurs by **September 1**.

4

Options for Families



UTK does not impact family eligibility for other child care and preschool programs.

Family Considerations:

- Cost of program or eligibility
- Before/after school care
- Length of day
- Hours/months of operation
- Student support services
- Readiness of your child
- Transportation
- Meals

5

Potential Opportunities & Considerations



Opportunities

- Increased access for children served in Solano County
- Additional educational options for young children
- Potential educational and career advancement pathways for ELC teachers, including home-based and center-based providers
- Increased collaboration with early learning and care partners, organizations, and community-based programs

Considerations

- Potential loss of 4-year-olds for private providers, CA State Preschool Programs and Family Child Care Home providers
- Workforce shortages increased as teachers move into CSPP and TK teaching opportunities
- Increased need for before/after school care, expanded learning opportunities, and non-traditional hours care

6

6

ELC Workforce Development Opportunities

Early Learning and Care Teachers:

- Family, Friend & Neighbors
- Family Child Care Homes
- Private Center-based
- CA State Preschool
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Transitional Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Assistant Teachers in ELC programs



Benefits for ELC Professionals:

- Professional learning
- Networking
- Coaching and technical assistance
- Higher education
- Child Development Permits
- Teaching Credential
- Collaborations with partner organizations
- Resources

7



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8

Date: August 10, 2022

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director

SUBJ: Program Investment Planning Staff Report

In January 2022, the Commission adopted a new 2022 Strategic Plan Update and in May 2022 the Commission reviewed and provided input into their Long-Term Financial Plan Update. In June 2022, the Commission provided input into its Program Investment Plan which identifies the strategies in the Strategic Plan which the Commission will invest in based on the available resources. The Commission has already heard and provided input and direction on its administrative costs and strategies/initiatives which are recommended to continue with little or no change.

Today, the Commission will hear information about strategies in which the Commission will consider investing the remaining available funding for the 2023-2028 Program Investment Plan.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee reviewed the Strategy Snapshots to determine if the information provided was sufficient to make a determination on funding and agreed that the Snapshots captured a full picture of each strategy. In addition, the Committee reviewed several options for how to bring the strategies forward to the full Commission. The Committee agreed that staff should prepare a draft recommendation of a slate of strategies, based upon current information and that the Commission could make changes to the slate, as well as discuss any additional funding, to best reflect its priorities for the next funding cycle.

[Attachment A:](#) Program Investment Plan Strategy Snapshots
[Attachment B:](#) Program Investment Plan Presentation

Annual Grants

Program Description and Current Strategies

The purpose of the annual grants fund is to provide a regular opportunity for the First 5 Solano Commission to consider grant requests that:

- Fill community gaps
- Pilot new or innovative ideas locally
- Address community needs between multi-year funding cycles.

Annual Funding: \$200,000

A competitive funding opportunity is released annually with multiple grants of up to \$20,000 each available.

Dose: Low

Most programs are piloting a new program or filling a gap in an existing program. Small grants of up to \$20,000 are issued.

Numbers Served/Reach: Approximately 400 children and 370 parents/caregivers are served each year. In addition, some grants support providers.

Leveraging Potential: Generally Low

Annual grants are either new ideas or they are filling a current community gap. The term of the grant is only 1 year and the dollar amount is \$20,000 or less, so there are not many opportunities to leverage other dollars. However, some grants fill gaps and are integrated into programs creating leverage opportunities.

Supplemental Considerations: A review of Annual Grants has been prepared by Applied Survey Research. Results to be presented at the August 2022 Commission Meeting.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses All Priorities

Support Level Options	A: \$200,000	B: \$160,000 <i>Recommended by POC</i>	C: \$100,000
Level of Service	Current level of service, which funds approximately 10 grants annually. This amount has only been awarded one time in the past 5 years.	Provides a slightly reduced number of grants to match average annual allocation over the past 5 year.	Provides a reduced number of grants, with funds for about 5 grants per year. This level would prioritize the highest needs in the community.

Perinatal Services for Black Moms

Program Description and Current Strategies

Currently, the Commission supports home visiting coordination, which includes home visiting programs for black moms. This is not a direct service program and is not specifically focused on black moms.

A potential program is to support Solano HEALS, including:

- Equity focused community discussions and outreach
- Comprehensive training series for medical providers to increase the lens of equity within the healthcare system
- Develop and work with local prenatal care providers to implement black Centering Pregnancy Groups
- Develop and implement comprehensive Advocacy training for community leaders, medical providers, and medical support staff to support and advocate for black birthing mothers.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priorities 1 & 4

Annual Funding: \$100,000

\$100,000 to address systems change issues via its existing group Solano HEALS to address birth disparities for black moms and babies

Dose: Systems Change

This strategy would focus on change within the community and the healthcare system to be better positioned to serve black moms.

Numbers Served/Reach The number of women who would be impacted by the changes in the system is a data development area.

Leveraging Potential: Low

There are no other identified funding sources for this work.

Supplemental Considerations: Not only does this investment target health outcomes, it is also focused on the Commission's new equity result area in Systems Change.

Support Level Options	A: \$100,000 Recommended based on community indicators	B: \$0
Level of Service	Provides funding for all of the proposed systems change strategies	

EPSDT Mental Health

Program Description and Current Strategies

Provides part of the local match requirement for Medi-Cal mental health interventions via assessment and mental health treatment for young children and their parents.

Annual Funding: \$100,000

Dose: Intensive

Medi-Cal Entitlement; All Medi-Cal eligible children with significant mental health needs receive intensive treatment.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 1

Numbers Served/Reach: Approximately 150 children 0-5 receive mental health treatment under EPSDT annually. The population in need of mental health treatment is unknown – data development area.

Leveraging Potential: High

Health care, including mental health services, are included as a covered service. This funding is utilized as part of the required local match.

Supplemental Considerations: Trend data over the past 3 years shows that H&SS utilizes approximately \$50,000 of this funding per year. Cal AIM will change how EPSDT services are funded by Counties from a fee for service model to a managed care model. The impact of this change is unknown.

Support Level Options	A: \$100,000	B: \$50,000	C: \$0
Level of Service	Continue current level of service	Trend data indicates this level of funding meets current needs	

Beck Ave. Head Start Site

Program Description and Current Strategies

Provides access to child care for working parents via an annual lease of 3 child care and early learning classrooms at 275 Beck Ave in Fairfield. Services at the site are provided by Child Start at no cost to families who qualify.

Annual Funding: \$55,000

Dose: Intensive

Federal guidelines for Head Start and Early Head Start, which not only includes full day full year child care, but also supports the family through multiple strategies, including parent education, family engagement, mental health screening, etc.

Numbers Served/Reach: 40 children receive quality, full-day subsidized care, which is approximately 2% of children eligible for a child care subsidy and needed care but did not receive it.

Leveraging Potential: High

The Head Start Program is funded 80% from state and federal sources. The local Head Start provider must secure the remaining 20% in match funding via cash or in-kind donations. This match may also be secured via parent volunteer hours.

Supplemental Considerations: The First 5 Solano Commission has committed to funding the lease of the Beck Ave. Head Start site through FY2024/25 (through year 2 of the 5-year funding cycle)

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 2

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Pre-K Academies/School Readiness

Program Description and Current Strategies

Pre-Kindergarten Academies are 4-week summer programs for children with little or no prior preschool experience to prepare them for kindergarten.

Annual Funding: \$200,000

This funding has been spread across the local school districts, based upon population and poverty.

Dose: Intensive

Intensive for a short period of time

Numbers Served/Reach: 250-350 children attend a pre-kindergarten academy annually, which is approximately 13% of 4-year-olds who were not enrolled in preschool.

Leveraging Potential: Low

The school districts have not historically contributed resources to the pre-k academy programs.

Supplemental Considerations: California recently established Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) so by FY2025/26 all 4-year-olds will have the opportunity to participate in a year-long TK program to get them ready for kindergarten. Families have high participation in the current transitional kindergarten through the K-12 system (which currently only serves one-quarter of 4-year-olds). With the expansion of TK for all 4-year-olds, the same high participation rates are expected to continue.

Other strategies to consider regarding school readiness include:

- Increased articulation from other early learning programs into TK
- Outreach and information sharing for parents around TK, preschool, and early learning options
- Identify additional ways to support early learning in younger children, such as preparing 3-year-olds for entry into TK
- Identification and solutions to fill gaps in care, such as by age or geographic location

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 2

Support Level Options	A: \$150,000	B: \$100,000 <i>Recommended as alternate to Pre-K Academies</i>	C: \$0
Pre-K Academies—Covered by ramp up of Fairfield F5Center	\$140,000 over 2 years: \$80,000 in FY2023/24 \$60,000 in FY2024/25	\$140,000 over 2 years: \$80,000 in FY2023/24 \$60,000 in FY2024/25	\$140,000 over 2 years: \$80,000 in FY2023/24 \$60,000 in FY2024/25
School Readiness System Support	\$150,000 annually for other school readiness systems strategies	\$100,000 annually for other school readiness systems strategies	

Raising a Reader

Program Description and Current Strategies

Raising A Reader is an evidence-based early literacy program helping young children develop, practice, and maintain habits of reading together at home. The core program model increases access to books via a rotated bookbag and offers support for strengthening the culture of reading at home.

Annual Funding: \$75,000

Dose: Low

Families receive a new bookbag with books rotated weekly, with the provider training the parent on how to use the books with their child

Numbers Served/Reach: Approximately 800 children participate in the program annually.

Leveraging Potential: Low

There are very few funding partners for Raising a Reader. With the variety of available literacy supports, other funders can be hard to identify.

Supplemental Considerations: Over the past 5 years, a significant investment in books utilized for the program has been made so continuing the program would ensure the investment is utilized. There is an ongoing cost for engaging and training providers, and book replacement as needed. In addition, the Commission has supported other literacy efforts through Annual Grants and Community Responsive Mini Grants and the state budget includes \$10 million for early literacy programming through WIC.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 2

Support Level Options	A: \$75,000	B: \$50,000	\$0
Level of Service	Current level of service	Reduced funding in consideration of book supply already in rotation	

Family Support in Rio Vista

Program Description and Current Strategies

Provides family support, including case management and school readiness activities for families of children ages 0-5 in Rio Vista.

Annual Funding: \$50,000

Dose: Variable

Intensity of services is based on family need. Most families engage for 3-6 months.

Numbers Served/Reach: Approximately 50 families are served annually.

Leveraging Potential: Low

There are few funders that will fund core family resource center operations. Most funders for family resource centers fund basic needs that go directly to the families.

Supplemental Considerations: Rio Vista is no longer one of the two highest need communities when comparing Community Indicators of Child Well-Being. That said, there is a significant need in Rio Vista.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 3

Support Level Options	A: \$50,000	B: \$0
Level of Service	Current level of service	

Diaper Distribution

Program Description and Current Strategies

Provides monthly diaper kits to over 200 families in Vallejo, Fairfield, and Vacaville.

Annual Funding: \$50,000

Dose: Low

Families receive monthly diapers, but also provides First 5 Center/Family Resource Centers the opportunity to check in with families.

Numbers Served/Reach: 210 families are served monthly.

Leveraging Potential: Low

State funding has been pursued, but no other funding is yet to secure funding for Solano County.

Supplemental Considerations: \$50,000 no longer covers costs for procurement and delivery of 210 diaper kits monthly across 3 sites. In addition, it can be challenging for sites to receive pallets and store them between delivery and distribution.

Commission Strategic Plan



Addresses Priority 3

Support Level Options	A: \$50,000	B: \$0
Level of Service	Current level of service (although there may be a decrease in the number of kits in a future contract)	

1



First 5 Solano 2023-2028 Program Investment Plan Remaining Allocation

Commission Meeting
August 17, 2022

1

	Strategic Plan & Systems Change Action Plan	Long Term Financial Plan	Multi-Year Program Investment Plan	Annual Budget
Purpose	Sets vision, mission, values, priority areas, goals, and results	Provides long-term policies and projections for funding priorities	Communicates how funds will be allocated toward strategies that contribute to strategic goals and results	Translates vision into action through detailed spending plan
Key Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describes vision and role of First 5 Solano in achieving that vision - Outlines values First 5 Solano will adhere to in its work - Sets strategic goals and results within priority areas - Offers sample strategies to achieve the goals and results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forecasts funding by type of revenue or expense - Quantifies amount of program investment each year - Establishes policies on use of financial resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviews recent allocations against LTFP policies - Directs program investment funds to initiatives aligned with strategic priority areas, goals, and results - Provides a timeline for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides specific forecasts and expenditure plans by revenue and expense accounts
Scope	Broad	Broad	Moves from broad to specific	Specific
Planning Horizon	Generally 5 years	10 years	Generally aligns with Strategic Plan	One year
Does not...	Make specific spending commitments	Obligate future Commissions to specific funding or authorize contracts	Specify grantees or contracts	Guarantee future funding to current grantees

2



3

4

LTFP Expenditure (Annual)

Expenditure Category	First 5 Solano Funds	Other Funds in LTFP	Annual Amount
Evaluation/Data Collection	120,000		120,000
Administration	460,000		460,000
Program Staffing and Operations	755,000	65,000	820,000
Priorities 1-3 Allocated (HMG, PPP, F5C)	1,188,000	925,000	2,113,000 (plus 177,000 unsecured)
Priorities 1-3 remaining	452,000		452,000
Priority 4: Systems Change	600,000		600,000
Community Engagement	120,000		120,000
Total	3,695,000	990,000	4,685,000

4

Program Investment Plan Potential Strategies

5

Strategy	Max Request
Annual Grants	\$200,000
Perinatal Services for Black Moms	\$100,000
EPSDT-Mental Health Treatment	\$100,000
Head Start—Beck Ave site	\$55,000
Pre-K Academies	\$200,000
School Readiness—Systems Supports	\$150,000
Raising a Reader	\$75,000
Family Support in Rio Vista	\$50,000
Diaper Bank	\$50,000
Vallejo Early Learning Center	Address via reserve
Total	\$980,000

**\$452,000
available**

5

Baseline Recommendation

Fairfield
First 5 Center opens
April 2024
Savings = \$250,000 in
Year 1

Strategy	Max Annual Request	Notes/Recommendation
Head Start—Beck Ave site	\$55,000	Lease agreement is currently through FY2024/25 \$110,000 covered by Fairfield F5Center ramp up
Pre-K Academies	\$200,000	Ramp down over first 2 years as UTK ramps up: Year 1=\$80,000 Year 2=\$60,000 Total=\$140,000 over first 2 years \$140,000 covered by Fairfield F5Center ramp up
Vallejo Early Learning Center	*	Recommended to address funding at ELC via reserve

6

Baseline Recommendation			
Strategy	Max Request	Baseline Recommended	Notes
Annual Grants	\$200,000	\$160,000	Recommended by POC
Perinatal Services for Black Moms	\$100,000	\$100,000	From review of Community Indicator Data
EPSDT-Mental Health Treatment	\$100,000	0	
Head Start—Beck Ave site	\$55,000	0	Current commitment of 2 years—covered by Fairfield F5Center savings
Pre-K Academies	\$200,000	0	Ramp down over 2 year—covered by Fairfield F5Center savings
School Readiness—Systems Supports	\$150,000	\$100,000	Replaces Pre-K Academy strategy
Raising a Reader	\$75,000	0	
Family Support in Rio Vista	\$50,000	0	
Diaper Bank	\$50,000	0	
Total	\$980,000	\$360,000	
Balance		\$92,000	

**\$452,000
available**

7

Commission Allocation			
Strategy	Baseline Recommended	Commission Allocation	Notes
Annual Grants	\$160,000		Recommended by POC
Perinatal Services for Black Moms	\$100,000		From review of Community Indicator Data
EPSDT-Mental Health Treatment	0		
Head Start—Beck Ave site	0		Current commitment of 2 years—covered by Fairfield F5Center savings
Pre-K Academies	0		Ramp down over 2 year—covered by Fairfield F5Center savings
School Readiness—Systems Supports	\$100,000		Replaces Pre-K Academy strategy
Raising a Reader	0		
Family Support in Rio Vista	0		
Diaper Bank	0		
Total	\$360,000		
Balance	\$92,000		

**\$452,000
available**

8

Next Steps:

- Finalize full Program Investment Plan
- Vote on Program Investment Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan

Questions?



POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
August 1, 2022 10:00 am to 11:30 am
3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

Pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom (Executive Order N-15-21) and under the statutory requirements established by AB 361 (Open Meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences), **public access to the First 5 Solano Committee 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 by: 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 by 9:00 am on the day of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the August 1, 2022 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the June 6, 2022 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report
- D. Adopt Resolution 2022-11 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 August 1, 2022 to August 30, 2022.

III. Vacaville Play for All Park

Action

Consider recommending approval of an allocation of up to \$400,000 to Phillippi Engineering to complete Phase I of the Vacaville Play for All Park
(source of funding: First 5 Solano Reserve)
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist

IV. Annual Grants Evaluation

Information/Discussion

Receive the Annual Grants Evaluation Report
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Kim Gillette, Applied Survey Research

V. Universal Transitional Kindergarten Presentation

Information/Discussion

Receive a presentation from Solano County Office of Education on the roll out of Transitional Kindergarten
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Lisa Eckhoff, Solano County Office of Education

- VI. 2023 Program Investment Planning** **Information/Discussion**
Discuss Other Funding as part of the Commission's Program Investment Plan
Michele Harris, Executive Director, Megan Richards, Deputy Director
- VII. 2016 Strategic Plan Implementation Updates** **Information/Discussion**
Receive updates on the following:
A. Program Update
B. Community Engagement Update
C. Systems Change Update
*Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist;
Juanita Morales, Program Manager; Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager*
- VIII. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update** **Information**
Receive a report on First 5 Solano staffing and financials.
Megan Richards, Deputy Director
- IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** **Information**
The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, October 3, 2022, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include Program Investment Planning, Year-End Contract Performance and Fiscal Report, Review of Policies, Strategic Plan Implementation Updates, and Staffing and Finance.

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 Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA, 94590 during normal business hours.

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Policy & Oversight Committee (POC) Meeting**

August 01, 2022, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
3375 Sonoma Blvd Ste 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present (remotely via Zoom video conference): Commissioner Hannigan, Commissioner Wanberg

Chair Wanberg called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

I. Introduction, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

There were no public or Commissioner comments.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the August 01, 2022 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the June 06, 2022 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report
- D. Adopt resolution 2022-11 authorizing 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 August 1, 2022 to August 30, 2022.

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg
Approved 2-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Hannigan, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Vacaville Play for All Park

Motion:

Consider recommending approval of an allocation of up to \$400,000 to Phillippi Engineering* to complete Phase I of the Vacaville Play for All Park

Kwiana Algere, First 5 Solano Health Education Specialist, spoke on Vacaville's Play 4 All Park. This park is an all inclusive park designed for children of all abilities and disabilities, featuring fenced in play areas, picnic areas, people-friendly surfaces, swings able to accommodate for children with or without disabilities, and fields designed for Challenger League. Executive Director Michele Harris requested to amend the agency from Phillippi Engineering to Play 4 All Park

Amended Motion:

Consider recommending approval of an allocation of up to \$400,000 to Play 4 All Park to complete Phase I of the Vacaville Play for All Park

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 2-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Hannigan, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Annual Grants Evaluation

Kim Gillette, of Applied Survey Research (ASR), presented a review of First 5 Solano's Annual grants from FY2018/19 through FY2020/21. ASR provided both process considerations as well as dollar considerations.

The Committee discussed the process considerations and agreed that staff should further define criteria for grants (such as innovation, fills a gap, time-sensitive needs). In addition, the Committee agreed that First 5 Solano should allow up to 20% of grants to be a repeat project to continue success.

The Committee then discussed the level of funding available, in the context of what was allocated, awarded and spent. The Committee agreed to recommend that the full Commission reduce the allocation for the next funding cycle to \$160,000 per year.

V. Universal Transitional Kindergarten Presentation

Lisa Eckhoff, Senior Director of Early Learning for Solano County Office of Education, presented on implementing Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) in California.. UPK will align standards for State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Transitional Kindergarten programs and expand inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities. Some potential opportunities associated with UPK include increased access for children served in Solano County, additional education options for young children, potential educational and career advancement options for ELC teachers, including home-based and center-based providers, and increased collaboration with early learning and care partners. Some considerations include the potential loss of 4-year-olds for private providers or Family Child Care Home providers, workforce shortages increase as teachers move into CSPP and TK teaching opportunities, and increased need for before/after school care.

VI. 2023 Program Investment Planning

Megan Richards, Deputy Director of First 5 Solano, presented a brief overview of the 2023 Program Investment Plan (PIP), specifically priorities 1-3. The PIP is used to communicate how funds will be allocated toward strategies that contribute to strategic

goals and results and generally aligns with the Strategic Plan. Ms. Richards asked the Committee to consider two questions: 1. Do you have enough information? and 2. How do you want to make the decisions? For Priorities 1-3, there remains \$452,000 to fund various programs. There are 3 options for how to select additional funding opportunities, including Commission vote, staff recommendation, or staff recommendation of baseline/Commission vote. The selected option will be brought before Commission on August 17th, 2022. The Committee asked staff to talk through what each option would look like and requested that staff propose a baseline slate of programs to fund that the Commission could consider and amend as they saw appropriate.

VII. 2016 Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

A. Program Update

Senator Bill Dodd secured \$5M allocation from the State budget for the development of the Early Learning Center in Vallejo. The funding will be used to renovate the Beverly Hill Elementary School site and will begin construction in late summer or early fall of 2022.

B. Community Engagement Update

C. Systems Change Update

VIII. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Nothing noteworthy to report.

IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date Location

The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, October 3, 2022, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Program Investment Planning, Year-End Contract Performance and Fiscal Report, Review of Policies, Strategic Plan Implementation Updates, and Staffing and Finance.

Adjourn

Chair Wanberg adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: August 10, 2022

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: Executive Director's Report for August 2022

Senator Dodd secures \$5M Budget Allocation for the Vallejo Early Learning Center: In April 2022, First 5 Solano submitted a budget ask to Senator Bill Dodd to support the Vallejo Early Learning Center. On June 28th we received the news that Senator Bill Dodd secured a \$5M allocation from the State Budget to be used primarily for the replacement of the roof and HVAC systems at the site of the new Early Learning Center at the Beverly Hills Elementary school site in Vallejo. The press release provided by Solano County was published in the Daily Republic and in the City of Vallejo Weekly Newsletter (See Attachment A).

Fighting Back Partnership receives a 3-year grant from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention: On June 29th Fighting Back Partnership received notification from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention that it had received a grant for \$999,000 (over 3 years) to open a new Family Resource Center on the Vallejo Early Learning site.

First 5 Solano and First 5 Contra Costa partnered to host a First 5 Center Tour: On July 19th First 5 Solano and First 5 Contra Costa hosted a First 5 Center Tour for the Bay Area Region, with First 5 Executive Directors, First 5 staff members, Commissioners, and other guests. At recent meetings, Bay Area Executive Directors have discussed the success of the First 5 Center model and the potential to expand this model in the region. This event included tours of the Vallejo, East Contra Costa, and Antioch First 5 Centers along with program observations and conversations with staff. Commissioner Lisette Estrella-Henderson and First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris addressed the group and talked about the importance of connecting the 0-5 system to the K-12 system, and the approaches that worked for First 5 Solano that could be duplicated by other First 5's, including legislative proposals and blended funding models.

First 5 Solano Equity Consultant: Over the past few months, First 5 Solano staff have been interviewing consultants to assist the Commission with implementing its equity work based on the new result area in the 2022 Strategic Plan Update. Staff is pleased to share that Navalta Media has been selected to conduct an equity audit of the Commission's work and provide a workplan for equity strategies focusing on internal processes. Navalta Media is led by Pati Navalta, a woman of color local to Solano County. Navalta Media's clients are innovators, change-makers, and industry leaders who balance purpose and profit. Navalta Media offer communications and media strategy and implementation, media training, crisis communications, writing and editing support with a key focus on goals, target audiences, and value alignment. Their portfolio of clients spans diverse industries and sectors, with the common throughline of impact-driven work. More will be shared with the Commission as we begin the equity audit.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Grants: In August 2021, a grant opportunity was made available for nonprofits serving children ages 0-5 and their families to implement a capacity building project that would strengthen an organization's ability to positively impact the early childhood system in Solano County. The Commission provided \$30,000 for four Technical

Assistance and Capacity Building Grants. Agencies that were approved for funding included Community Action North Bay, Fairfield Community Services Foundation, Innovative Health Solutions and Rio Vista CARE. Each of these agencies completed their scope of work with a consultant for \$7,500 in funding. Below is a brief overview of outcomes:

Community Action North Bay: This agency now has a robust list of potential grant opportunities and a model for engaging their Board in donor cultivation. In addition, they have a strategy for increased community engagement and for soliciting donors, including an annual campaign.

Fairfield Community Services Foundation: This agency now has a model for raising sustainable funding and securing major gifts from individual donors; collateral materials such as brochures, “ask” letters and blocks of narrative including organizational history; a plan for fundraising events, and a calendar of grant opportunities.

Innovative Health Solutions: This agency worked with the consultant to assess and identify needs in order to create a responsive capacity building plan to increase board and agency capacity. This included creating a Board Driven Major Donor Cultivation plan, plans for marketing and community outreach and engagement, and templates for basic asks, solicitations and press releases.

Rio Vista CARE: This agency now has a Board Development Plan that includes job descriptions, effective recruitment strategies, onboarding and orientation plans, and effective retention strategies. As part of the process, the consultant conducted several board engagement sessions to review recent organization assessment as and convert the Strategic Plan to action steps for immediate deliverables and long-term planning.

First 5 Solano Audit: First 5 Solano is commencing its FY2021/22 statutorily required audit. As part of the audit process, the Commission’s auditors, Eide Bailey, have provided the attached letter (Attachment B) to inform the Commissioners of their scope of services.

Pre-K Academies: The 2022 First 5 Solano Pre-K Academies have concluded with 6 school districts and the Solano County Office of Education offering 4-week sessions during the summer for children entering kindergarten in the fall who have had little to no prior preschool experience. Pre-K Academies were offered in every city in Solano County for a total of 13 sessions. We would like to thank Commissioners Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Amy Fabi, and Tyffany Wanberg for visiting the Pre-K Academy classrooms and children this summer.



SKT transition: Solano Kids Thrive meetings have transitioned from the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) to First 5 Solano's quarterly grantee meetings. Solano Kids Thrive began in 2015 as a collaborative to strengthen the overall early childhood system which included providing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness in the community and addressing other common issues for children and families. SCOE has transitioned as the facilitator of the SKT collaborative meetings to First 5 Solano staff as the facilitator and merging them with the First 5 Solano grantee meetings. The meetings will be held quarterly, and the group will continue to discuss opportunities for promoting awareness of ACEs and trauma informed practices, hear about other programs funded by First 5 Solano as well as coordinate efforts to create systems change. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022

Annual Grants Update: At the June 15, 2022 Commission meeting the Commission approved funding to eight agencies through the annual grant program. After meeting with the approved agencies, the Fairfield Suisun Adult School withdrew its application due to challenges with staffing.

Additionally, it was clarified with another applicant that the grantee is Rocia Jaime for the program Parenting After Trauma, rather than the agency Parenting After Trauma. Staff look forward to sharing the updates of these remaining seven annual grants as they begin implementation.

Apricot Client Database System Update: In January 2022, the First 5 Solano Commission entered into an agreement with Social Solutions Global, Inc. to implement a new data management services database for Commission grantees called Apricot 360. Apricot 360 is a web-based software solution designed to meet the needs of Commission requirements for client data collection and performance management, annual reporting to the Commission, contract management and scope of work measurement, and electronic invoicing and financial expense tracking. Over recent months, staff has been working with consultants on development of the system, and in mid-June, grantees were trained on how to utilize the participant database. Subsequently, grantees were trained on invoice submission. The last phase of training will occur in September, when grantees will be trained on inputting performance data and creating reports.

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) Intern: Commissioner Amy Fabi provided an opportunity for First 5 Solano to host an intern, Jessica Lapurga, as part of the APAPA Solano Chapter's Internship program. During Jessica's six-week internship she researched information on the history of diversity in Solano County, what Solano's diversity looks like today, data on racial inequities, and resources for families on how to engage with young children about equity, diversity and inclusion. We will provide this information to our Equity Consultant as information to inform future equity strategies. We appreciate Commissioner Amy Fabi for including First 5 Solano in this year's APAPA internship program.

[Attachment A:](#) Early Learning Center Press Release

[Attachment B:](#) First 5 Solano Commission Audit Communication Letter



**SOLANO
COUNTY**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2022

Media Contact:

Megan Richards, Deputy Director/First 5 Solano
(707) 784-1335 | merichards@solanocounty.com

Senator Bill Dodd secures \$5M budget allocation for Early Learning Center in Vallejo

SOLANO COUNTY – Senator Bill Dodd secured a \$5 million dollar allocation from the State budget for the County of Solano/First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano) to support the establishment of the Vallejo Early Learning Center. This Center will provide quality early care and education for 300 children, including infants, toddlers, and PreK.

"I'm happy to secure this critical funding to benefit early learning in Solano County," said Senator Dodd, D-Napa. "First 5 Solano has been instrumental in providing quality care and education to our children, and this renovation will allow a significant expansion of these key services."

The funding will be used to renovate the Beverly Hills Elementary School site in Vallejo to provide the needed facilities for these young children. The project is a collaboration between First 5 Solano, the Vallejo City Unified School District, the Solano County Office of Education, Child Start, Inc., and a variety of private childcare and early learning providers.

The project is currently in the pre-construction stage with construction expected to begin in late summer/early fall of 2022. The goal is to complete construction in fall 2023. In addition to modernizing the interior of all 18 classrooms, the multi-purpose room and kitchen will be renovated, the exterior and interior of the school site will be refreshed, and the playgrounds will be replaced with age-appropriate play areas. The Center will support parent choice with options including Head Start and Early Head Start and private childcare and early learning providers.

"We appreciate Senator Dodd's efforts to secure funding for this project so that we can provide much needed childcare and early learning for working families," said Erin Hannigan, District 1 Supervisor and First 5 Solano Commissioner. "The early years are critical to the health and wellness of children and lay the foundation for future learning and success."

While the new Vallejo Early Learning Center is being constructed, parents and caregivers can visit the Vallejo First 5 Center, located at 3375 Sonoma Blvd. Suite #10 in Vallejo. The Vallejo First 5 Center is an innovative hub created to engage families and allow children ages 0-5 to play, learn and grow. Parents and caregivers have a safe and welcoming environment where they can receive information and holistic support to meet family needs and be connected to appropriate resources in the community. All services and programs are free to attendees. Visit the [@VallejoFirst5Center](https://www.facebook.com/VallejoFirst5Center) on Facebook for more information.

Contact Lorraine Fernandez at First 5 Solano by email at lfernandez@solanocounty.com and (707) 784-1337 for more information on First 5 programming.

#



July 29, 2022

To the Board of Commissioners and Management
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Vallejo, California

This letter is provided in connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (Commission), a component unit of the County of Solano, California, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022. Professional standards require that we communicate with you, certain items including our responsibilities with regard to the financial statement audit and the planned scope and timing of our audit, including significant risks we have identified.

Our Responsibilities

As stated in our engagement letter dated July 29, 2022, we are responsible for conducting our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and in accordance with the *Standards and Procedures for Audits of Local Entities Administering the California Children and Families Act* (Guide), for the purpose of forming and expressing an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management, with your oversight, are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Also, in accordance with the *Standards and Procedures for Audits of Local Entities Administering the California Children and Families Act* (Guide), issued by the California State Controller's Office, we will examine, on a test basis, evidence about the Commission's compliance with requirements specified in the Guide for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the Commission's compliance with these requirements. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on the Commission's compliance with those requirements.

Planned Scope of the Audit

Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. Our audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations. Because of this concept of reasonable assurance and because we will not examine all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and as a basis for designing the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. However, we will communicate to you at the conclusion of our audit, any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. We will also communicate to you:

- Any violation of laws or regulations that come to our attention;
- Our views relating to qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Disagreements with management, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Significant unusual transactions, if any;
- The potential effects of uncorrected misstatements on future-period financial statements; and
- Other significant matters that are relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process.

Professional standards require us to design our audit to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement whether caused by fraud or error. In designing our audit procedures, professional standards require us to evaluate the financial statements and assess the risk that a material misstatement could occur. Areas that are potentially more susceptible to misstatements, and thereby require special audit considerations, are designated as "significant risks". Although we are currently in the planning stage of our audit, we have preliminarily identified the following significant risks that require special audit consideration:

- Management override of internal controls.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately August 2022 and issue our report in October 2022.

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Commissioners and management of the Commission and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eide Bailly LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sacramento, California