

COMMISSION MEETING
January 12, 2021 – 5:30-7:30pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

In furtherance of the direction from Governor Newsom (Executive Order N-25-20) and pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom (Executive Order N-29-20), **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 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 4:00pm 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 January 12, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the December 1, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

III. Introduce 2021 Officers; Chair Affirms Committee Assignments (5 min)

Information

Jennifer Barton, Commission Chair

IV. Positive Parenting Month Resolution (5 min)

Action

Consider approval of Resolution #2021-01 recognizing January 2021 as "Positive Parenting Awareness Month" in Solano County

Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist

V. Systems Change 4-Year Summary (40 min)

**Information/
Discussion**

Review Result 13 systems change activities for FY2016/17-FY2019/20
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research, Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager, Tracy Lacey, Solano County Health & Social Services

VI. First 5 Solano's Emergency Response Update (30 min)

**Information/
Discussion**

Receive a report on First 5 Solano's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and activities to date

Megan Richards, Deputy Director, Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager

VII. Executive Director's Report (10 min)
Michele Harris, Executive Director

Information

Information

VIII. Commissioner Remarks (5 min)

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

Information

The next Commission meeting will be held on March 2, 2021 at 5:30PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Proposed Budget, System Change Result 14 Summary, Strategic Planning, Committee Report.

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, and nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is a leader that fosters and sustains effective programs and partnerships with the community to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

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**

December 1, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Lenisha Anderson, Jennifer Barton, Aaron Crutison, Mina Diaz, Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Nicole Neff, Tyffany Wanberg (joined 5:40 PM)

Chair Estrella-Henderson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

I. Public Comment

Chair Estrella-Henderson thanked Commissioner Aaron Crutison for his over eight years on the Commission, and for always ensuring the Commission look at priorities with an equity lens, targeting services to areas of the highest need. Commissioner Crutison thanked staff and Commissioners and shared his excitement of his new chapter of building integrated systems of care in Solano County. Commissioners shared their gratitude to Commissioner Crutison and shared some of the impact he had on the Commission.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the December 1, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 1, 2020.

B. Approve the October 13, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2020

Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Election of the 2021 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

Commissioner Huber reported the nominating committee named Jennifer Barton as nominee for 2021 Chair and Erin Hannigan as nominee for 2021 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Commission.

Motion: Consider approval of the recommendation from the Nominating Committee to appoint Jennifer Barton as 2021 Chair and Erin Hannigan as 2021 Vice-Chair of the

First 5 Solano Commission

Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Wanberg joined the meeting.

IV. Strategic Plan and Community Indicators Review

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, introduced Susan Brutchy and Christina Branom of Applied Survey Research. Ms. Brutchy described how the Strategic Plan, built on Results-Based framework has guided the work the Commission has accomplished many things, such as the Vallejo First 5 Center.

Ms. Branom gave an overview of the First 5 Solano Vision, Mission, Values, and Principles and detailed the timeline for updating the Strategic Plan. Ms. Harris cited the need for “wordsmiths” for the update efforts and asked who could be counted on. Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Wanberg, and Anderson indicated their ability to be a part.

Ms. Branom demonstrated the upgraded Solano County Community Indicators of Well-Being for Young Children dashboard. Ms. Harris highlighted that the Community Impact program outcomes were presented using a Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework and that First 5 Solano and Applied Survey Research would be holding a virtual RBA training early in 2021. Ms. Branom presented the Community Indicator data, with the caveat that most reflected conditions prior to COVID-19. Chair Estrella-Henderson asked if there was data on children’s primary language included. Ms. Branom said it had not been collected to this point but can be collected and sent to the Commission. Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, mentioned some of this data was collected and shared on the first page of the First 5 Solano Annual Report. Commissioner Barton asked if there was data on availability of doctors and services or needs met. Commissioner Huber said the data is available, but he would have to request it from Partnership. Commissioner Crutison reported that while reports of child abuse and neglect are down due to no contact with usual reporters, COVID-19 has had many concerning effects on housing, domestic violence and related issues. Commissioners discussed potential impacts on the future return to in-person learning.

V. Policy and Oversight Committee Report

1. Responsive Grant Fund

A. Consider approval of a Small Grants Policy

Motion: Consider approval of a Small Grants Policy

B. Consider approval to retire the following policies as of June 30, 2021:

- i. Business Challenge Grant Fund Policy
- ii. Community Engagement Fund Policy
- iii. Co-Sponsorship of Conferences and Training Policy
- iv. Organizational Support-Grantwriting Fund Policy

Motion: Consider approval to retire the following policies as of June 30, 2021

- i. Business Challenge Grant Fund Policy***
- ii. Community Engagement Fund Policy***
- iii. Co-Sponsorship of Conferences and Training Policy***
- iv. Organizational Support-Grantwriting Fund Policy***

Ms. Richards explained the Commission has underspent on grants over the past four years and that many events, programs, and one-time funding opportunities that would benefit young children in the community do not fit within a currently designated category. The Policy & Oversight Committee recommends retiring the current four policies and adapting a single, flexible, Small Grant Policy. Application periods will be spread across the year. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building grants of up to \$7,500 will also be available to partners once a year. The Commission will decide on an annual basis the funding amount by type of grant.

Moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 9-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

2. Systems Change 4-Year Summary

Ms. Harris recounted that the Commission had expressed interest in reviewing Systems Change activities and announced that Applied Survey Research would be doing an overview summary of activities over the next 4 Commission meetings to prepare for the upcoming revision of the Systems Change Plan. Ms. Branom presented Result 12, using the metaphor of planting seeds and watering seeds to illustrate the progress made in strengthening systems. Ms. Branom described successes, key accomplishments, and future activities in Equity trainings, Trauma informed care trainings, Service provider capacity building, and Nonprofit capacity building.

Akon Walker from Solano County Health & Social Services shared the work of the CARE (Community Action for Racial Equity) team that has expanded from H&SS to include First 5 Solano and Solano County Library. The team has implemented a 3-year Racial Equity Action Plan using an RBA Framework to ensure County staff and contractors are committed to achieving racial equity. 600 employees and community members have been trained to date.

Commissioners expressed interest in participating in the training and Ms. Harris said staff would organize a training date for the Commission.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris highlighted the \$1.2 Million grant awarded Solano County Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health that was supported by First 5 Solano and will co-locate staff from Black Infant Health/Healthy Families Solano at the Vallejo First 5 Center.

VII. Commissioner Remarks

Chair Estrella-Henderson congratulated Commissioner Diaz on her election to Vallejo City Council. Commissioner Hannigan announced the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation council announced they would be granting First 5 Solano \$300,000 for First 5 Center operations and \$200,000 to disburse for Basic Needs.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on January 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning; Committee Report.

Adjourn

Chair Estrella-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

Resolution No. 2021-01

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2021 AS "POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH" IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, raising children and youth to become healthy, confident, capable individuals is the most important job parents and caregivers have; and

WHEREAS, positive parenting strengthens family relationships, increases parents' confidence and promotes children's healthy development; and

WHEREAS, in Solano County families come in many forms and children are raised by parents, grandparents, foster parents, family members and other caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the quality of caregiving is one of the most powerful predictors of children's future social, emotional, and physical health; and

WHEREAS, many parents and caregivers raising children and youth have shown great resilience through the health, economic, and social-emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in Solano County, families can receive support from various positive parenting programs, including Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, an evidence-based program which offers parents and caregivers a "tool kit" of proven strategies to strengthen families and develop positive relationships by teaching simple strategies any parent can adopt to suit their own values, beliefs and needs; and

WHEREAS, multiple agencies throughout Solano County, including Bay Area Community Resources, Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano, Child Haven Inc., Child Start Inc., Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District-Adult School, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Parents By Choice, Rio Vista CARE, Solano County Office of Education, and Solano Family & Children's Services offer an array of Triple P services available to any parent; and

WHEREAS, Triple P is an effective and universal parenting intervention, which has served over 2,000 parents of diverse backgrounds in Solano County within the last two and a half years; and

WHEREAS, during the month of January First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission along with ten Triple P providers, will be increasing awareness of the importance of positive parenting and the availability of resources such as Triple P.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaim January 2021 as Positive Parenting Awareness 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 12th day of January 2021

JENNIFER BARTON, Chair
First 5 Solano Families and Children Commission

ATTEST:

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Systems Change 4-Year Summary**

At the October 2020 Commission meeting, Commissioners expressed interest in reviewing the last several years of systems change activities to understand where we were and how the systems change activities have evolved over time.

Applied Survey Research, the Commission's evaluation consultant, has prepared a detailed summary of activities by Result Area which the Commission will review over several Commission Meetings. Today's presentation will be focused on Result 13: Systems are expanded and sustained with leveraged or new financial resources.

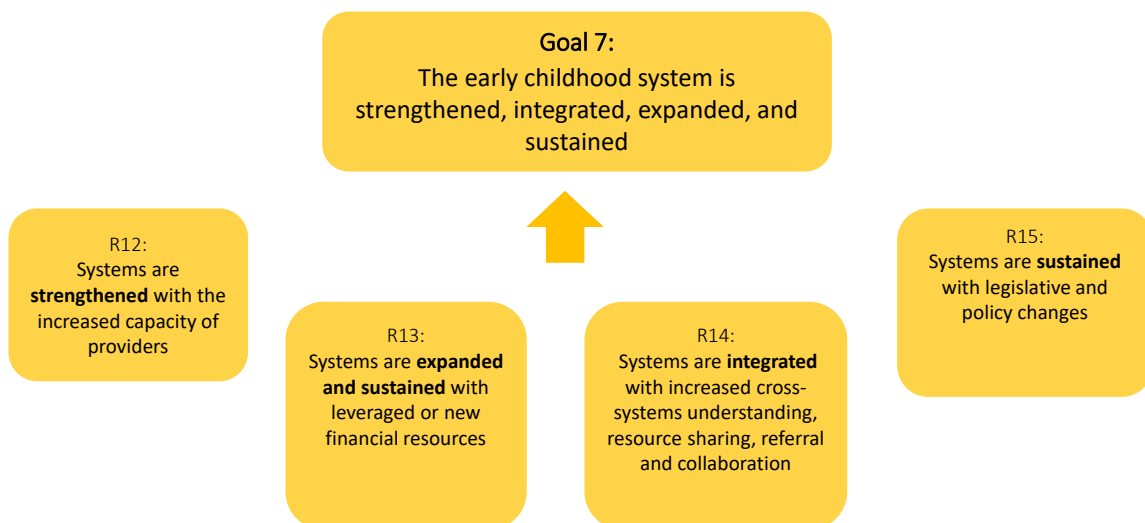
Attachment A: Systems Change 4 Year Review Result 13 Presentation

Systems Change Results Review

- At each upcoming Commission meeting, we will highlight a result:
 - Present early activities, recent activities, key wins, and future directions
 - Invite a partner involved in the efforts to talk about how they have been impacted
- Starting next spring, review other Priority Areas

1

Priority Area 4: Systems Change



2

First 5 Solano Systems Change - 2016-2020 Results Overview

R12: Strengthened

Increase service delivery capacity of providers to ensure more equitable access/experiences; organizational capacity of providers; and knowledge and skills of providers.

- Explored creation of a local social work education and bicultural certificate program.
- Considered models to pool nonprofit administrative resources.
- Planned shared training calendar for agencies.



- Delivered trainings to increase equitable access to trauma-informed, culturally responsive services.
- Commissioned the 2018 *Nonprofit Capacity Assessment* and engaged in activities directly addressing top needs identified.



- ✓ Engaged over 200 providers and policymakers in poverty trainings and simulations.
- ✓ Supported 26 directors to attend the UC Berkeley Fundraising and Volunteer Management program.
- ✓ Provided training to help 9 agencies refine strategic plans.

R13: Expanded

Find new funding and maximize resources to fund services for children and families.

- Developed a Funders Packet with the 2016 *Foundation Giving* report and county data and shared with funders.
- Encouraged school districts to include early childhood education in their Local Control Accountability Plans.



- Met quarterly with funders.
- Continued to apply for competitive funding opportunities.
- Continued to identify alternative funding sources.



- ✓ Secured or assisted in securing \$11.2 million in grants since July 2016.
- ✓ Received \$600,000 in matching funding annually from MHSA.

R14: Integrated

Utilize First 5 Solano's unique position as a multi-sector convener to increase integration; enhance cross systems understanding and procedures.

- Formed Solano Kids Thrive (SKT) as a collective impact collaborative. In FY17/18, SKT began focusing on resiliency.
- Convened the Children and Youth Leadership Council; group discussed developing a multiagency common intake and consent form.



- Developed Resilient Solano Strategic Plan and website; SKT engaged in activities to implement the plan.
- Developed, funded, and launched Vallejo First 5 Center.
- Continued to connect families to services via Help Me Grow.



- ✓ Hosted 11 screenings of *Resilience* film for 620 attendees.
- ✓ Reached over 82,000 radio listeners with ACEs ads.
- ✓ Enrolled 110 families at First 5 Center in month following grand opening.

R15: Sustained

Increase policymakers' awareness of issues facing Solano County children and families, and advocate for changes pursuant to First 5 Solano's Legislative Platform.

- Developed a First 5 Solano Legislative Platform.
- Researched local lawmakers and their areas of interest and developed an outreach plan.



- Continued to submit and sign on to letters to state leaders.
- Visited legislators (in-person advocacy paused due to COVID-19).
- Participated in Solano County State and Federal Legislative Platform updates.



- ✓ Submitted or signed on to 18 letters to legislators.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for bill to require Medi-Cal coverage for developmental screenings.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for continuation of First 5 California Diaper Program.

3

Today's Highlight: Result 13

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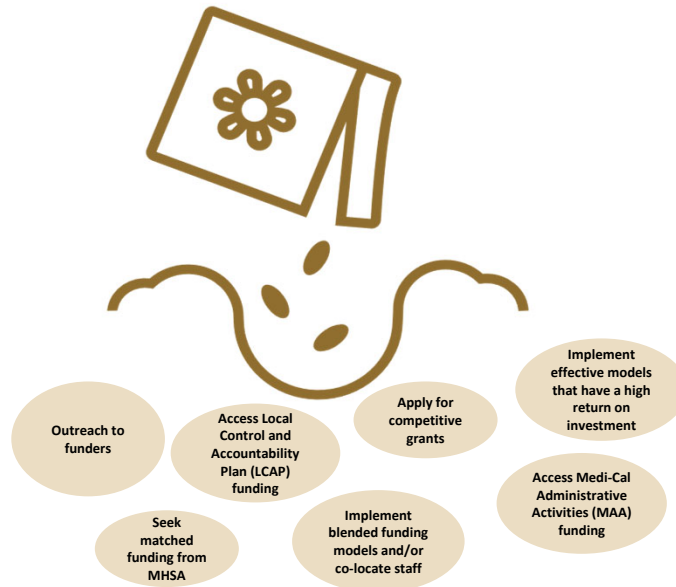
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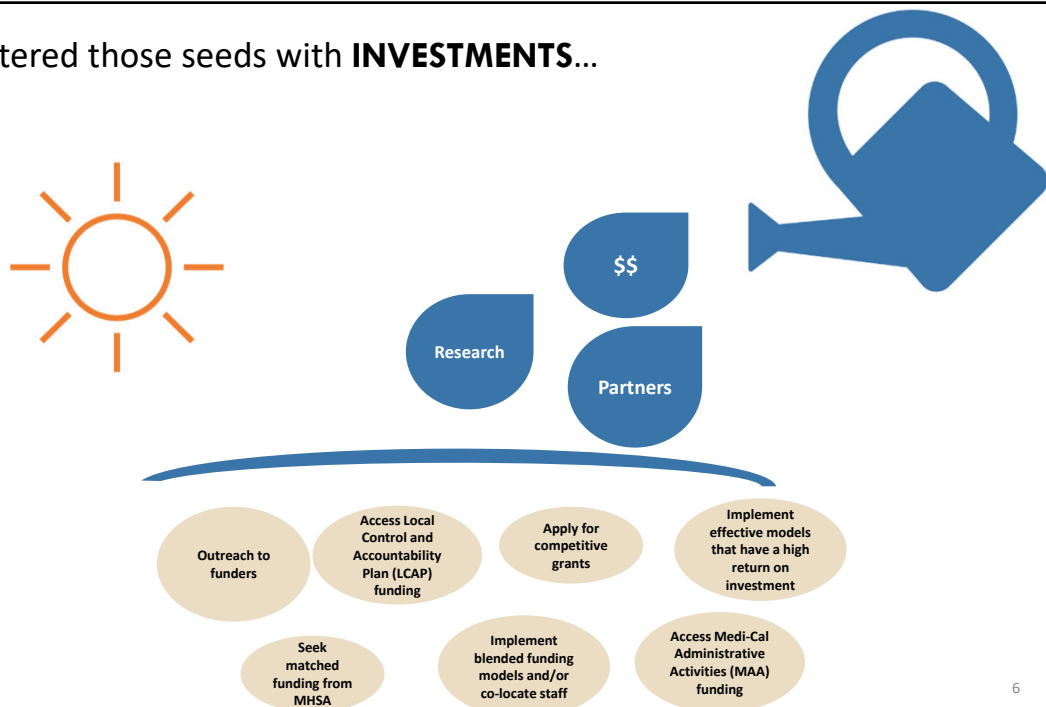
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First 5 and its partners planted seeds to **EXPAND AND SUSTAIN SYSTEMS...**



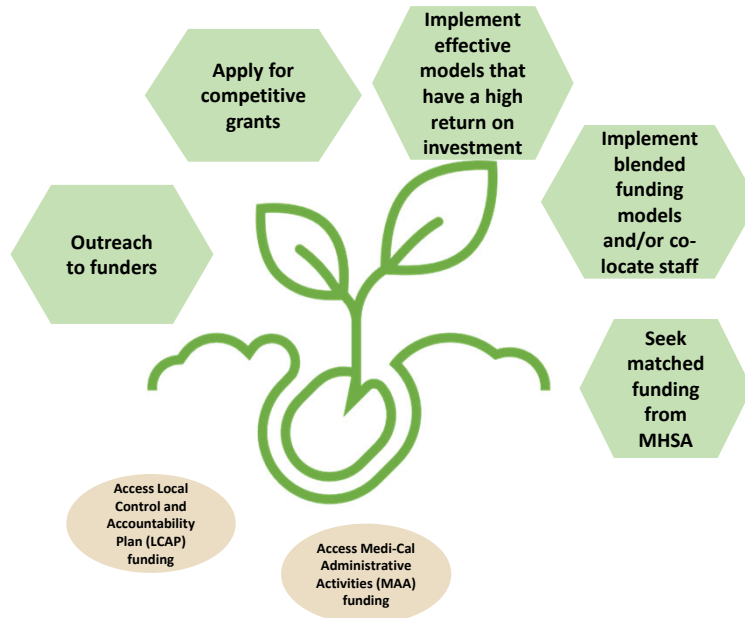
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and watered those seeds with **INVESTMENTS...**



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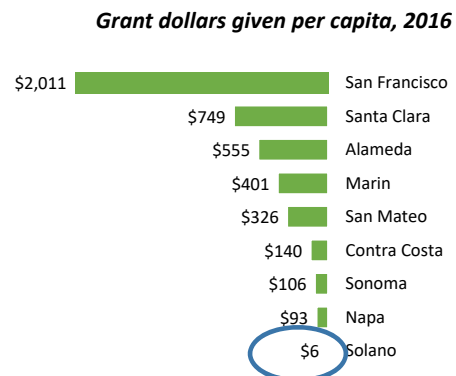
and the most robust seeds grew to **EXPAND AND SUSTAIN SYSTEMS** in Solano



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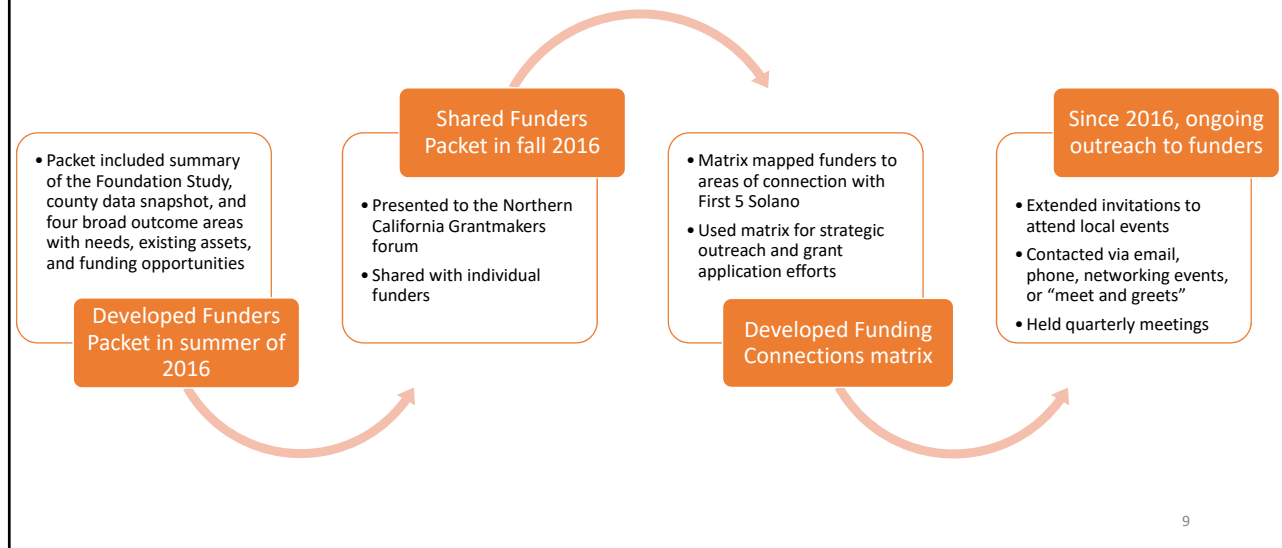
Foundation Study

- First 5 Solano commissioned the 2016 Foundation Giving study and the 2018 Update found disparities between Solano and other Bay Area Counties. Solano...
 - Receives the least in total foundation funding
 - Receives the least in per capita funding
 - Has the fewest funders per capita



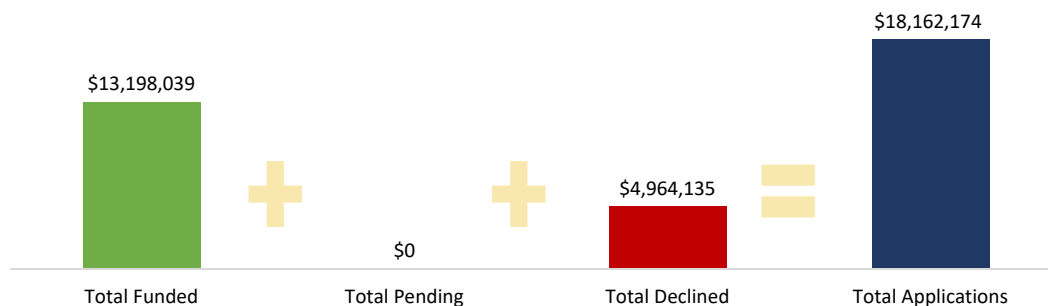
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Funder Outreach/Relationship Development



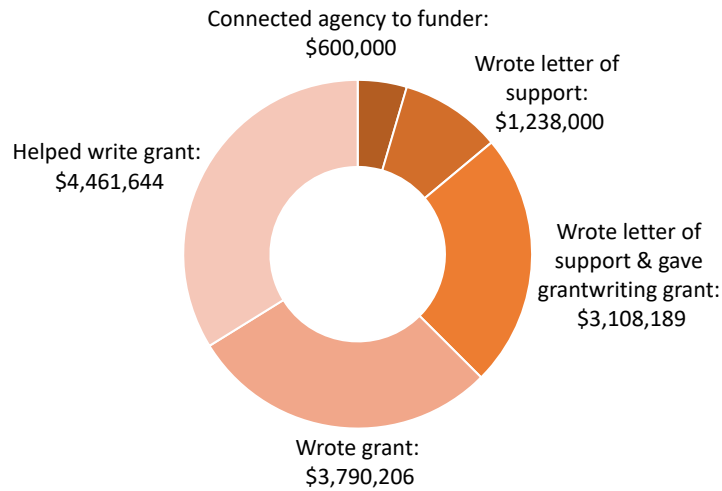
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Outcome of Grants Submitted or Supported by First 5 Solano FY2016/17-Present



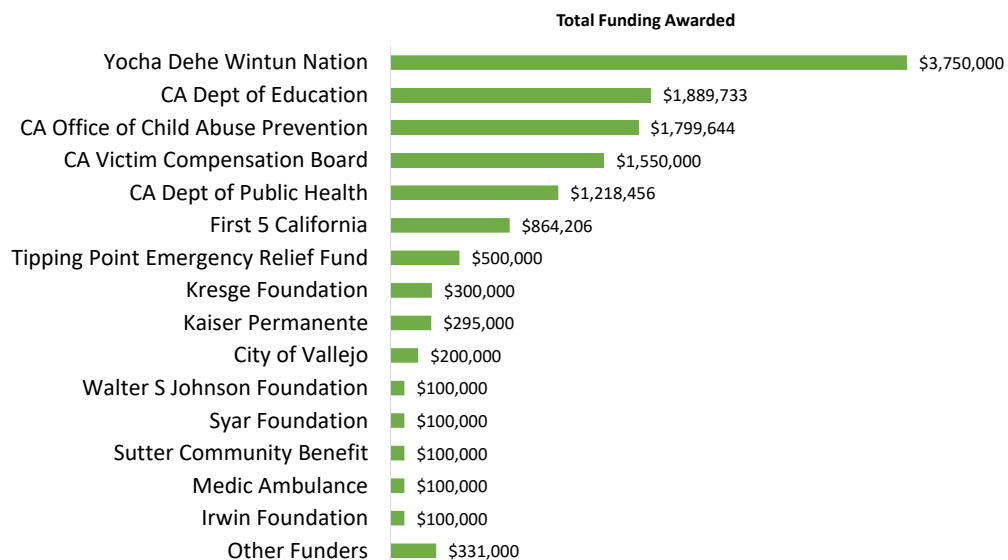
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First 5 Solano's Contribution to Grants Received FY2016/17-Present

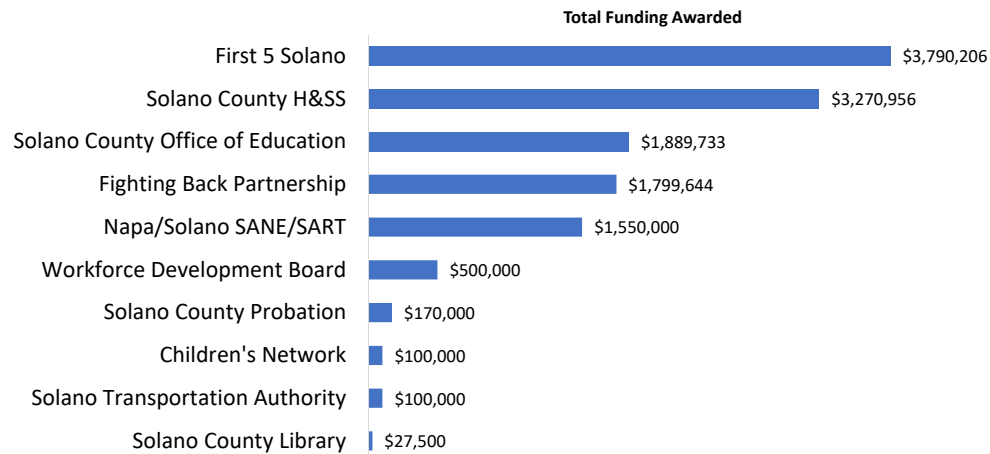


Note: For grants from Yocha Dehe, First 5 Solano wrote grant applications for the portions of the funds it received directly; these funds are represented in the "wrote grant" amount. Funds received by other agencies are represented in the "helped write grant" amount. 11

Funders of Successful Grants Submitted or Supported by First 5 Solano FY2016/17-Present



Recipients of Successful Grants Submitted or Supported by First 5 Solano FY2016/17-Present



Find new funding for services

Outreach
to
funders

Apply for
competitive
grants

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

Commissioned the
Foundation Giving Study

Created Funders Packet and
Funding Connections matrix
and met with funders

Submitted or supported the
submission of grants from
local, state, federal, and
private funders



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed

- ✓ Funders Packet shared with funders and subsequent meetings led to \$1.6 million in grants secured in FY2017/18.
- ✓ Successfully raised 92% of TI funds needed to launch First 5 Center in Vallejo.

Ongoing

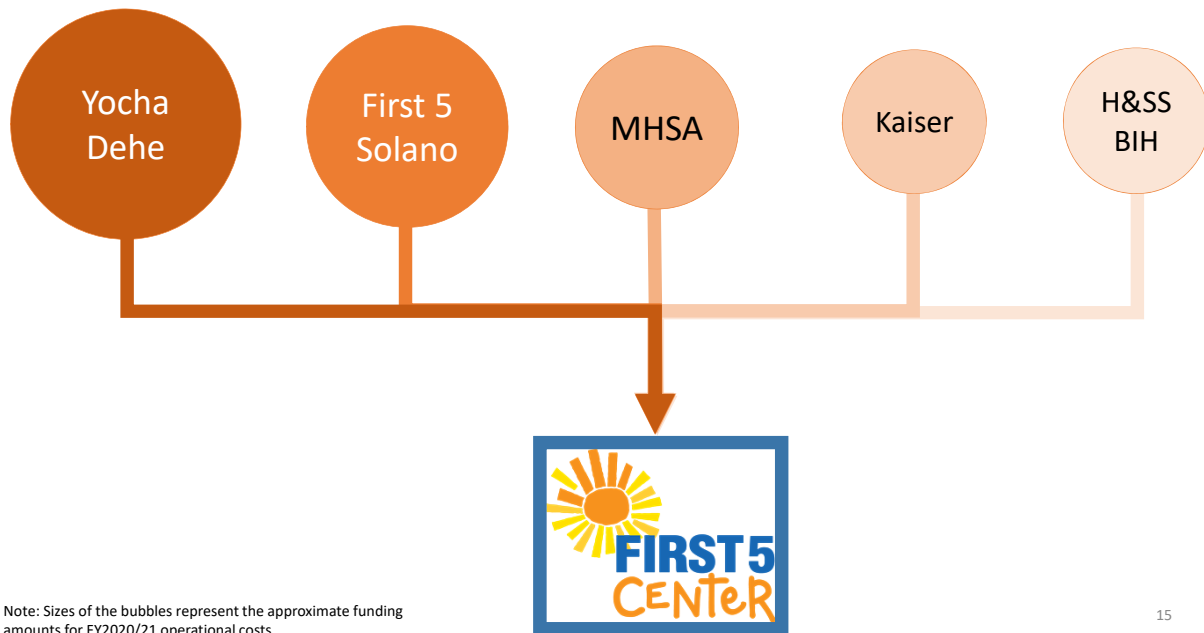
- ✓ First 5 Solano staff continue to meet quarterly with funders.
- ✓ First 5 submitting or supporting submission of ~15-20 grant applications each year.
- ✓ From these efforts, Solano has received \$13.2m in funding since 2016.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Continue to raise Solano's profile with funders.
- ✓ Continue to apply for competitive funding opportunities.

First 5 Center Blended Funding Model



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Maximize resources to fund services

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

Implemented blended funding models and/or co-located staff to support children and families (e.g., First 5 Center)

Implemented effective models that have a high return on investment (e.g., Triple P)

Found alternative sources to fund services (e.g., MHSA)



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ongoing

- ✓ In FY2018/19, First 5 Commission approved a 3-yr budget of up to \$600K/yr for the Vallejo First 5 Center.
- ✓ Selected non-governmental entity as First 5 Center operator to have increased opportunities for grant-seeking and blended funding.
- ✓ First 5 Solano invests in Triple P, which has an [ROI of \\$7.78](#) for every dollar invested and in Help Me Grow (HMG), a model that can result in [a net savings of \\$175 or more per child served](#).
- ✓ Since 2008, First 5 Solano has received \$600K/yr in matched funding from MHSA.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Continue to invest in initiatives with high ROIs like HMG, Triple P, and the First 5 Center.
- ✓ Identify ways to increase the early childhood education funding, including investments in workforce and facilities.
- ✓ Continue to find alternative sources of funding.

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17

DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director

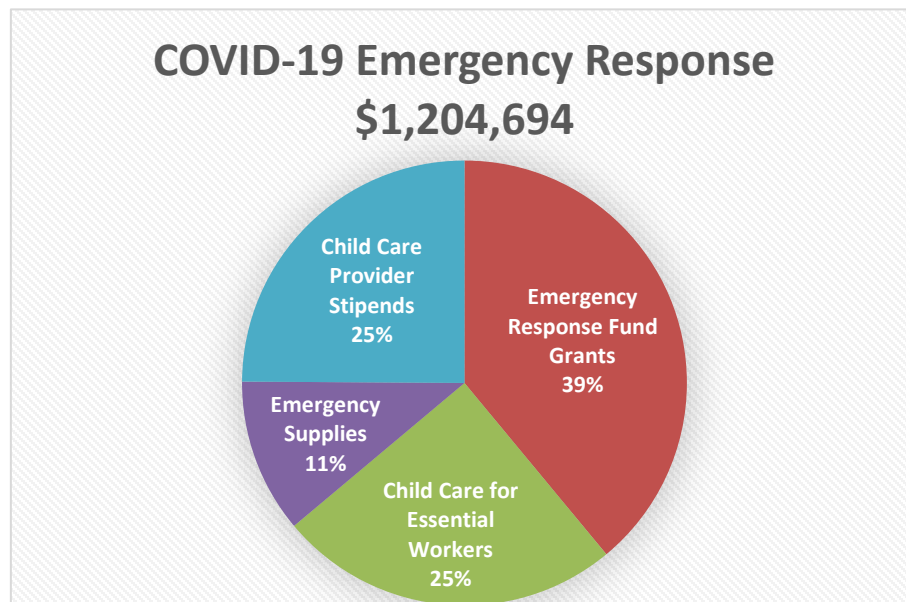
SUBJ: First 5 Solano's Emergency Response Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has been extremely challenging for families and providers throughout Solano County. In addition to regular activities, First 5 Solano aided the community by providing approximately \$1.2 million in funds and supplies to families and providers throughout the county through a multipronged approach, including:

1. Administering **Emergency Response Funds**
2. **Distribution of Supplies** to families, child care providers, and community partners
3. **Childcare for Essential Workers**, including assisting family find care and subsidies for families to access care
4. **Child Care Provider Support** by providing stipends for child care providers to offset the increased costs of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The attached Snap Shots provide details on each of these activities as well as the funding source, and results in the community.

For all of these activities, First 5 Solano was able to access other funding sources, including Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Travis Credit Union and First 5 California funds, for a total of \$1.2 million in funds and supplies being disseminated in the community. First 5 Solano's contribution was the significant amount of staff time that each of these efforts required.



It was in part due to the early planning of the Commission for the establishment of the Emergency Response Fund, as well as First 5's notability statewide for being a community hub, that prompted the significant investment by local and statewide agencies.

First 5 Solano will continue to look for ways to provide support to families and agencies until the pandemic subsides and throughout the recovery.

Attachment A: COVID-19 Response Snap Shots

Attachment B: First 5 Solano's CARES Act Proposal

Attachment C: First 5 Solano's Emergency Response Presentation

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

FY2020/21 Emergency Response



In April 2020, the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission established and provided initial funding for an Emergency Response Fund (ERF). The Fund is to support the overall safety and well-being of Solano County's children ages 0-5, their families, and providers of service during challenges of an emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The ERF provides grants of up to \$7,500 open to childcare providers, nonprofits, and other community partners serving children 0-5 and their families in Solano County.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- 4 rounds of ERF Request for Applications were released between April 2020-December 2020
- A total of 228 grants were awarded in funds and equipment for a total amount of \$469,694
- Grants were provided to nonprofits, community partners, and child care sites for a variety of supplies, equipment, and support for families, including:
 - Basic needs support, such as funding for rent and food
 - Equipment to support cleaning, distancing, and sanitation, such as handwashing stations, outdoor shade structures, additional tables and chairs, isolation “nooks” for sick children, etc.
- The final round of grants were for equipment which was secured and distributed by First 5 Solano, including thermometers, sneeze guards, air purifiers, room dividers, and individual learning kits for child care sites. In total, over 70 pallets of equipment was received at the First 5 Solano office and distributed in a 3 day drive through distribution event.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- Because of the policy and system in place to award funds quickly, First 5 Solano was able to access \$449,694 of Solano County's allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to offset the Commission's initial investment, as well as provide 2 additional application periods.
- Travis Credit Union provided \$20,000 for COVID relief which was also used to support the ERF



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- The equipment distribution alone provided a safer environment for over 2,700 children ages 0-5
- Many child care providers expressed gratitude for the funding and equipment, noting that it is allowing them to stay open and provide care for children with working parents during this challenging time.

A grantee received funding to serve immigrant families with children 0-5 not eligible to receive stimulus funding or unemployment. A family with three children had been struggling since March when the father lost his job at a local warehouse due to COVID-19. He had not been able to find employment and is was not eligible for any benefits. The mother continued to work at a local distribution center but her hours have were reduced. With only one income, family was having a hard time paying for car insurance, groceries, gas, and rent. Staff was able to assist this family by utilizing ERF to pay a month of their rent and referred them to other resources for continued support.

SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

COVID-19 Emergency Response



First 5 Solano has been an access point for distributing supplies in the community, including diapers, wipes, and other COVID-19 related supplies directly to parents, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies to child care providers and other community providers. Multiple local and statewide partners provided supplies including First 5 California, Kaiser Permanente, Touro University and Baby2Baby. Based on the estimated value of these items, First 5 Solano distributed over \$135,000 in supplies out to the community (low estimate).



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- Between June 2020 and December 2020, First 5 Solano received 5 rounds of supplies from First 5 California which were distributed in the community, including:
 - 1,500 packages of diapers, 850 packages of baby wipes, 1,500 cloth masks, 120 forehead thermometers, 900 bottles spray disinfectant, 1,400 boxes of disposable adult and child masks, 450 boxes of disposable gloves, 3,600 packages of disinfecting wipes and more!
- In addition to the supplies provided by First 5 California, First 5 Solano received the following supplies from community partners for distribution in the community:
 - Kaiser Permanente—30 oral thermometers
 - Touro University—150 cloth masks
 - Baby2Baby—289 packages of diapers, 354 packages of baby wipes, 2,000 cloth masks, 200 infant medical kits, 502 bottles of baby shampoo



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- In summer 2020, First 5 Solano staff coordinated drive through diaper distribution events in each city in the county where parents and caregivers could directly receive supplies. In addition, diapers were distributed to programs, such as WIC, public health nursing, and Child Start, to provide to families in need.
- First 5 Solano distributed PPE and cleaning supplies to grantees and other nonprofit and community provides. First 5 Solano also partnered with Solano Family and Children's Services to distribute supplies to child care providers.
- In addition to the monetary value of the supplies, many were distributed during times in which providers and the community were not able to find the supplies to purchase, regardless of cost.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- Agencies and child care providers expressed gratitude for all the supplies received and that they are able to provide safer environments for themselves and the children and families they serve.

One Head Start family who received supplies was former military and dad was discharged due to an injury. He is currently in school to become a teacher and mom is a stay at home mom. They are very thankful for the package they received that was generously provided by Baby2Baby.

CHILD CARE

COVID-19 Emergency Response

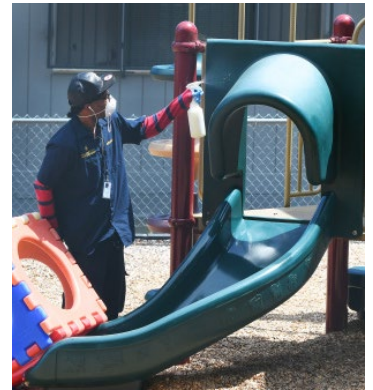


In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was identified there was a need for child care for essential workers, especially in the city of Vallejo. On behalf of the Solano County Office of Emergency Services, First 5 Solano began coordination for the Solano County Emergency Popup Child Care. Within a matter of weeks, First 5 Solano worked with several community providers and California Child Care Licensing to open two popup child care sites specifically for this purpose, as well identified several other sites within Solano County where families could be referred for care. First 5 Solano continued to assist with providing child care for families through December 2020.



How MUCH DID WE DO?

- From April-June 2020, assisted 76 families with a total of 124 children in accessing child care.
- Assisted with opening two Popup Child Care sites in May 2020 including:
 - 19 preschool and school age children received care at Cooper Elementary School
 - 6 infants, toddlers, and their siblings received care at CARE4EM family child care home



How WELL DID WE DO IT?

- Several partners stepped in to collaborate with us to implement pop up child care in Vallejo. First 5 Solano is exceedingly grateful to the following partners, whose support made implementation of the pop up child care successful. These partners are
 - Vallejo City Unified School District
 - Solano Family & Child's Services
 - Solano County Office of Education
 - Child Start, Inc.
- First 5 Solano accessed approximately \$300,000 in CARES Act funds to administer the Popup Child Care Sites and assist families to find child care, as well as pay for child care for essential workers from May 2020-December 2020.
- First 5 Solano was contacted by several agencies statewide to share how we did this work. In addition, this work was featured by the First 5 Association and bay area press.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 100% of families that completed an intake seeking emergency child care were contacted by First 5 Solano staff and assisted finding care.
- 25 children were provided care with CARES Act funding from May-December 2020 so their parents who were essential workers could continue to work and serve the Solano community.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER SUPPORT

FY2020/21 Emergency Response



In Solano County, child care was already limited prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with only 24% of children ages 0-12 who had working parents having access to a space in a licensed child care facility. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, by May 2020, 45% of licensed child care centers and family child care homes in Solano County closed, either temporarily or permanently. By August, 84 providers had reopened but Solano was still suffering from a loss of 135 (28%) of licensed child care providers resulting in a loss of child care for over 3,500 children (Reference: Solano Family & Children's Services).

To address this need, First 5 Solano sought ways to ensure child care providers who were open could remain open and to encourage child care providers who were closed to reopen. Utilizing CARES Act funding, First 5 Solano partnered with Solano Family & Children's Services to provide stipends to licensed child care providers to cover increased costs due to operating at lower capacity to accommodate social distancing and increased staffing for health screenings and rigorous cleaning protocols.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- 129 licensed child care providers, including child care centers and family child care homes, received monthly stipends from September 2020-December 2020.
- Monthly stipends amounts ranged from \$100-\$1,500 depending on the size of the child care program and number of children in care during the month.
- Enrolled providers served a total of 1,056 children during the time period of the program.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- Solano Family & Children's Services was a key partner in identifying the target child care providers, enrolling providers, and issuing stipends.
- First 5 Solano utilized \$300,000 in CARES Act funding to provide the stipends.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 100% of the 129 child care providers served were able to remain open and provide child care for working families despite the increased costs of providing care.



Solano County – CARES Act Expenditure Plan

Child Care Program Overview

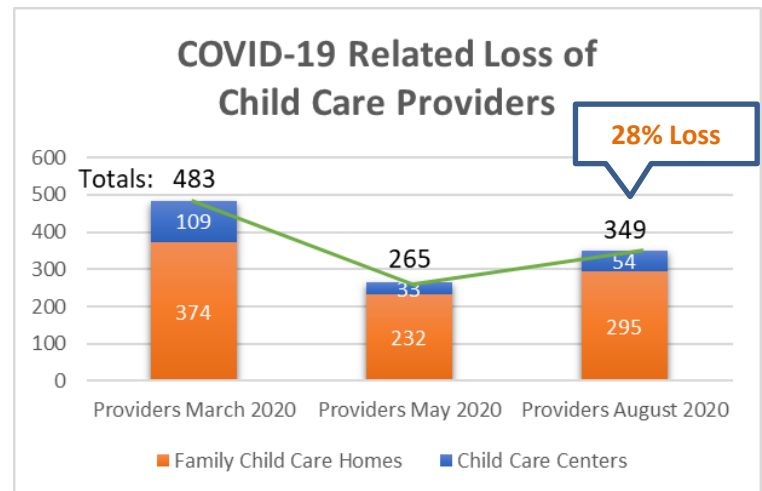
August 25, 2020

Attachment B

BACKGROUND

In Solano County, child care was already limited prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with only 24% of children ages 0-12 who had working parents having access to a space in a licensed child care facility.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, 45% of licensed child care centers and family child care homes in Solano County closed, either temporarily or permanently (May 2020). While 84 providers have reopened since May, Solano is still suffering from a loss of 135 or 28% of licensed child care providers resulting in a loss of child care for over 3,500 children (Reference: Solano Family & Children's Services). Further exacerbating the issue is education via distance learning, requiring care for 35,000 children kindergarten-5th grade either in the home or a child care setting.



APRIL-AUGUST COVID-19 RELATED CHILD CARE EFFORTS

Since April 2020, First 5 Solano has been acting as an arm of the Solano County Office of Emergency Services and has assisted with providing access to Pop Up child care for essential workers in Vallejo and throughout Solano County. Partners in this effort have been Solano County Office of Education, Vallejo City Unified School District, Solano Family & Children's Services, and Child Start, Inc. Through these efforts, First 5 Solano worked with 76 families to connect 124 children to care. Building upon these efforts, in May 2020, vouchers for emergency subsidies became available from the California Department of Early Learning and CARE Division and have provided funding for child care for 446 children of essential workers.

In addition, the First 5 Solano Commission quickly implemented an Emergency Response Fund (ERF). This fund provides a vehicle by which the Commission can support community partners to serve children and families in Solano impacted by the emergency. While the ERF is available to all community providers serving families with children 0-5, the majority of the ERF has been accessed by child care providers for equipment to support social distancing, cleaning materials/equipment, and support of personnel.

CURRENT STATUS

Many child care centers and family child care homes in Solano remain closed due to COVID-19, limiting options for working families, including families of children ages 6-12 now engaged in distance learning.

Child care providers who have remained closed cited the following reasons for remaining closed:

1. Safety of themselves and the families in their care
2. Needing additional time for training and buying equipment to support social distancing and distance learning
3. Not having enough staff to safely operate
4. Only wanting to provide care to continuing families who are not in need of care at this time.

Child care providers who have reopened also cite challenges. While limits on cohort size in child care settings have loosened, the California Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control still recommend keeping cohort size as small as possible to allow for social distancing and decrease the spread of the virus. Therefore, many providers are operating with fewer children in care, thereby increasing the cost per child. In addition, child care sites have to implement health screenings at check in and increased cleaning protocols, making providing care more costly.

Solano County – CARES Act Expenditure Plan

Child Care Program Overview

August 25, 2020

Attachment B

As part of the Emergency Operations Center, First 5 Solano is continuing to work with families of essential workers in Vallejo. As school begins, families that have been provided care at the Cooper Elementary School Pop Up will be transitioned to a subsidy-based system through December 2020. In addition, First 5 Solano continues to work closely with early care and education partners on reopening strategies. For locations which have a secure funding stream (e.g. Head Start, State Preschool, etc.), First 5 Solano will work alongside Solano County Office of Education, the local School Districts, Solano Family & Children's Services and other community partners to identify barriers to opening and assist with coordination of opening and access for parents where needed.



CARES ACT FUNDING PROPOSAL

The CARES Act Proposal dated August 11, 2020 included a total of \$599,277 in child care funding and \$405,919 in funding for First 5 Solano's Emergency Response Fund. Out of the total of \$1,005,196, \$455,196 has been allocated toward child care for essential workers and current Emergency Response Fund grants. The remaining \$550,000 CARES Act funding be used to support the following goals:

1. **Protect Current Supply of Child Care Providers By Offsetting Increased Cost of Care**
2. **Increase Capacity to Operate within COVID-19 Restrictions**

Strategy 1: Offset increased cost of providing child care. Child care providers have increased costs due to operating at lower capacity to accommodate social distancing and increased staffing for health screenings and rigorous cleaning protocols. The County can ensure the long-term viability of child care providers and encourage reopening of closed providers by assisting with offsetting these increased costs. The \$300,000 in funding under this strategy would provide a \$100/per month stipend for licensed child care providers for each child in care for the time period of September-December 2020. With an average stipend of \$4,000, this strategy could reach up to 75 providers, or 21% of the 349 open providers.

Strategy 2: Increase capacity of community providers, including child care providers, to operate during COVID-19 pandemic. Providers need to feel comfortable and confident that when they are open, they can adequately protect themselves, their staff, and the families accessing services. This strategy will assist by providing funds for social distancing equipment, individual learning supplies, cleaning supplies, etc. through the First 5 Solano Emergency Response Fund. The \$250,000 in funding under this strategy would provide grants of up to \$7,500 for the time period of September-December 2020.



CARES ACT EXPANSION OPTIONS:

Should the Board choose to expand its investment in the child care system, the Board should consider the following recommendations:

1. Provide an additional child care funding for offsetting the increased cost of providing care to reach more providers.
2. Provide additional Emergency Response Fund Grants exclusively supporting child care providers, with outreach to the 135 closed child care providers and offering support enabling them to reopen.



First 5 Solano's Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

First 5 Solano's
Multi-Pronged
Approach

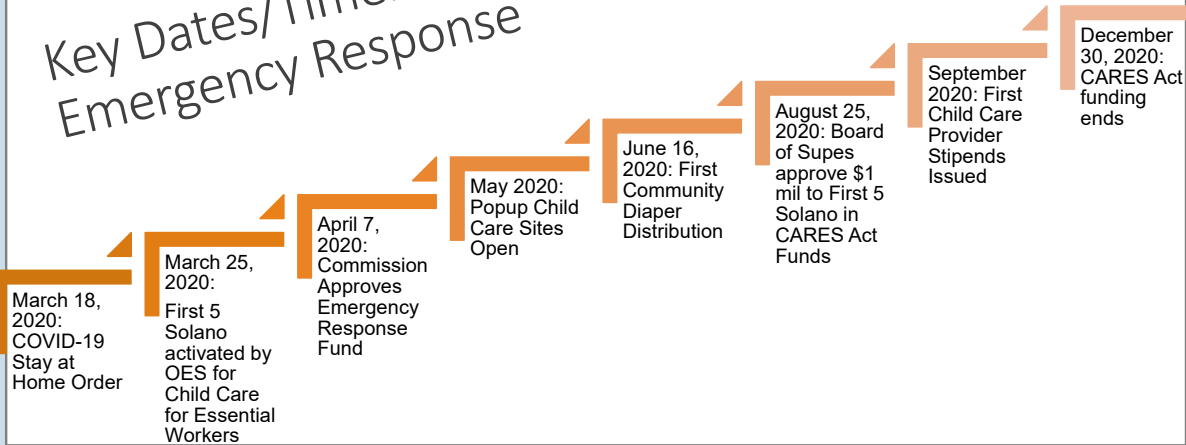
Emergency Response Funds

Distribution of Supplies

Child Care for Essential Workers

Child Care Provider Support

Key Dates/Timeline of First 5 Solano's Emergency Response



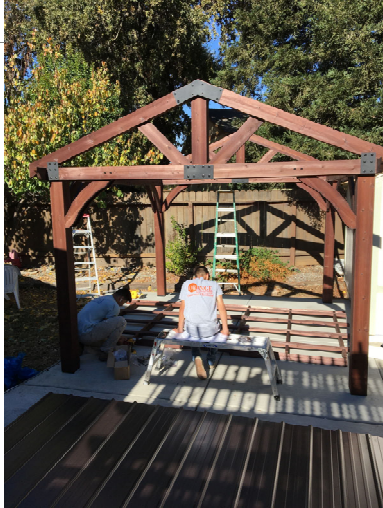
3

Emergency Response Fund – Round 1

- April 2020: First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission establishes an Emergency Response Fund
- Initial FY2019/20 allocation of \$44,519 from the Commission was blended with a \$20,000 grant from Travis Credit Union to provide \$64,519 in grant funding
- 21 Grants of up to \$7,500 were issued to Child Care Providers, Family Resource Centers and other agencies serving children 0-5 and their families

4

Martinez Family
Day Care



Linda's Love Preschool
& Child Care



5

Emergency Response Fund – Rounds 2 & 3

- Summer 2020: \$108,171 to 38 community providers
- Initially utilized First 5 Solano funds
- August 2020: CARES Act proposal approved:
 - Reimburse First 5 Solano for all previous ERF grants!
 - Provided \$253,229 additional funds for more ERF grants
- Fall 2020: \$105,562 to 42 community providers

6

Emergency Response Fund – Round 4

- Identified common equipment requests
- Utilized Google Forms
- Bilingual application
- 127 applications approved for equipment, including:
 - Forehead thermometers
 - Sneeze guards
 - Room dividers
 - Touchless soap dispensers
 - Air purifiers
 - Learning kits

7

Emergency Response Fund – Round 4

- 70+ pallets delivered to First 5 Solano office/Center
- 3 day drive through pick-up



8



Emergency Response Fund – Round 4

9

Supply Distribution

- Received 5 shipments from First 5 California:
 - 1,500 packages of diapers
 - 850 pages of baby wipes
 - 1,500 cloth masks
 - 120 forehead thermometers
 - 900 bottles spray disinfectant
 - 1,400 boxes of disposable adult and child masks
 - 450 boxes of disposable gloves
 - 3,600 packages of disinfecting wipes
 - And more!

10

Supply Distribution

- Supplies from community partners:
 - Kaiser Permanente—30 oral thermometers
 - Touro University—150 cloth masks
 - Baby2Baby—289 packages of diapers, 354 packages of baby wipes, 2,000 cloth masks, 200 infant medical kits, 502 bottles of baby shampoo
- Total Estimated Value of supplies: \$135,000

11

Supply Distribution

- 6 Community Diaper Distribution events
- Diaper and family supply distribution through community partners, such as Public Health Nursing, WIC, Child Start
- Partnership with Solano Family & Children's Services for distribution to child care providers
- Direct distribution to grantees and other community providers

12



Diaper Distribution Events

13

Child Care

- March 25, 2020: First 5 Solano activated as part of Solano County's Office of Emergency Services to assist with child care for essential workers
- April 2020: Opened intake to identify families who needed care
- May 2020: Opened 2 popup child care sites:
 - Cooper Elementary in Vallejo
 - CARE4EM family child care home

14

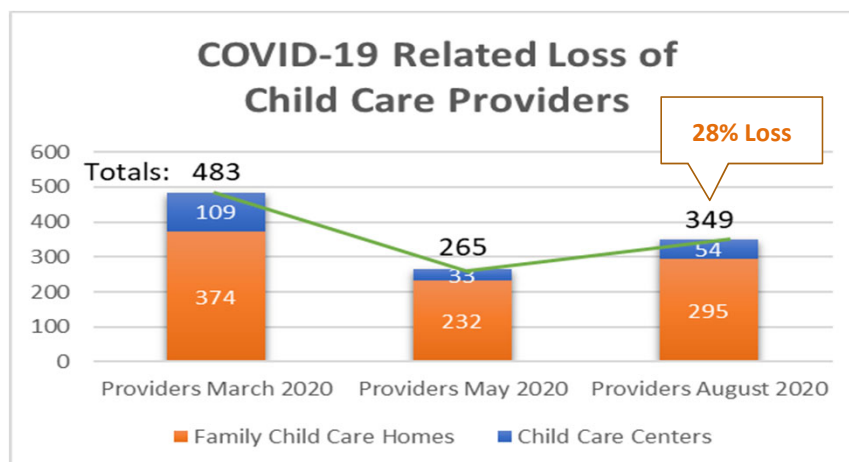
Child Care

- Partner support and collaboration:
 - Vallejo City Unified School District
 - Solano Family & Children's Services
 - Solano County Office of Education
 - Child Start, Inc
- Assisted 76 families with 124 children in accessing care
- 25 children placed at popup sites
- \$300,000 of CARES Act funds to subsidize child care



15

Child Care Provider Support



16

Child Care Provider Support

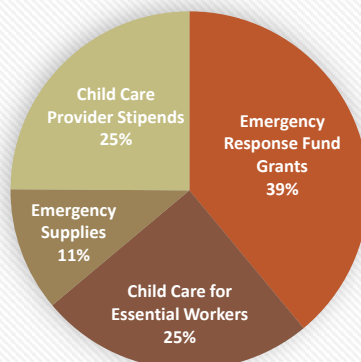
- Partnered with Solano Family & Children's Services
- Provided subsidies to child care providers to offset increased cost of providing care:
 - Lower cohort sized
 - Increased staffing for cleaning and health checks
- 129 licensed child care providers enrolled
- Serving 1,056 children
- \$300,000 of CARES Act funds for stipends



17

Conclusion

COVID-19 Emergency Response
\$1,204,694



- Plus: First 5 Solano staff time for implementation

18

DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for January 2021**

Systems Change

Proposal for Year 4 Funding from Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: In December 2020, First 5 Solano was approved for a \$500,000 proposal to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, which includes \$200,000 to continue basic needs assistance for families in crisis and assistance to obtain self-sufficiency; and, \$300,000 to provide continued program funding for the Vallejo First 5 Center. This is the 4th year that the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has generously supported the work of First 5 Solano and we are continually grateful for our partnership.

Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Receives Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) Grant: In August 2020 First 5 Solano provided a letter of support for an STA grant submittal to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requesting STEP funds for planning and capacity building to reduce transportation disparities and pursue environmental justice in Vallejo. On November 19th CARB released the grant awardees and STA was awarded a grant in the amount of \$299,997 (See Attachment A – Press Release). First 5 Solano will be providing a representative to dedicate time to this effort. STA plans to begin outreach efforts in early 2021 and the grant activities will begin in May 2021.

Letter of Support for SANE-SARE grant application: In December 2020 First 5 Solano provided a letter of support to SANE-SART/Solano Trauma Recovery Center for their application for a California Victims Compensation Board Trauma Recovery Center Grant. This grant will allow SANE-SART to continue to provide free mental health services to all victims of violence in Solano County. This would be their third grant if awarded, and the fifth year providing comprehensive trauma informed wrap around services including mental health therapy, housing assistance, transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy, food assistance, legal and immigration services. See Attachment B.

Program

Pre-K backpacks: The First 5 Solano Commission allocates funding to provide 4-week summer Pre-K academy sessions to children that have never had a preschool experience or are considered high promise. The 2020 Pre-K academies did not go on due to the health guidance of school closures. The First 5 Solano Commission reallocated funding towards the purchase of backpacks filled with supplies for traditional and at-home virtual learning for 5,500 TK and K children in the county. The project was a collaboration with Solano County Office of Education and the Solano County Library who provided staff time and books. Lots and lots of books. Each backpack had 2-3 new books and also contained manuscript paper, pencils, crayons, as well as a whiteboard, dry eraser and markers, unit counters and other items teachers and students will find useful as they continue to navigate the new learning environment. The backpacks have been delivered to each school district for distribution to their students in the coming weeks.

2021 First 5 Solano Calendar: The 2021 First 5 Solano Calendar is currently being distributed to programs, parents, and providers of children 0-5 years old in Solano County. The calendar is full of information and resources related to children's health and development, parenting and family support. This year, the calendar has added a suggested book of the month and activities that correlate with that month's topic. The calendar is free and available in English and Spanish. If you have not received a calendar or would like to order more, visit the First 5 Solano website and click "I want to order a calendar."

Report from the Children's Network Census 2020: In October 2019, First 5 Solano entered a contract for \$30,654 with the Children's Network to coordinate countywide efforts to increase response rates from families with children for the Census 2020 County. The funding from First Solano was blended with funding from the Northern California Grantmakers Bay Area Census Funders Collaborative (\$40,000); and the United Way Bay Area (\$65,000). The Children's Network implemented the "Solano Kids Count" campaign. As a result of these efforts and other countywide Census outreach efforts, Solano County's Census 2020 Self Response rate was 74.1%, versus 69.6% Statewide, and 67.9% in 2010. The scope of work for this contract was completed and the Children's Network has provided a final report. See Attachment C.

First 5 Association 2020 Virtual Summit: In December 2020, First 5 Solano staff attended three half-days of the First 5 Association 2020 Virtual Summit, which focused how our organization continues to prioritize young children and their families through unexpected challenges experienced this year. Highlights from the conference included a keynote address by Mia Birdsong, a family activist and storyteller who presented an opening talk on the importance of engaging communities in our work, and a joint presentation from Kris Perry, Deputy Secretary for CA Health & Human Services, and Lupita Alcalá, Director of Education Policy & Outcomes and Janelle Kubinec, Chief Administrative Officer of West Ed, on California's master plan for early learning and care.

Additional highlights of the summit included workshop sessions led by Dr. Kenneth Hardy, Director of the Eikenberg Institute for Relationships in New York, on the disproportionate impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences particularly for the Black and Latinx communities in the midst of twin pandemics – COVID-19 and racial unrest, and a session on Improving Cross-system Health Care Connections for infants and toddlers, where participants discussed recommendations for making a complex service-delivery experience more efficient and less challenging for families.

Legislative

Solano County Legislative Committee approved the Legislative Proposal for the Fairfield First 5 Center: Commissioner Hannigan reported to the Commission at the December 1, 2020 meeting that Assemblymember Jim Frazier is willing to assist First 5 Solano with a legislative proposal to establish a First 5 Center in Fairfield. First 5 Solano submitted a legislative proposal with a request for \$2 million to the Solano County Legislative Committee and this proposal was approved by the committee. This proposal will be considered by the Board of Supervisors in early 2021. See Attachment D.

First 5 Association federal advocacy letters: The First 5 Association has signed on to two federal advocacy letters, both urging the President-elect and Vice President-elect to prioritize

young children and families within their administration and through budget and COVID relief. See Attachment E. Specifically, these letters urge the newly elected Biden-Harris administration to:

1. Create a White House Office on Children & Youth. This letter was signed by over 500 national, state and local agencies. This letter was submitted on December 30, 2020.
2. Prioritize children & families through passing comprehensive COVID relief, include a with substantial and targeted support for child care, Head Start, and preschool programs; establishing a new senior-level White House position focused on child care and early learning; and, create a national grassroots advisory council for child care and early learning. This letter is being circulated for signatures.

Sign on Children's Now Advocacy Letter: On December 7, 2020 First 5 Solano signed on to the Children's Now Advocacy letter – *Put Children First in 2021*. This letter was addressed to Governor Newsom and State Legislators, and urges policy makers to prioritize every unrestricted dollar for supports for kids across the early childhood, family and economic supports, health, K-12 and higher education, housing, child care and child welfare domains. See Attachment F.

Attachment A: Press Release – STA receives CARB grant
Attachment B: Letter of Support SANE-SART grant application
Attachment C: Children's Network Census 2020 Report
Attachment D: Legislative Proposal for Fairfield First 5 Center
Attachment E: Federal Advocacy Letters
Attachment F: Children Now State Advocacy Letter

November 19, 2020 Press Release from the California Air Resources Board:

Grant awards announced for new \$19.5 million pilot funding equitable, clean transportation options in disadvantaged and low-income communities

Pioneering program helps communities hit hardest by pollution overcome barriers to sustainable transportation

SACRAMENTO – The California Air Resources Board has awarded 11 grants totaling \$19.5 million to community-based organizations and local governments across California that will help disadvantaged and low-income communities address transportation needs with innovative clean, sustainable transportation solutions.

Available through a new pilot project called the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project, or STEP, the funding supports both planning and implementation of clean transportation projects. Each project awarded funding includes partnerships between a lead applicant, co-applicants (e.g. public, private or nonprofit organizations) and community partners.

“The goal of this pioneering project is to boost transportation equity by designing the program whereby communities make decisions about their own transportation needs, with the objective of helping residents get where they need to go — be it the doctor’s office, grocery store or daycare — without using a personal vehicle,” CARB Executive Officer Richard W. Corey said.

STEP will help support Governor Newsom’s Executive Order phasing out gasoline-powered cars and requiring 100 percent sales of zero-emission cars in 2035. This will drastically reduce demand for fossil fuels, cut vehicle emissions, protect public health, and propel California toward carbon neutrality in the mid-century.

STEP aims to increase transportation equity in disadvantaged and low-income communities by funding clean transportation solutions that are determined by community residents and that work best for each individual community. STEP offered two types of awards: planning and capacity building grants, and grants supporting project implementation. Projects funded include a new electric carsharing and bikesharing service, public transit and shared mobility subsidies, urban forestry, new bike paths, community transportation needs assessments, and active transportation education and outreach events. All projects incorporate significant community engagement during all phases of project planning, development, and implementation.

CARB received 34 proposals, requesting more than five and a half times the available funding. Awardees include:

Planning and Capacity Building Grant Awardees

- City of Oakland Department of Transportation – \$184,753.69
- Circle of Life Development Foundation, dba MLKCommUNITY Initiative of southeast Bakersfield – \$200,000
- Omnitrans, a public transportation agency in San Bernardino County – \$230,500
- Isla Vista Community Services District – \$182,158
- City Heights Community Development Corporation – \$199,248.08
- Anaheim Transportation Network – \$200,000
- Solano Transportation Authority – \$299,997.59
- City of South El Monte – \$205,108.50

Implementation Grant Awardees

- San Joaquin Council of Governments – \$7,480,385.53
- City of Commerce – \$3,240,078.08
- Los Angeles Department of Transportation – \$7,077,770.53

STEP is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that has put billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

STEP is part of a larger approach to promote low-carbon transportation solutions in California. Other programs include Clean Mobility Options, a pilot providing first come, first served funding for smaller-scale shared mobility projects and the Clean Vehicle Assistance Program, which provides grants and affordable financing to help people buy clean cars.

December 15, 2020

COMMISSIONERS

Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Chair

Lenesha Anderson

Jennifer Barton

Mina Diaz

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Erin Hannigan

Gerald Huber

Nicole Neff

Marla Stuart

Tiffany Wanberg

State of California
California Trauma Recovery Center Grant
400 R Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: California Trauma Recovery Center Grant

Dear CalVCB Review Panel Executive:

I am writing on behalf of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission to offer our strong support for the Napa Solano SANE/SART Grant application to the State of California Victim Compensation Board for the *California Recovery Center Grant*.

SANE/SART oversees the Solano Courage Center 2 and is uniquely qualified to manage this grant and to provide resources, treatments, and recovery services to crime victims through a comprehensive system in Solano County. SANE/SART is a current leader and partner in Solano County's collaborative efforts that address the needs of victims of crime and support the recovery process.

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

Luke Winders
Office Assistant III

The Solano Courage Center 2 is designed as a multi-disciplinary Center that works with partner agencies to provide a comprehensive and appropriate response to the needs of victims of crime and their families. The Solano Courage Center acts as a hub for agencies and organizations who serve victims of crime and the Center routinely collaborates with representatives from nonprofits, private medical providers, hospitals, clinics, Solano Family Justice Center, Solano County Department of Health and Social Services including the Child Welfare Human Trafficking Taskforce, Mental Health Services, Public Health, Solano County District Attorney's office, Solano County Office of Family Violence Protection, Solano County Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement agencies, Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility, Solano County Probation, homeless service organizations, domestic violence organizations, school districts, North Bay Regional Center, parents, and the faith community to ensure strong systems are in place to support victims/survivors at their most vulnerable times. If awarded this Trauma Center Recovery Grant this will be the fifth year that SANE/SART has provided free mental health services to victims of crime in Solano County.

The grant implementation through SANE/SART is a natural extension of the services currently in place and will allow the partner agencies in Solano County to better coordinate the response to all victims of crime. As the Executive Director of First 5 Solano, I am in full support of SANE/SART's efforts to continue providing much needed services to crime victims in our community. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michele Harris
Executive Director
(707) 784-1340
mdharris@solanocounty.com





Solano Kids Count – 2020 Census Awareness Campaign

Beginning in October 2019, the Children’s Network of Solano County engaged a local network of over 42 non-profits, school districts, businesses, county agencies, community members and community leaders in collaborative efforts to ensure the participation of hard-to-count populations in Solano County, with a focus on 0-5 children. Funding for this campaign was provided by First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, Silicon Valley Community Foundation and United Way Bay Area.

Specific activities performed to coordinate this collaborative effort included:

- Developing the Solano Kids Count campaign logo and messaging.
- Collecting, personalizing and distributing Census education and awareness materials.
- Convening 5 Solano Kids Count campaign meetings, including 2 planning meetings prior to the start of outreach.
- Hosting 2 community forums
- Reaching at least 42 partner agencies with information about the campaign.
- Providing 9 small grants to partner organizations for education and outreach with their clients and in their local communities.
- Delivering 3 trainings on Census 2020 to 89 staff members of partner agencies.
- Participating in the Solano Complete Count Committee to ensure coordination with the efforts of various community stakeholders, and to increase support for Solano Kids Count.
- Promoting the Solano Kids Count campaign in as many of our contacts as possible.

Outreach activities:

As a result of our collaborative outreach and education efforts, the Solano Kids Count Campaign had a substantial reach in Solano County. We distributed Census 2020 materials (shirts, posters, flyers, stickers, bookmarks, coloring sheets, books, bags, postcards, etc.) to at least 42 agencies and individuals for distribution to their clients and communities across the county.

Outcomes of these efforts include:

- Distribution of census collaterals to at least 6,086 people at 65 in person events in Solano County, with 51 of these focused in the hard to count community of Vallejo.
- Dissemination of Census information through at least 221 social media posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram that had over 37,660 views.
- Reached 5,589 families with phone banking efforts.

We hosted the Census 2020 Living Room Festival via Facebook Live on Census Day. This live event was a collaborative event and occurred for 4 hours on April 1, 2020. It was intended to raise awareness about the importance of the Census and of counting all children as part of it. The event had 6,128 impressions that day.

- The event featured local artists, elected officials, and community leaders.
- Youtube link for community leader interviews:
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCfplwfm8axPvYF--4dJJQUg>
- Link to Living Room Festival on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/130988481561/videos/2640880429515762>



For Census 2030 efforts:

- It is important that the efforts of an outreach and education campaign like be housed at an agency that has a large network of contacts and relationships and a history of collaborative work. Building on existing partnerships is vital to this type of effort; it shortens the time needed to roll out a campaign.
- Recruit child care providers, family resource centers, grass roots organizations, school districts, religious organizations and other agencies that are trusted messengers with families and the hard to count community you're trying to reach. When trying to encourage participation by members of a community that has been historically missed in the census, the messengers should come from that community. They can help dispel fears or disinformation that might prevent a successful count.
- Develop a plan that integrates with other events taking place in the community. Keep your local events calendar up to date and participate in as many of these as possible. These are low or no cost opportunities to reach large numbers of people.
- Support your Census efforts by enhancing the number of census experts in your community. Do this by participating in "train the trainer" activities that are planned ahead of the 2020 Census. The purpose of these trainings is to pass along education and advocacy tools for census organizers to your collaborative partners and interested community members.
- Ensure that you have staff or partners that can tackle technological challenges. When the COVID-19 pandemic caused the closure of business and schools in our County, we lost the opportunity to participate in and host Census events and most other scheduled events we wanted to be at were cancelled. Instead of a live census day event, we had to switch to an online version. We also had to host planned organizing meetings and trainings online instead of in person.
- Online outreach is becoming more important and effective. By 2030, it will be a central part of the communications campaign for the Census. It is important to build the capacity of community organizations in this area in the years leading to the Census.

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Solano County, County Administrator's Office First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Title:

Establish a First 5 Center in Fairfield

Current (State and/or Federal) Law:

N/A

Problem Statement:

Children in Solano County fare worse than children in the state overall on several indicators of child and family well-being, including the percentage of babies born at a healthy birth weight, the percentage of 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in pre-school, and third grade math and reading proficiency rates. On indicators like these, children and families in Solano County are particularly disadvantaged in the 94533 ZIP Code in the City of Fairfield, which ranks 3rd highest in Solano County on a scale of risk factors by zip code.

Proposed Solution:

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission proposes a request for \$2 million in State funding to establish a Fairfield First 5 Center to be located in the 94533 zip code. The model for this Center is based upon the Vallejo First 5 Center which started delivering services in 2020 and is already demonstrating significant positive outcomes for both the families and the community. This Center in Fairfield will be located in a neighborhood with high poverty rates and will utilize an innovative place-based strategy to provide school readiness and early intervention programs for children; and, coordinated services and resources for parents and families. The Center will be open to all Solano and Fairfield residents with a focus on those with the most need, including the families who are affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) that impact their long-term health and well-being.

Parents and caregivers will find 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. Center staff and community partners will:

- **Support parents:** First 5 Center workshops and classes will help parents raise healthy, happy, and resilient children by offering parent education, peer support, support groups and parent leadership opportunities to strengthen the community.
- **Lead educational classes for families:** Families will be able to choose from over 20 early learning classes each month, such as art, science, cooking/nutrition, ABC's and 123's, music, movement, baby sign language, preparing for kindergarten, and story time. Drop-in playtime, Saturday classes, monthly events, and opportunities to connect with other families in the community will also be offered.
- **Be child development experts:** The First 5 Center has a staff person dedicated to making sure that each child receives their age appropriate developmental screenings and, if needed, receives access to services at the earliest possible moment to ensure a healthy life trajectory.

- **Connect families to needed resources:** Center staff will connect families to helpful community resources. Common community resources and services will be co-located to address basic needs supports, housing, employment services, food, health and dental services, child support services and others.

Proposed Effective / Operative Date of Solution:

07/01/2021

Justification:

A child's brain is 90% developed by age 5, 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. The proposed Center will provide the programs and services that can change these outcomes. By taking a dual-generational approach to service delivery, the entire family will be strengthened, providing the best opportunity for success for young children throughout their lives.

In 2017, First 5 Solano analyzed 9 indicators of child well-being by zip code. First 5 Solano found that several communities in the county were at higher risk for negative outcomes for young children, based upon their zip code. First 5 Solano has made progress in addressing disparities in the 2 highest risk communities, Vallejo and Rio Vista, by starting a First 5 Center in Vallejo in the highest area of poverty in Vallejo, with census tracts of 69% and 78% childhood poverty; and investing in school readiness activities at the Family Resource Center in Rio Vista starting in 2018.

Even with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 Solano has already seen significant engagement from this investment in the community. First 5 Solano wants to replicate this First 5 Center effort in Fairfield, which also has significant risk factors for childhood well-being. The 94533 zip code has approximately 19% of Solano County's 0-5 population which is over 6,200 young children. By providing this community-based hub, First 5 Solano intends to break the cycle of negative outcomes for a new generation of children and provide them with a strong start in life. Families visiting the Fairfield First 5 Center with their children will be equipped with the tools and resources to support their child's healthy development and school readiness. Center staff will help to remove barriers to service access, by bringing nonprofits and other county agencies onsite to deliver needed services at the center.

The requested state funding would be utilized to secure a site and make the necessary tenant improvements to create a First 5 Center. The ongoing cost to operate the center of approximately \$600,000 annually will be covered by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.

Implementation:

Should this \$2 million be allocated by the State, First 5 Solano will initiate a start-up plan which will include a business plan, site selection, tenant improvement plan, community engagement, budget and program planning, and other activities to prepare for an opening by July 2022.

The target population for this Center is children ages 0-5 and their families in the City of Fairfield and Solano County, with an emphasis on families considered high-risk due to factors such as poverty, substance abuse or violence in the family, or child maltreatment.

Impact:

- 1- **Developmental Stages** – All children will be screened to ensure appropriate development. When a child is identified as falling behind intervention with the child and family will be provided to ensure optimal child development. This screening and intervention alleviate the need for on-going special education services in school thus reducing the cost burden on the education and healthcare systems.
- 2- **Early Learning** – 220 classes per year are offered for children and their parents to participate together in early learning activities. Research shows that children who participate in these activities have increased success in K-12 education.
- 3- **School Readiness** – 400 children who have not attended preschool receive a PreK Boot Camp intervention to prepare them to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Research shows that children who start Kindergarten behind their peers will stay behind their peers which affects their K-12 success, potentially leading to involvement in the special education and/or criminal justice systems. Providing this PreK experience helps to alleviate the cost burden on both of these systems.
- 4- **Parent Education and Support** – 300 parents will be supported utilizing the Triple P Parent Education evidence-based model of service delivery to provide practical parenting solutions to common challenges e.g. toilet training, tantrums, sleep routines which all feed into the health and well-being of the child and family. This intervention is a small investment to alleviate the on-going cost burden of the mental health system.

Fiscal Impact:

First 5 Solano/Solano County: An ongoing commitment of \$600,000 annually to operate programs and services at the Fairfield First 5 Center will be provided by the First 5 Children and Families Commission.

State: \$2 million one-time investment

Other States: N/A

December 30, 2020

Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris:

Children are and will always be the future of our nation. However, children, youth and families are in a time of crisis across the nation as the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic take root. This crisis arises on top of the glaring disparities that have existed in many communities for centuries. We are at a unique crossroads, presented with an opportunity to rebuild better systems and create more prosperous futures for ALL of our nation's children with an eye toward promoting long-term racial, ethnic and socioeconomic equity.

To realize this opportunity and reimagine our systems for optimal health, well-being and development, we, the undersigned, respectfully request the establishment of a White House Office on Children and Youth and a White House Conference on Children and Youth to elevate the needs of children, youth and their families in your Administration.

Out of this crisis must come leadership to secure a prosperous future for the next generation. Establishing a White House Office on Children and Youth would bring sustained attention to research and policy recommendations, enhance alignment and coordination of federal programs and investments, and ultimately set our country on a trajectory of wellbeing, prosperity and thriving for the future. The Office would liaise with the President, Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries and Congress to ensure that addressing the unique needs of children is a regular consideration in policy decisions. It would also develop and advance a National Children's Strategy and all-of-government Children's Budget that would set forth an aspirational yet achievable vision, including the related outcomes goals and metrics, to make measurable progress toward rebuilding systems for children.

Furthermore, since 1909, White House Conferences on Children have led to action within and beyond the government sector, including the growth of adoption agencies, Administrative action to strengthen the Amber Alert system and greater awareness of research on early brain development that informed subsequent policy and resource allocations. Given the enormous stressors on children and families compounded by the pandemic, there is a powerful opportunity for another Conference to spur collective action across the public, nonprofit and private sectors.

Due to the pandemic and economic recession, children and youth across the country have experienced rising rates of poverty, hunger and homelessness. Due to school closures, children are experiencing significant learning loss and mental health challenges. Rates for vaccinations,

primary and preventive services among children in Medicaid and CHIP have steeply declined. Child care capacity in the United States could be cut in half, which is expected to exacerbate existing disparities in child care availability across racial and socioeconomic communities. In the wake of these major challenges, the Office and Conference should focus on how to reduce child poverty, reduce health and educational disparities, and achieve equitable outcomes for children and youth to ensure they can enter child care, early education and school healthy and ready to learn.

A coordinated entity to address children's needs, along with a high-level leader charged with advancing an agenda for children is not a novel concept. Across the country, Republican and Democratic governors have created impactful state-level entities to cut across silos and prioritize the needs of children. Internationally, many of our peer countries have implemented leadership positions, ranging from children's commissioners to ombudsman and Children's Ministers tasked with improving child health and wellbeing. However, no similar entity exists in the federal bureaucracy for children in the United States. As a result, children, who lack formal structures to advocate for themselves, frequently become an afterthought during major policy debates. Now is the time to prioritize children, youth and families through a White House Office on Children and Youth and a White House Conference on Children and Youth.

We look forward to engaging with you on this critical and timely proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lead Organizers

Nemours Children's Health System

Mental Health America

First Focus on Children

Education Redesign Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Forum for Youth Investment

(Organizations and Individuals listed below in alphabetical order)

National Organizations

The 100th Meridian

Child Care and Early Learning: Addressing the Urgent Crisis and Investing in the Future

The strength of our nation is tied to the strength of our nation's child care and early learning programs.¹ The health of our nation is tied to the health and well-being of all families. The success of our nation is tied to the recognition of our shared responsibility to give each child a strong start in life, which includes ensuring the early educators who do this essential work as part of a 21st century caregiving and education workforce are valued and supported. A strong, equitable child care and early learning system not only benefits children, families, and early educators, but also keeps women in the workforce, increases racial equity, and strengthens our economy for everyone.

For these reasons, the undersigned XX organizations provide the following recommendations urging the Administration to make child care and early learning a national priority by:

- Passing comprehensive COVID relief with substantial and targeted support for child care, Head Start, and preschool programs;
- Including a big, bold proposal to provide affordable high-quality child care and early learning for all in the President's Budget, and providing mandatory and discretionary funding to achieve the vision; and
- Establishing a new senior-level White House position focused on child care and early learning, supporting robust staffing in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Education (ED), and creating a national grassroots advisory council for child care and early learning.

This document describes the critical actions needed to ensure that children and families in our country have access to an essential resource that supports their health, education, and economic security. Right now key child care and early learning programs—child care, Head Start, and preschool—are in crisis. Even before the pandemic, families struggled to find and afford high-quality care that nurtured their children and supported their development, and the child care sector operated on razor-thin margins. At the same time, early educators — disproportionately women of color and immigrant women— have always been paid very low wages, the result of a historic lack of public investment in a financially stable, equitable child care and early learning system. Now, child care and early learning programs have been devastated by the pandemic and are balancing on the precipice of irreparable damage that would hurt children's development, set back women's labor force participation by decades, and hold back the entire nation's economic recovery.

¹ Children are learning no matter what we call the setting—whether child care, preschool, or Head Start. We use “child care and early learning” throughout this document to refer to the various settings and programs in which children both receive care and learn and that support parents' ability to be in the workforce, school, or training.

The crisis is worse for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)² communities and communities with low incomes, which already lacked affordable, high-quality care options before the pandemic and have been hit the hardest by these losses. It is critical for our economic recovery to build back a better, more equitable system that works for children, families, educators, and employers. Doing so will require immediate, sustained, and large-scale federal investments and equitable policies implemented at multiple levels.

Investments to Meet Communities' Child Care and Early Learning Needs During the Pandemic

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis is straining our already vastly underfunded child care and early learning programs, even as these programs are serving as the bedrocks of their communities. These programs require significant additional federal resources to weather the pandemic, and the new Administration must request and work with Congress to swiftly pass a sizable, comprehensive relief and recovery package grounded in the needs of communities. Below we outline the unique needs of child care, Head Start, and preschool programs—and the federal resources required to address these needs during the pandemic.

Child Care

The child care system has been decimated by the COVID-19 crisis, which threatens to wipe out nearly half of all licensed child care slots nationwide.³ Many parents have lost work or are essential workers in industries paying low wages. They are struggling to pay already hard-to-afford child care fees and find safe, quality care that meets their work schedules and other needs. Many providers—operating with reduced enrollment—cannot pay themselves, their staff, or other operational costs like rent, or afford the facility modifications needed to comply with COVID-19 regulations, as their already-thin margins are untenably reduced. For home-based child care providers, the impact is even more dire—they are on the verge of losing the homes in which they live and operate their business, threatening their housing stability and their economic livelihood. We know the pain caused by this child care crisis is not felt equally: since women of color hold a disproportionate share of child care jobs, job losses likely impact these women and their families most of all.

The relief package must include **at least \$50 billion dedicated to a child care stabilization fund and \$7 billion in funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**. This funding will help stabilize the sector for approximately 5-6 months.⁴ Such a

² For Indigenous communities, a critical aspect of support is fully funding programs specific to these communities, such as American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start and Early Head Start programs that provide holistic and culturally appropriate models of instruction and operate in fulfillment of the Federal Government's unique trust responsibility to Tribal Nations that flows from the government-to-government relationship between these sovereign entities.

³ Center for American Progress, "[Coronavirus Pandemic Could Lead to Permanent Loss of Nearly 4.5 Million Child Care Slots](#)," April 2020.

⁴ It is estimated that at least \$9.6 billion is needed each month for the duration of the crisis to fully fund existing providers in the child care system. See: CLASP, NWLC, and Aaron Sojourner, "[Child Care is Key to our Economic](#)

stabilization fund should align with the structures proposed in the House-passed *Child Care is Essential Act* and HEROES 2, including not requiring a state match, supporting the workforce, and reducing costs for families.⁵ As the country looks to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, additional resources and funding beyond these immediate and urgent stabilization needs will be required to rebuild the supply of child care providers and educators, and lay the foundation for the long overdue transformative overhaul of our child care system described in more detail below.

Head Start and Early Head Start

While Head Start and Early Head Start programs continued their invaluable services to children and families throughout the pandemic, compelling quick action and adaptation, the reality is that extraordinary costs are accumulating, and Head Start is now facing a devastating funding shortfall. If these needs remain unanswered, services will suffer and investments in quality will be deferred as program strain to meet COVID-19 needs. The children served by Head Start and Early Head Start—those experiencing poverty or homelessness, those in foster care, Indigenous children, and children of migrant and seasonal workers—will lose critical services, including health screenings and referrals, mental health supports and opportunities for intervention if local programs are not adequately resourced to meet the increased costs of operating amidst COVID-19.

To meet these needs, the relief package must include **\$11.2 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start** to meet sanitation, personnel costs, and infrastructure needs to ensure that these programs are able to safely serve families during the pandemic.⁶ This funding is critical to ensuring an equitable approach to COVID-19 relief, particularly for families experiencing poverty, enabling local Head Start programs to safely support working parents' child care needs, return a focus on child well-being, and support children in receiving critical medical care, including vaccinations, mental health supports, and early screenings.⁷ We estimate that this funding will provide support Head Start and Early Head Start programs through the end of FY 2021.

[Recovery](#),” April 2020. Please note that this estimate was derived before additional strains were put on the child care system, including the impact of K-12 virtual and hybrid schooling models on caregiving. As such, it should be treated as the low bound of need.

⁵ In addition, such a fund should have clear guidelines about what states can and should use the funding for and ensure that funding is distributed equitably, and HHS should issue guidance quickly after relief is passed to provide clarity to states.

⁶ This estimate includes the existing, as yet unmet, \$1.7B relief ask for Head Start and Early Head Start which was based on estimated need through December 2020.

⁷ This estimate does not include expanding Head Start services to newly eligible families, additional insurance needs, or other anomalous, localized costs.

Preschool

Preschool, a critical component of the nation's early learning system, is also struggling during COVID. Programs are facing low enrollment, insufficient support to safely serve children and support staff, and closures at many school sites, alongside new demands for remote learning. On top of these new demands, strains on state and local budgets threaten to reduce already low funding for these essential programs. Therefore, we request that the relief package include **specific support for state preschool programs as part of investments in K-12 systems, as well as state and local fiscal relief.**⁸ Within this investment, it is critical that states not reduce preschool slots below the number of slots in the 2018-2019 school year.

Funding That Lays the Foundation for Bold Reform

These pandemic investments are urgently needed—but they are not the only investments necessary to build a stronger, more equitable system. While the ultimate goal is a world where policymakers pass and implement the transformative legislative vision described below, the President's Budget and appropriations bills provide an annual opportunity to additionally invest in existing child care and early learning programs so our country can have the 21st century caregiving and education workforce it needs, so parents—especially mothers—can return to work, and so all children are nurtured and cared for in high-quality settings.

The FY 2022 President's Budget and final appropriations bills should take advantage of these opportunities each year to lay the foundation for the bold, comprehensive visions. Therefore, the FY 2022 President's Budget should include significant annual increases in discretionary spending for existing programs, such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start and Early Head Start, preschool, and others, that serve as downpayments to stabilize and lay the foundation for the larger visionary mandatory proposal. At a minimum, such annual increases must build on pandemic relief funding and incorporate pandemic policy changes into child care and early learning programs to avoid severe cliffs in funding when the relief investments dry up and to prevent destabilizing policy changes for families and educators and invest in structural reforms included in the legislative vision. The budget must also invest in other critical programs that support young children and their families in the earliest years of life, including but not limited to Parts C and B (Section 619) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Child Care Access Means Parents in School, Preschool Development Grants, and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program as well as significantly increase investments in housing, health care, nutrition, and the range of assistance children and families need to thrive. We look forward to sharing specific program funding level requests with you in short order.

⁸ For example, the [Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act](#) provides \$33 billion through the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund to help support state education programs, including preK.

Bold, Funded Transformative Change for Child Care and Early Learning

In addition to providing immediate relief to the child care and early learning sector in the first relief package of a new administration and using discretionary investments to lay the foundation each year for bold change, the President's first and subsequent budgets should include the funding and policy mechanisms needed for an ambitious, transformative legislative overhaul of the existing system to achieve child care and early learning for all. This vision must increase racial equity, create a 21st century caregiving and education workforce, and provide the mandatory funding necessary to accomplish this vision. The President should also call on Congress to introduce this legislation in early 2021 and work to secure its swift passage.

Such legislation must ensure, at a minimum, that:

- All families can find and afford high-quality care at a setting of their choice.
- Mixed-delivery settings (whether in centers, family child care homes, or with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers) that meet families' diverse needs and preferences are supported and resourced.
- Resources are first invested in, and greater resources are provided for, underserved and historically marginalized communities, and the use of contracts and grants for the provision of child care services is widely encouraged to expand supply and promote stability for child care providers.
- Income and other eligibility requirements are sufficiently expansive to meet the needs of diverse communities,⁹ and to provide care for children up to age 13 as well as older children with disabilities.
- Early childhood professionals in all setting types have quality jobs, including: living wages¹⁰ and benefits with pathways to higher wages equivalent to similarly qualified K-12 educators; access to affordable, high-quality professional development, preparation, and apprenticeships, including higher education degree programs in early childhood education and other credentials, with widely available scholarship funding and other support; the opportunity to join a professional organization including a union; and industry-wide labor standards are set through wage and standards boards.
- Funding is provided through direct assistance and sufficient to guarantee services for all eligible children and families without requiring annual Congressional action.
- Funding to providers covers the cost of offering high-quality care, using a definition of quality that is equitable, inclusive, age appropriate, culturally affirming, and co-developed with practitioners, academics, families, providers and educators.¹¹

⁹ Including (but not limited to): student parents, families experiencing homelessness, families of children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, migrant and seasonal workers, and immigrant families

¹⁰ Or equivalent income.

¹¹ This must include prohibiting suspensions and expulsions in early childhood settings.

- Investments are included for facilities, transportation, and other vital components of child care infrastructure and supply-building.¹²
- Simplified systems allow families to access assistance easily and conveniently, with intentional outreach to underserved communities and formalized coordination between funding streams and agencies to reflect how communities experience the system.¹³
- Stakeholder engagement of families, providers, and educators is built into the system design and implementation.

Experts have estimated the cost of such a program could range from \$140 billion to \$170 billion per year at full implementation, equivalent to about one-quarter of the defense budget but still far below the 0.7% of GDP that, on average, other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) spend on child care and early learning.¹⁴ A sustained investment of this scale would value the educators doing this essential work, provide high-quality care for all children, and make early education and care affordable and accessible for all families.

Our nation critically needs a unified early care and education system that meets childrens' and families' needs beginning at birth while also supporting a well-qualified, well-compensated early childhood workforce in diverse settings for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. This means building a comprehensive child care and early learning system that provides equitable resources and supports to child care, Head Start, and preschool for all. Just as families do not live in silos, neither should these programs. This means, for example, that the design and implementation of a universal preschool system must complement and coordinate with programs and educators caring for infants and toddlers. Failure to thoughtfully design a comprehensive system can unintentionally harm certain segments of the system who are left behind. Such a system must also include robust mixed-delivery options in child care centers, Head Start programs, schools, family child care homes, and with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers.

Key Administrative Actions to Prioritize Child Care and Early Learning

It is essential for the Administration to demonstrate child care and early learning is a high priority by using the bully pulpit to promote it. Notably, the President and Vice President should mention child care in key speeches, including the inauguration/State of the Union (SOTU), and invite a child care provider to be a guest at SOTU. The Administration should also highlight child care and early learning in events laying out the first 100-days agenda that includes pandemic relief and a vision for long-term rebuilding. While raising visibility is not a substitute for increased

¹² Including in rural communities, for care outside of traditional hours, and in child care deserts.

¹³ Including through Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) and other community-based organizations.

¹⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD), OECD Family Database, [Public spending on childcare and early education](#) (February 2019); See also: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine [Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education](#) (2018) and Mark Zandi and Sophia Koropecjy, Moody's Analytics, [Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act: Helping Families and the Economy](#) (February 2019).

funding or policy change, it is critical to underscore the Administration's support for child care and early learning.

To demonstrate this commitment, the Administration should create a **new senior-level position in the Domestic Policy Council (DPC)** by the end of January 2021 **with full responsibility for child care and early learning issues**. This individual would lead the Administration's cross-sector and cross-agency efforts to advance a bold administrative and legislative agenda on child care and early learning. To ensure this position is able to focus on child care and early learning, the person's portfolio should only include child care and early learning and not other income supports, K-12, or higher education. This position, however, will be responsible for working with other DPC and White House staff on related issues that affect child care and early learning. Moreover, the Administration should prioritize robustly staffing the offices of Child Care (OCC) and Head Start (OHS) at HHS and rebuild the Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) at HHS to coordinate with the Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, and other relevant agencies.

The core structural and funding issues facing the child care and early learning system require legislative action. But, the White House has other ways, working with HHS, to use its administrative authority to ensure child care programs are implemented more equitably in states now and to develop and evaluate best practices to inform the development and implementation of a future system grounded in equity. To ensure that agencies are considering the full suite of policies and practices they can use prior to additional Congressional action, the White House should issue **an executive order (EO) on child care and early learning** within the first month to task all relevant agencies with identifying administrative changes or new administrative actions within 90 days of the EO's announcement. This will signal a commitment to stabilizing child care programs, improving job quality for educators, and supporting families' diverse child care and early learning needs—while simultaneously working to secure funding through Congress to achieve these goals. Agencies should propose concrete administrative actions and changes in response to this EO that meet the following goals:

- Help build the research base, gather important data, and identify best practices;
- Advance gender and racial equity;
- Provide meaningful engagement and consultation of people directly impacted; and
- Prioritize the needs of historically marginalized and under-resourced communities.

In addition, one of the key learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic is that our child care and early learning system was neither designed to be responsive to, nor driven by, provider and family needs. While legislative fixes and significant additional federal funding are the chief solutions to these issues, we must reckon with the lack of governmental structures—at national, regional or state levels—that intentionally center communities in the design and implementation of systems they lead. Instead, existing structures totally ignore or otherwise prevent meaningful feedback and input from families, providers, and educators who are the foundation and architects of a high-quality child care and early learning system.

Therefore, we propose the creation of a **new national child care and early learning grassroots advisory body**¹⁵ within OECD co-chaired by the OECD Deputy Assistant Secretary, or their designee, and a grassroots leader. The OECD, OCC, and OHS should consult with, and create a new process for input from, this new body in developing and revising policies and regulations, monitoring, issuing guidance, and working with regional offices and states on implementation. The newly created advisory body should include a diverse range of families, providers, educators, and other stakeholders who are directly impacted by the child care and early learning system. This representation should, at a minimum, ensure representation from diverse regional geographies, settings (home-based, center-based, and family, friend, and neighbor care providers and educators), as well as families who qualify for child care assistance, families of children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, BIPOC families, immigrant and mixed-status families, justice-impacted parents or caregivers, children in foster care, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA families and caregivers, and families and providers in rural areas.

¹⁵ Without an exemption, this council will need to comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act's notice, diversity, public comment, and other requirements.

12-7-20

Children Now – The Children’s Movement of California
Text: Letter of Support “Put Children First in 2021”
Letter to State Leaders

Dear Governor Newsom and State Legislators,

The pandemic above all is a crisis for kids. While the COVID-19 virus may be for the most part sparing children’s physical health, kids are increasingly experiencing stress, social isolation, disconnectedness and serious mental health issues. The learning loss and lack of preventive health care because of the pandemic threatens a generation of kids. These outcomes are especially dire for Black and brown children, kids in poverty, students who are English learners, youth in foster care and children who are in unsafe situations, all of whom face significant systemic barriers to accessing the services and support they need.

Even before COVID-19, California was not prioritizing kids, especially kids that face systemic barriers to their well-being. Our investments lagged far behind most other states, as did most measures of educational attainment and overall children’s well-being. Now the situation is mission critical.

2021 is the year to make a long-overdue, significant shift in state priorities to put children first and ensure our collective future. The undersigned call on you to take these tangible steps to make children the top priority:

- This year’s state budget should prioritize every unrestricted dollar for supports for kids, across the early childhood, family and economic supports, health, K-12 and higher ed, housing and child welfare domains. Priority budget actions should include:
 - Increasing funding for child care, where providers are at a crisis point;
 - Reversing \$12.5 billion in funding deferrals for schools and providing sufficient funding to add teachers, school nurses, counselors, and other critical staff to move us from our bottom of the country ratios;
 - Keeping Proposition 56 dollars earmarked for developmental and trauma screenings, well-child check-ups and other critical kids’ health services in Medi-Cal; and
 - Supporting children and youth in foster care and their caregivers by increasing access to child care, educational supports to address learning loss and stable housing for young adults.
- The state government needs to coordinate an all-hands-on-deck urgent approach across relevant state and local departments and agencies to ensure every school has the staff, PPE, frequent COVID-19 testing, and other resources needed to reopen safely and quickly, including prioritizing school staff for the vaccine when it is available.
- Any new revenue measure should truly prioritize kids, including quality early childhood education.

We recognize the strain you are experiencing as you try to grapple with the enormity of this crisis and keep the Golden State intact. We urge you to ensure that our most precious constituency, our kids, are your top priority.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations